

**Dover Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting of March 17, 2010
Minutes**

P&R Commissioners In Attendance: Peter Davies, Rich Oasis, Scott Seidman, Nancy Simms
P&R Employees In Attendance: Jessica Cooney, David MacTavish
Others in Attendance: None.

Meeting was called to order at 7:45am.

Prior Meeting Minutes

Prior meeting minutes were not available for review.

Needham Soccer Club Memorial Day Tournament

Rich reported on his recent conversations with the NSC. Games will likely be scheduled from 8:00am until 7:00pm on Saturday and Sunday. There will be a lighter schedule on Monday and no games on Friday.

Chickering Auction

P&R has been asked to donate something to the Chickering PTO for their fundraising auction in April. It was agreed that P&R would donate two weeks at summer playground.

Caryl Park Reconfiguration Project

Advantages of doing the project now:

- Because of the recession, contractors are accepting lower bids. Gale reported that 2009 costs were down 15% from 2008 and that 2010 prices would probably not rebound.
- The majority of the athletic facility projects undertaken are done in the summer so as to be ready for fall sports use. If we schedule our project for the fall, we would be able to realize additional savings because contractors' crews are not as busy at this time of year.

Gale's Cost Estimate

Gale has delivered a projected cost estimate for the final design option. There are several items we can eliminate so as to reduce the cost. We will eliminate the football and soccer goals. We will eliminate the conversion of the baseball field to a softball field – P&R crew can complete this.

Gale reduced their contingency from 20% to 15% and their soft costs from 10% to 7%. Bill Seymour is comfortable with these reductions. Historically, his projects come in less than estimated because his estimates are conservative. Not all firms take that approach.

It was agreed that we will not ask the town for more than \$3 million. Peter will call Peter Mitchell with this final cost estimate. We need to present this information to the CBC prior to sharing it with the public. They may have questions for us to address.

Information Letter to Club Presidents

It was agreed that the club presidents and all coaches should get a letter from P&R explaining the project and the approval process. This one would have an attachment that the coaches could forward on to the parents of their players. The clubs receiving this letter will be: Boys and Girls Soccer, Boys

Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Baseball and Softball. Jess will draft the letter and its attachment and circulate it for review prior to mailing.

Well Issue

Dave Ramsey spoke with Dave about a possible problem with the location of the rectangular fields relative to the main water well at Caryl. There are 5 well heads below and to the left of the left hand corner of the contiguous fields. This well is the main water source for Chickering School. Ramsey will contact the town's water engineer consultant, Tata & Howard for advice on how to proceed. The issue comes under the purview of the town's Water Commissioners; at the moment, the town's Water Commissioners are the three Seletmen.

Traffic Study

Dave received the traffic study from Vanasse. He does not feel it is very specific to our site. We discussed the problem of traffic congestion and parking spaces. Boys lacrosse has already changed the directions on their website to direct participants (both DS and visitors) to park at the upper Chickering parking lot. They have seen a reduction in congestion in the lower Chickering parking lot. We need to check in with the other clubs to make sure their websites contain the same parking instructions. The lower Chickering parking lot needs to be limited from now on to dropping off players and parking for officials and senior citizens.

It was agreed that we could reduce congestion by staggering game and practice times for the lacrosse teams so that it would not coincide directly with soccer and baseball activities.

We also concluded that practice and game times should take into consideration the commuter train schedule so that sports traffic is not competing with commuter traffic from the Needham Junction train station.

It was noted that because there are no baseball games on Friday nights, the traffic issue is limited to Monday thru Thursday. Further, it was suggested that it is mostly just a spring issue since there is no lacrosse or baseball in the fall. So we need to focus on these 10 weeks. Soccer and lacrosse start two or three weeks earlier than baseball and softball, but baseball and softball play one or two weeks later; so the real crunch is in the middle six or seven weeks. So on a daily basis for these six or seven weeks, there are probably an extra 60 kids coming to practice or to a game. If we direct all participants away from the lower Chickering parking lot, stagger practice and game times between sports as well as with the Needham Junction train schedule, we should be able to positively affect the traffic issue. It would be good to have documented the exact start and end dates for each of the spring sports.

It was mentioned that neighboring towns with turf fields started outdoor lacrosse practice this past Monday, March 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Simms, P&R Commission