

**Dover Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting of January 6, 2012
Minutes**

P&R Commissioners In Attendance: Rich Oasis, Peter Davies, Scott Seidman, Nancy Simms (arrived at 7:40), Chris Boland (via speaker phone)

P&R Employees In Attendance: Dave MacTavish; Jessica Cooney; Kathy Gorman

Others In Attendance: Jim Dawley (BOS), James Stuart (WC), Joey Schotland (DSHS Football), Mike Ryan (Citizen, MS Football parent), James Swiny (Citizen)

The meeting was called to order at 7:20am.

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

None available.

ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. **Concussion Testing** – Peter moved to go forward with the baseline concussion testing scheduled for March 24 and March 31. Seconded by Peter. Approved unanimously.
2. **Capital Budget** – James Stuart asked that we revisit the numbers associated with the Tennis Court repair. He pointed out that the numbers in our minutes are not consistent with the numbers we presented at the Capital Budget meeting on November 22. Nancy reviewed the minutes from September 21 and confirmed the error. The minutes report that the per court cost of the proposed repair is \$4,000; the correct per court cost is \$5,000. James requests that we return to the Capital Budget Committee to clarify. He will inform us of the date once it is set.

OPERATING BUDGET

Dave requested that we revote the FY2013 P&R Operating Budget. Rich moved to approve \$298,937 in Total Salaries. Seconded by Scott. Approved unanimously. Rich moved to approve \$69,601 in Other Expenses. Seconded by Scott. Approved unanimously. Rich moved to approve \$368,538 in Total Salaries and Other Expenses. Seconded by Scott. Approved unanimously. The total P&R Operating Budget request for FY 2013 is **\$368,538**.

FOOTBALL – JOEY SCHOTLAND

Joey Schotland, Dover-Sherborn High School Football Coach, spoke about his interest in strengthening the DSHS Football program by becoming more involved in the Middle School Football program. He presented a multi-page proposal. He proposed creating a Dover-Sherborn Youth Football (“DSYF”) organization that would consist of P&R Staff, himself and parent representatives. He suggested that P&R would continue to handle the administrative details of the program (registration, game scheduling, bus logistics) and Joey would be responsible for the coaching and program philosophy. His number one priority is player safety. To this point, the players need to understand that there is a philosophical difference between DSYF and pre-middle school sports programs. Decisions about player position and play time will be made by the coaching staff with player safety as the primary concern. Joey does not intend to limit the roster sizes; he will carry all who follow the rules and want to play. He is not worried about having too many players; he will make sure he has enough coaches so that the kids stay active.

Joey was happy with the 8th grade league the DS team was playing in but wants to supplement the schedule with a few out of leagues games.

The 7th grade program will be less intense than the 8th grade program; the focus will be on giving the kids a positive experience with football so that they stay with the program. This is a big transition year for the kids. Many of them will be new to football. Many of them will be new to the discipline of daily practices. Many of them will be new to the concept of uneven playing time. This is also the year when parents have the biggest learning curve, so there will have to be more parent education and communication.

It will be important to have pre-season parent meetings. We will need to have a Code of Ethics prepared for Coaches, Players and Parents which must be signed prior to the start of season. We will need to have procedures in place and documented that will explain how parent concerns are addressed. We will need to figure out who within DSYF will be responsible for player equipment. We will need to clearly define (and limit) the role of the parent managers. We will need to clearly define the role of P&R and the role of the Gridiron Club, especially with regard to the financing of coaches salaries.

Mike Ryan spoke about his experience as a father of a middle school football player and as a volunteer coach. He said it will be important to get ahead of the learning curve for both parents and kids in terms of position assignments and playing time. Many parents need to be educated about the peculiarities of football positions and that unlike soccer and lacrosse and even baseball, most of the positions are not interchangeable. There are specific physical attributes that a boy must have in order to play certain positions safely. Parents need to come to practices and/or games and watch. Many of them do not understand the game. They do not understand why their child comes in and out of the game. Pre-season meetings are needed to educate the parents and the kids on what to expect during the season and on the fundamentals of the game.

Scott moved to accept Joey's DSYF proposal and proceed to the planning stages. Seconded by Rich and Peter. Approved unanimously. We also need to work through how parent complaints are handled – by head coach, position coach, parent manager, P&R? It is likely there will be more 7th grade issues than 8th grade due to the transitional learning curve for players and especially parents.

D/S GRIDIRON CLUB

No discussion other than that noted above.

CONSERVATION MEETING –January 18, 7:30PM

Bill Seymour from Gale Associates will accompany Rich to this meeting. P&R is on the agenda to discuss the current status of the CPARC project. Bill will come with various plans to address the wetlands area of concern previously identified.

CPARC UPDATE

- **Letters – Neighbors and Town Departments** – Deferred until after the ConCom meeting.
- **Timeline** –A February open meeting to identify our plan going forward was considered. Further discussion and a definitive decision and date were deferred until after the ConCom meeting.
- **Engineering Consultant** – Deferred until after the ConCom meeting.

D/S FIELD UPDATE

Nothing to report.

FOOTBALL INVOICE

Dave asked that we address the issue of the Gridiron Club invoice while Joey was still present. Joey explained that Coach Fasulo served as a volunteer coach for the DSHS Football Team. After the high school

practices, Coach Fasulo would often help out at the middle school practices as well. (He is a retired middle school teacher.) The Gridiron Club paid him \$1,500 for his time with the middle school program and asked that P&R contribute another \$2,500. The combined \$3,800 would then equate with what the other high school assistant coaches were getting paid. Rich moved to approve the invoice and pay Coach Fasulo directly. Seconded by Nancy. Approved 4-1.

TOWN REPORT

Dave and Jess are editing the P&R Town Report to reflect the current year's events. Dave will send it to Rich for his review and input. It will then be circulated to the other commissioners for their review.

CARYL COMMUNITY CENTER P&R SPACE IMPROVEMENTS

Deferred.

LONG-RANGE PLAN FOR PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

- **Commissioner Program Evaluations** Deferred.
- **Mission, Vision, Objectives for Department** – Deferred.

ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

None noted.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – January 6, 2012

None noted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45am.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Simms, P&R Commissioner