

**Dover Parks and Recreation Commission  
Meeting of March 30, 2012  
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:** Jim Dawley (BOS), Dana White (citizen)

The meeting was called to order at 7:25am.

### **PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes from 1/6, 1/20, 2/3 and 3/9 approved. 2/17 remains outstanding.

### **ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

##### **Meeting Follow Ups**

**Girls Lax – March 13** – Nancy and Scott attended the meeting which was for board members only. Seven people there. They offered to circulate a petition for supporters to sign. The big advantage to them of turf fields would be the ability to get outside for practices three weeks earlier than they currently can. As it is now, there are two indoor practices prior to the fields opening. More indoor practices would be good, but there is not the gym space to allow this. Practice and game scheduling has worked out okay so far; because most of the coaches are stay at home moms, they are able to take the earlier practice slots which are not so much in demand. The later slots actually don't work so well for them because the moms need to be home at these times. Dana added: Support for the fields is not homogenous; DS Girls Lacrosse cannot support the project monolithically. The petition was to allow individuals to demonstrate their support for the project. The turf fields would be a nice thing to have but not a must have. We are more coach constrained rather than field constrained. We could make it work if we had 75% of this year's field time for next year; we would have more teams practicing together. This would impact the qualitative aspects of the program but not the quantitative. Field Hockey is the girls sport where turf really makes a difference. Most of the surrounding towns play FH on turf; it is a completely different game on turf than on grass.

**Boys Lax – March 14** – Peter reported that Boys Lacrosse could really use the turf fields. League policy is that towns without turf fields are not allowed to schedule home games for the first three weeks of the season because of the unpredictability of weather-related field conditions. All DS boys teams will have to travel for the first three weeks; all these games will be on turf fields. Getting out on the fields in April would be great for the program. DS Boys Lacrosse is in favor of turf fields .

**Boys Soccer – March 27** – Rich presented to the soccer club; coaches and board members were there. This year has been different since the fields are pretty dry and they will be able to get outside. Even Fessenden field is looking dry and ready for action. There is a lot of support for the fields project although there are some parents of younger players who do not know the history of the project and were asking questions about using the Boosters fields at the Region.

**Letter to papers about office hours** – Chris and Jess have something in draft form; will finalize, circulate to us all and submit to the papers.

## **Long Range Plan for P&R Department**

**Job descriptions evaluations – Deferred.**

## **RECREATION**

### **Long Range Plan for P&R Department**

**Commissioner Program Evaluations –** Scott has met with Jess several times. Rather than have the commissioners all go through this exercise as previously proposed, Scott suggested that he perform all the evaluations. Agreed.

## **PARKS**

**CPARC Update –** Rich and Chris met with Frank Perlmutter and Jennifer Jordan from the DS Boosters to discuss their fields project. The DS Boosters hired Gale and Associates to help them create a DS Athletics Facilities Renovation Master Plan. Gale delivered a multi-phase plan which Boosters presented to the School Committee. It was approved by the School Committee with the stipulation that 100% of the funding would have to be raised privately. Boosters is working on launching Phase I which includes converting the stadium field from grass to turf, addressing drainage issues with the track, regarding one of the Boosters Fields above the high school and possibly converting the Junction Street practice field to turf. According to Heath Rollins, DSHS Athletic Director, youth sports could have one or two days a week from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in the Spring, but these time chunks wouldn't necessarily be the same days of the week. Other than Saturday morning practices for some varsity sports teams, most of Saturday and Sunday would be available for youth sports as well. Boosters was concerned about giving us a guarantee or a commitment. Spotty days here and there don't work for the youth sports programs because the players and the volunteer coaches need scheduling consistency from week to week. There would be no time available in the Fall. Boosters reported they are in the process of setting up their 501c3 so that they can accept donations. If they are able to get full funding (approximately \$3 million) for Phase I, they will begin construction this summer.

Jim pointed out that once the project is complete, the Boosters won't be maintaining the facilities; it will be the Region. Guarantees or promises from the Boosters are not binding. The assets belong to the Region, so any agreements struck need to be done with the Region through the Heath Rollins and with the School Committee. Similar to other non-Region programs, youth sports programs will presumably have to pay a fee to use the turf field or any of the other fields. Permission will have to be granted by the School Committee.

Dana pointed out that all day Saturday and Sunday is a nice benefit for youth sports but that Boosters is still working on figuring out how much available time there would be for non-Region programs during the week. The stadium field is a good first step. Everybody believes that more turf fields are good.

Rich commented that CPARC is not a first step but a final step. It provides a final solution to the shortage of fields for youth sports. Once complete, CPARC in conjunction with the existing grass fields could support all of the youth sports needs and be available for high school use as well. Unlike the high school, CPARC would not have light restrictions. CPARC would add an additional 4 ½ hours (from 4:00pm to 8:30pm which is three 1.5 hour time blocks) of practice time per field per weekday – 45 hours (4.5 hours x 2 fields x 5 days) as well as 9 hours (from 9:00am to 6:00pm which is six 1.5 hour time blocks) of game or practice time per field on each weekend day – 36 hours (9 hours x 2 fields x 2 days). Eighty-one hours in total at a minimum.

Peter added that one improvement to the Boosters field project would be if the plan included lights and if those lights were allowed unrestricted use. The Medfield stadium field has lights, and the school assesses a

surcharge for games requiring lights. Without lights, the Boosters project is not really providing additional capacity for non-Region users during the week. If they included lights, there would be extra time available for the non-Region users. The other thing to realize with the Boosters project is that Phase 1 provides improved field conditions but no consistent (same day same time each week) additional field capacity; consistent additional field capacity will not be available until Phase 2 with more coming on line in Phase 3. That could be many years down the road.

It was agreed to proceed with the permitting phases of CPARC. P&R has reviewed the contract from Gale to confirm that input from interested town sources as provided to P&R (Police, Fire, Highway, BOS, COA, Water, Health, Facilities Management, Conservation Commission, Long Range Planning) is reflected in the specifications. We will ask town counsel to review the contract from Gale before we sign.

**Caryl Dugouts**- P&R has accepted an offer from the Dowd family to erect dugouts on the C1 (near the tennis courts and the Caryl House) ball field. Given the proximity to the Caryl House, the Historical Society will be consulted before the project begins.

**Upper Chickering field** – This field is used by Chickering School as overflow parking for Open House and Performance nights. It is not in good condition and because of its use as a parking lot, it would not be fiscally prudent to spend any money on improving it. P&R does use it for some of its programs such as those run by Coach Pete.

**Park worker daily tasks** – Deferred. Rich will present findings next meeting.

**Field rentals - JSSA August rental** – Dave will propose rental rate and conditions at our next meeting.

## **ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

## **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING** - April 13, 2012

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:30am.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Simms, P&R Commissioner