

Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

November 1st, 2018

Scituate Harbor Community Building

Maura Glancy, Nick Lombardo, Dave Mahery, Jen McMellen, Mark Novak, Bill Luetter, Janice Lindblom, Dan Fennelly, Jen Geoghegan, Kathryn Callahan, Al Kazlousky, Peter Gates, Maura Dauley, Krissy Donahue, Rick Bartley, Tom Secaur, Sage Belber, Billy Timmins, Sean O'Connor, Gary Meyerson, Shane Belvin, Duncan Routh, Mike Stewart, Bob Blacker, Esther Blacker, Mike Westort, John Reidy, Frank Mahoney, Brian Gallerini, Julie Luetter, Bill Cover

- I. Jen McMellen makes a motion to call the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Maura Glancy starts the meeting off by introducing Mark Novak his firm, Activitas.

- II. Presentation

Novak is a resident of Scituate and is the Design Principal of Activitas. He has done work with Gillette, Tufts College and many more locations including Weymouth and Legion Field in Jackson Square and Libby Field across from Town Hall. Also Carver High School. We're all aware of the brown water issue and Scituate Senior Center. Doesn't mean we need to turn away from improving the athletic fields + track which are unsafe and falling apart. The Town has done many previous field studies dated back many years. Most recently one was done in 2017-2018. There are currently only 6 full size fields in Scituate, very short of what is actually needed compared to the number of Youth Organizations and teams that use the fields.

Challenges at SHS- Title IX not fair or legal. The current state of the fields at SHS does not meet requirements of gender equity. There was an audit of the location a couple years ago and that was a main issue. The track currently is very worn down. One end of the track is a full two feet higher than the other end. They only held one event this year because of the condition of the track. Next year there will be no meets. The turf is beyond its useful life, like the track is. Lines areas are very low. UV has significantly contributed to the problem. There are many safety issues. Code issues- the existing grandstand. Decking should be fully enclosed. No middle railings. Chain linked fence is very old and the handicapped seating is surrounded by plywood. Well beyond its life by 5-6 years. There are unsafe conditions of natural grass at the high school. Water restrictions – how are we going to bring grass back to life. Usage rates have gone up considerably. Limited resources for cultural resources. Activitas has looked at prevailing winds and solar orientation during the site assessment. North to northeast would be the best orientation for baseball/softball fields. They've looked at slopes and grade changes. Grade is going down to the infield on current baseball field. That is not where you want it. Will have to relocate some of the lights. Also, the lights at the track and field are dated and should be replaced.

Complete renovation of Track and Football field is a big part of this plan. Proposing to do it all in synthetic turf. There will be brand new long and triple jump with discus and pole vault. New grandstand with new press box grandstand will seat 1,000. Press box will have a handicap lift. Looking at putting in a new four pole lighting system with LEDS. It can be metered, additional storage at northern end of track where shotput will go. A number of schools are going in the direction of completely synthetic. Outfield is design to be big enough to be a full size soccer field. Bullpens, batting cage made out of netting, bleachers, storage. The entire facility will be lit, so games and practices can be held under the lights. The new softball field will be addressing the Title IX issue. 200 ft. down the line with portable fencing system. Outfield is large enough to support a full size football field. Dugouts, bullpens, and storage with additional seating. This will also be lit. We're looking at this not only as a recreation site but a passive recreation site. It is a community park. There will be a walking trail which will be metered for anyone to use any time of year. We will generate a ton of top soil.

The lights from the Reedy Foundation we want to reuse on the site. ACL injuries are more from nylon turf. With synthetic there are test on the carpet. Concussions- the turf vendor needs to test the turf ever year and it cannot go over a level of firmness. There is also an option to put a concussion pad underneath. 80% of fields designed nowadays have pads underneath the turf. Turf is able to be used so much more then grass. It is faster than natural grass. Life of current turf is almost 14 years old. Typical life is 8 years on turf. With the lights we have much more different flexibility. The project is not considering Cushing as it was not in the scope of service. Maintenance wise you do not need to clean the turf. Once the project is complete. DPW would be in charge of maintenance to groom the field every few weeks. It is something that has to be dragged every other week. Requires a specialized piece of equipment that will be included in the design. Track maintenance – typically mother nature takes care of most on the track surface with rain. Professionals do come out and do it for you. Warranty on track surface is 5 years. Maybe by about year 10, the Town should start thinking about respraying track.

There is overflow parking at Cushing if they cannot fit in the highs school parking area. The new berms takes these facilities and landforms to make a unique setting for spectating and recreating. Weston and Carver are two locations that recently did over some fields. The poles for safety netting stay in year round. Nets are recommended to take down. Other, sand catchers, covers for triple jumps pits. Could put in walking gates. Channel drain system off of track before it gets into the field. All fencing will be black coated chain link fence. Netting systems as backstops. Padded rails for protection from foul balls etc. They do change on warning tracks. Metal spikes are not recommended on turf. Portable mounds are not recommended either. Cost is estimated at about 10,928,000. That includes a two million dollar contingency.

This would be at least 6 months of construction. The way Town Meeting works, Town Fund don't become available until after July 1, 2019. Would not start construction until after July 4,

2019. Currently no plan for visitors stands. If there are permanent stands, there are certain plumbing codes we have to abide by. If anything goes over there they have to be semi portable.

Hoping to have a fundraising group be part of the project.

Equal Play, Safer Recreation, Stronger Community are the key talking points. It is a community park and we need the entire community to support it. As long as we have a plan in place for Title IX, we are fine. Project includes storm chamber for water. The design and construction money gets us through the town vote. The contingency number will go down as time gets closer. In those numbers there are also field use signs. We need to develop a new standard in Town to take care of these fields. We do need to raise some funds and get the message out to the Town. There will be more meetings to follow.

III. VOTE

Dave Mahery makes motion to supports design of Field Restoration Project. Jen seconds. All in favor.

IV. Adjournment

Dave Mahery makes motion to adjourn at 9:15pm.