Scituate Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes, Jenkins Elementary School, 54 Vinal Ave., Scituate, MA , Rec. Office, January 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Maura Glancy, Recreation Director Al Kazlousky, Recreation Commissioner, Dan Fennelly, Recreation Commissioner Nick Lombardo, Asst. Recreation Director, Bill Luette, Scituate Public School Vice Principle and Head of Student Life, Chris Roberts, Field Sub Committee Member

Motion to open meeting: Al Kazlousky

Second: Dan Fennelly

7:05pm

Director’s Report – Maura Glancy

Rec Dept hasn’t gone in front of advisory with budget so will probably bring it to next meeting. Maura will email to the commission so that they can review the budget before the next meeting.

Move to Gates – going slower than hoped and expected. Heat is on now. Move is scheduled for Monday 1/15. It would likely just be the Rec Office and not the programming. Painting was done. Al asked if there was a janitor and said the bathroom needs attention. There was a sink clog.

Field Study Report – Traverse Landscape Architecture. – Arthur Eddy

They’ve done two studies for us. One on track and one on fields. Presentation was made to CPC with some of this information. CPC was upset about the track being in such bad shape and incorrectly installed.

They thanked us for the amount of detail and information that we provided to them that enabled them to do the analysis that they did.

There is definitely a field shortage. We are short even compared to other towns. They said one missing data point was on the hours of use not being general and not broken down by age – which can have an impact. They had concerns with some of our ideas of using areas like Purple Dinosaur where they don’t believe we’d actually be able to get a full sized field. (They consider a full sized field 195x330 – football brings it up to 380.) Some of the fields it is time to just replace them . (They recommend that there should be happening every 10-12 years where they strip the top soil, regrade and sod/seed it on well-maintained fields.) Some of the fields with the biggest issues are at the elementary schools.

Jacqueline told them that the Field Study got as far as they could with their knowledge base and prioritized getting new fields first, probably at the high school but wanted a professional study to confirm our assumptions. Art said they would really need the data broken down by age. Jacqueline said they can send them. Art said realistically what we should be doing is getting ourselves caught up and then in a rotation (eventually) where we are repairing a field every year.) Al asked about our town compared to others. Art said compared locally and nationally our number of playing fields is drastically lower. He also acknowledged our equitable issues (i.e., more baseball than softball fields.)

Irrigation is an issue and we need to work with the town so that we can get approvals to water and maintain our fields.

Art asked what our expectations are. Jacqueline shared that the Field Study group had made the determination that first priority was Title IX, second was construction of new fields, Third was fixing fields. They are looking for 1) cost estimates 2) phased plan 3) phased plan that breaks down short- medium- long- term plans including as far out as considering complex-like structures and/or the consideration of concessions, facilities, lights, parking.

Al asked the cost comparison between grass and turf. Art said they’ve done a 30-year study on this that shows that after 30 years the cost differential is $0. It’s almost double to build a synthetic a field. Hour per use is substantially different though. If you had to replicate those 3 grass fields that you can get out of a synthetic field the cost is highly in favor of turf – assuming regular maintenance (3 cycles, 3 replacements over 30 years.) They should be built more sustainable so that they’re easier and cheaper to replace. $350-400 to replace turf. You can get longer seasons and more playing time out of turf, which is where the real cost differential in.

Maura asked, in a town that lacks space like us – would that affect the grass/turf decision. Art said his first recommendation would be a full size turfed baseball field that converts to 3 multi-purpose field. Maura also asked if we could consider using an old school that gets closed as a field house somehow.

Art asked what our first year project wish list would be. Rec Commission said fixing Title IX. Dan pointed out that there are only two fields at the high school and we’d have to replace a baseball field somewhere else to replace the lost of that. Al asked for clarification on Title IX as to what it means and Art confirmed that the softball field has to be at the high school campus. Everything has to be equal to what the boys have. We could move JV to Central, but both boys and girls have to get moved.

Jacqueline mentioned that the CPC is looking for a formal plan before they approve anything. Art asked the temperature in town politically on this. Jacqueline said people are supportive but probably don’t have a good idea on how much is actually costs. Maura said she spoke with the new TA who was supportive of doing this right and doing it all together. Realistically we can’t do turf/track and baseball/softball fields at the same time because we can’t lose the field space. It would have to be phased. Art said we could technically solve Title IX by just converting the field. Jacqueline said people will appreciate doing it ‘smart’ and having a solution that answers several issues. Bill Luette pointed out that we lose field time in the meantime and maybe we should establish a plan and build the new fields in the back (corner of SHS property that is now all trees) to create space and then tackle the baseball and softball fields.

Art is suggesting that we consider the track/turf project as a priority. The previous TA was not supportive of this idea. Now it’s back on the table, everyone agrees is makes sense.

Art shared laser survey results of track when they started the turf project. What they discovered was that the turf has a 2’ pitch from the South to North. (Two feet?!?!) It’s out of tolerance, doesn’t meet any certifications. You can’t break a state record on this track. (Kind of doesn’t matter because we’d never have a state meet on this track BUT you couldn’t have a runner qualify for states on this track.) The turf is off as well. It’s conforming to the track. There aren’t real rulings on this that says this is wrong but they are building standards now that would show this is wrong. Track and turf are tied to each other and they need to be done together. $2.2M is the estimate for updates and fixes to bleachers, storage, track and field. Bleachers have to be done – they are not up to code. The track/turf fix is a summer-project. June 15-Aug 15 is an estimated example.

Chris asked Bill what the status is of any funds left over from the middle school project. Bill and Maura both said they heard that that could be considered but there was thought this would have to go to town meeting for approval.

Art said if we want to have this done in 2018 then we need to be in design/permit by April. This would be a very tight turn-around. Geo-tech work would have to be done (est $80k.)

Rec Commission asked Art for a plan that gets us where we need to be – which means adding fields and repairing current fields – and then replacing a field every year.

Dan asked when we’ll know about the leftover school year money. Bill doesn’t know but thinks that they’ll have to get through this school year first. Back in September there was $6M over, per Paul Donlon at a meeting with Ron, Maura, Bill, Anne and Jacqueline. Art suggested that the OPM for the school should know what the number is now. Dan also pointed out that in addition to a full plan, CPC will want to see the maintenance plan on all of it as well. Art said they usually carry 8 years of maintenance in the contract. Just like the warranty is a specification, the maintenance is a specification.

Art recommends doing the track and turf and bleachers together. From a code issue, we have to re-do our bleachers.

Best pricing on synthetic field would be to get pricing in January. (All design work and permitting would need to be done in the fall of 2018 to go to bid in January 2019 and construction in June 2019.)

1. Track/turf/bleachers (Summer 2018)
2. Baseball/softball fields (Spring/Summer 2019) and move JV baseball to Central and fix field there
3. Re-do other fields (Flannery) Summer 2020 (Capital Improvements?)
4. Construction of new fields (SHS or Branch St) Summer 2021

We asked Art what’s next. Art said he has enough information for phasing. He’ll need information on age group.

8:45pm

Motion to adjourn: Jacqueline Comerford

Second: Al Kazlousky