

RECREATION & PARKS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 13, 2016
Avon Town Hall, Building Department Conference Room

I. Call to Order - 7:30 a.m. – By Peter Ponziani, Chairman

A. Attendance

1. Members & Staff Present

Ruth Checko, Director, Todd Donovan, David Jadovich, Peter Ponziani, Kelly Jackson, Joe Weist

2. Members & Staff Absent

Donald Droppo

II. Minutes – March 15, 2016

Minutes from the March 15, 2016 meeting were presented. David Jadovich motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Todd Donovan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Chairman Ponziani asked if there was anything brought up to anyone. Ms. Jackson advised that the issue of the condition of the cross country track at Fisher Meadows was brought up to her. Ruth advised that she would call Public Works to handle.

IV. Correspondence

Ms. Checko referred to Capital Improvement proposals included in the packets. Updated proposals were distributed to replace the one sent out in the packets. It's a broad spreadsheet of prioritized projects. Will be discussing the individual projects today.

Fisher Meadows – Brandon and I have prioritized Fisher Meadows Field Development as first. The figures have been updated. Brandon is having Public Works Director Bruce Williams looking at doing the development in house. We've already spent \$158,532.

Ms. Checko advised that the Fisher Meadows Field Development would add seven fields to the North of the existing fields, 192 more parking spots, a pavilion, and irrigation. It could be 2 large fields or 7 small fields. The fields would be used for lacrosse and soccer in the spring and flag football and soccer in the fall.

New Toro Groundmaster mower included for equipment along with 2 additional DPW workers – real estate, mowing, lining and fertilization are all being doubled.

The fields can be set up as 2 large fields, or 7 small fields, or 1 large field and 3 or 4 small fields. Once the fields are set, they cannot be changed because of the goals.

Also, we will not be able to eliminate field usage at the schools with the expansion. We will only be hitting the mark for use of fields.

Avon High School – After Fisher Meadows, the next project is the Avon High School. The number is updated to include uprights and soccer goals.

Sycamore Hills - \$150,000 was used to update the pools, equipment, tennis courts, Senior Center. In Phase II, we'd like to replace the fencing around the pools, add two additional shade pavilion structures, roofing and improvements at the pavilion including tree removal, replace the playscape, adding blinds and carpeting at the Senior Center. The Pavilion project will be a big job.

Sperry Park – Little League wants to turn the field where the old school was into a full size baseball field and convert one of the smaller baseball fields into a skinned softball field. Their philosophy is that they want the girls (softball) to be at the park, not offsite. They want them to be part of the culture of little league. They're also requesting a bathhouse. The softball fields at Fisher would remain because of High School JV and Varsity and Men's Softball. Ms. Checko indicated that they're meeting with Little League on Friday. Engineering will be at the meeting too. She anticipates that Brandon will push this out to the next fiscal year.

Buckingham Recreation – Brandon asked for Ruth's wish list. She pulled the information from the Master Plan and BSC Group provided her with a cost of \$160,000 to start planning and designing. Lighting at the baseball field only would be considered. Parking is an issue at Buckingham. There is room next to the existing parking near the playscape to expand the parking, but nothing closer to the field. Engineering Department could be given this project instead of a consultant.

Countryside Park - Lighting and pavement improvements have been done recently. The roof and the deck could last another couple of years before they need to be replaced. New kitchen and floor would be nice. The basement needs to be addressed because of the dampness. Consensus is that the Countryside Park be moved up on the schedule to this fiscal year and not pushed out too far. If we put it in the proposal

and get a better number, the Town Council can determine the outcome for the bonding process. Same with Buckingham.

Ms. Checko asked the committee to go back to the Master Plan and make sure that she is prioritizing the projects.

Avon Senior Center – Redoing the kitchen, interior painting, window replacement.

V. Committee Communication

Mr. Ponziani brought up the High School baseball field where the freshman and JV teams play. That field needs a lot of work. The infield was recently cleaned up according to Mr. Donovan but removing the scoreboard needs to be done. Mr. Ponziani added that the mound is atrocious and the outfield needs to be improved. Ms. Checko added that the Board of Ed mows, fertilizes and paint the lines, but the Town prepares the field for games. In August when school is getting started, the custodians are working on getting the inside of the schools ready, not the field.

VI. Adjournment

Todd Donovan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 AM. Kelly Jackson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Usha Srivel

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