

MINUTES
MILLIS FIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 9, 2014 7:30 PM
ROOM 229, 900 MAIN ST. MILLIS MA

PRESENT:

ANDREA WAGNER
RICHARD NICHOLS
JAMES MCKAY
DAVID BAKER

CHARLES ASPINWALL, EX-OFFICIO
CHUCK ADELSBERGER CDM-SMITH

GUESTS:

DOUG RILEY
PETER JURMAIN
MIKE BANKS
CHRIS SMITH

Ms. Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM. She noted that the fields recommendations would be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on 10/15/14 and there would be a taping of Millis After Dark, a cable TV show, on Tuesday 10/14/14. Mr. McKay said that Ms. Yusna wants to do the program from room 229. One of the committee members should do a presentation and there would be four people answering questions. He suggested that Ms. Wagner discuss the proposed costs and Mr. Nichols chime in from the rec sports perspective.

Ms. Wagner said that she wanted to review the list of questions that the Fin Comm had but first wanted to hear from Mr. Adelsberger about the toxicity issue surrounding the use of crumb rubber as the infill materials.

Mr. Adelsberger reported that NBC News recently did a report identifying a concern about the linkage of the use of crumb rubber to cancer in soccer players. He provided information from the company named Field Turf citing no scientific link between crumb rubber and cancer. He cited report that CDM did at Tabor Academy which showed no contaminants in the runoff from a field that used crumb rubber infill. Options that could be considered are virgin rubber, cork, and coconut husks. Mr. Nichols said that the lack of a scientific linkage between the product and cancer should not change the committee's approach or recommendations.

Mr. Riley reported that the use of Oak Grove Farm (OGF) fields has helped the usage issue at the Clyde Brown fields but that there is still an overuse issue that can only be addressed by adding additional natural turf fields or by installing the synthetic turf field at Clyde Brown.

Mr. Baker noted that OGF has lost a source of revenue as the John Smith Camp has moved elsewhere. He noted that the Committee believes the OGF field should be in the mix of recommendations to Town Meeting. Mr. Banks noted that where he formally lived the school department jealously guarded school field use thereby limiting public use. Mr. Nichols noted that our field use is similarly limited as they are natural turf and therefore can't absorb as many plays as synthetic turf can.

Mr. Jurmain noted that the school department has not voted on the project so the facility would not be a school facility and would have to be shared. He asked if the school committee was going to vote to support the project. Mr. Baker said that it was clear that the school department was in favor of the project and that the project itself would be a first class facility.

Ms. Wagner suggested that the committee get back to the Fin Comm questions. She asked that the information regarding the number of players on fields be transmitted to the Fin Comm and the information on increased usage over the years. Mr. Aspinwall noted that the maintenance numbers were identified and that the revenue numbers did not count receipts from outside groups. Ms. Wagner said we must be prepared to address options explored, maintenance of new fields, costs of maintenance, and how re-turfing will be accomplished.

Mr. Riley inquired if maintenance funds would be added to the DPW budget or some other budget. Mr. Aspinwall responded that an enterprise fund would be established and centralized maintenance would be conducted but the controlling departments have not yet been identified. That would be done at subsequent meeting between the Selectmen and School Committee.

Mr. Baker ran through the presentation he would be making at the Millis after Dark Program and at the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Smith reviewed the maintenance costs and potential for increased user fees and additional funds needed to maintain the fields. He noted that we needed to save funds each year for the eventual replacement of the field skin. Ms. Wagner noted that Mr. Smith should at some point present the numbers he has developed, perhaps at an upcoming Selectmen's meeting.

At 10:00 PM Mr. Nichols made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. McKay, vote 4-0 in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Aspinwall