

Parks and Rec meeting 1-24-24

In attendance: John Macken, Mark McAndrews, George Schmidt, George Cross, Andrew Maria (zoom) Alix Korpan (zoom) Steve Pierce (zoom)

7:35 meeting called to order John Macken

Approval of minutes - Andrew motioned, all in favor

Correspondence: Nothing

Softball request: George Cross representing WBSA to discuss temporary fence in outfield. Have support from boosters. They want to add a temporary fence that can be used for softball and baseball fields. Custodial staff will put it up, players and staff will take down. Only for varsity games, not practice. About 10 home games each baseball and softball. Any naming rights etc would go through WARF. P and R issue would be that if fence was left up, it would be taken down by P and R and not allowed back up. There was some debate over the site of storage for the fence, Bobby Rushton's concern over equal distant from both fields. Steve concern over flood issues. Some concern over whether or not sockets remain in ground. All costs covered by WBSA, confirmed. George moved to vote, all in favor.

Motion to move WARF presentation to next (ahead of budget conversation.) unanimous

WARF: Nick Gemelli. Changed board structure, new roster. Nick and JR remain points of contact. Added legal counsel and growing funding base and budget. Emphasizing goal of promoting and investing in athletic and recreation facilities for entire town.

BUDGET: intro from Steve on how it works

Fiscal year July 1 - June 30. Annual meeting first Tuesday in May. Operating capital and bonded capital; which would have a significant dollar amount or a longer time line.

Steve reviewed each budget account area.

John: why is stadium lighting revenue down notably from 2023 actual ? Steve was unsure, will investigate.

Upcoming building repairs discussed. Concern over extra impact on P and R services, ie Dial a Ride, form new / higher density housing projects.

We will go through entire budget when completed and vote on it

PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE: John requested that we make sure to be in person going forward. Second Wednesday of each month is now in conflict with another meeting so we will move to first Wednesday of the month. Feb 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 10 (July 3 is a conflict for most.) No Aug meeting. September 4, Oct 2 (? - Rosh Hashanah) Nov 6 Dec 4 All at 7:30 PM

PICKLEBALL COURTS: Presentation sent around. People agree location in Merwin meadows is ideal; will test the sound. The company we have quote from (budget number) is the only company that has bid on it. John suggest we get multiple bids. We will submit as a bonded capital number. If approved by BOS and BOF then goes to town meeting to vote. Same company as who we used for tennis courts. Andrew asking about lights, making sure people won't be playing late night. None for now, may revisit later. Timing - if all goes well and we get approval at town meeting, would get built when contractor can fit into their schedule. Unlikely usable before 2025. Currently 5 courts in town - 1 inside at Comstock and 4 shared courts at MB. Alix made a motion to vote to add 4 pickle ball courts as proposed, George seconded, Andrew abstained for conflict. 4 in favor.

STAFF REPORTS: WARF and wilton lax trying to host another NCAA lax game. Saturday Feb 24. Harvard vs Bucknell. Merwin playground on schedule. RFP for Whitten renovation project is completed and is being reviewed by the town, will be sent out for competitive bid. Stadium drains continue to be studied per requirements for federal grant. Work likely done in fall after football season 2024; unclear if this impacts the lights project. Parks department working on repairing trail washout from storms; rec programs running well. Feb 15 In a heartbeat running their annual screening. Location for Schencks Island playground continues to be challenging, one location looks likely. Steve asked Andrew to run point.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nick Gemelli - WARF curious why pickle ball being looked at as a single use project vs multi use. Steve explains the demand is there. John suggests we explore this as a commission.

George motions to adjourn meeting 8:59 PM. All in favor.