

Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

January 7 at 7:00pm

Attendees: Drew McMorrow, Amy Smack, Mark Spears, Courtney Bittelari, Holly Mansfield

Mosquito:

Meeting began at 7:05pm

Public Comments and Correspondence:

- 1) Warren Spence from the Trails Committee proposed a change in the trail at Banta Davis. The trail currently has people walking on the soccer field. The Trails Committee would like to move the trail closer to the woods so people are not walking on the field. Mark mentioned installing a small fence in this area as well to keep soccer balls from going into the trail area.
- 2) Peter Gambino would like to encourage RecCom to not pursue Spalding Field as a possible site for the Community Center. Spalding field is used by the school for physical education classes but is rarely used at this time due to the poor condition of the field, not because the field is not needed for classes. Peter is hoping efforts can be made to improve the condition of Spalding Field so the area can be used to its full capacity. Mark mentioned that Spalding field is on a swamp and the issues that we currently have on the field will continue to be a problem due to the field being built on a swamp.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Courtney made the motion to approve the minutes from October 10th and December 24th meetings. Amy seconded the motion.

All in favor: Yes.

Committee Liaison Reports:

- FinCom: Drew reported that FinCom approved the budget for Recreation
- COA: Courtney reported that COA and RecCom attended the School Committee meeting to present Spalding Field as a possible site for the Community Center. The school committee decided to discuss the topic and meet with Margaret Heigl to determine her needs for physical education classes and put the item on the agenda for the next school committee meeting on January 9th. Abacus was selected to do the Community Center study. The Caring for Carlisle Grant designated 12k for the study. Abacus is looking for 20k to do the feasibility study. David Freedman and Tim Goddard are in negotiations with Abacus on the final fee for the study. COA is willing to pay additional monies to meet the increased fee and is inquiring if RecCom would do the same.
- CPA: Mark reported that the next meeting will be in early February. There are currently on only a few applications for projects. Mark suggested this might be a good time to apply for funding for a project, perhaps Spalding Field.
- Master Planning Committee: Amy reported that she has been appointed to the Master Planning Committee. The first meeting was an informational meeting to discuss the overall plan. The plan is expected to take approximately 2 years to complete. The next meeting will be held in March.

Community Center Discussion:

Abacus was selected for the Community Center feasibility study. The Caring for Carlisle Grant designated 12k for the study. Abacus is looking for 20k to do the feasibility study. David Freedman and Tim Goddard are in negotiations with Abacus on the final fee for the study. COA is willing to pay additional monies to meet the increased fee and is inquiring if RecCom would do the same.

An additional fee of 3-4k is not a lot of money to get a full report for a Community Center in town. If RecCom were to approve additional monies for the feasibility study, funds from the Revolving 53D account could be used support this request.

Mark mentioned that there is 2.5 acres behind the Congregational Church and adjacent to the school that could be a potential site for a Community Center or additional fields for the school. Years ago there was discussion about a land swap with the Church. The church was interested in the front piece of Banta Davis and exchange for their full parcel that includes 2.5 acre piece of land behind the church.

Mark also suggested that the feasibility group look at three areas on Banta for the Center. The space adjacent to the Little League field is 48,000 sq feet and could support the structure, with parking possibility across the street where the dirt piles and indigenous garden are. Then the two corners in Upper Banta that are undeveloped and overgrown are also good options. The upper land use could, however, draw issues with the school future use prospects and would have to be negotiated with the School.

Ice Rink Update:

The ice rink is up. However, someone tried to skate on the rink today and broke the ice. Peter and Drew will build 4-6 posts to attached LED lights to increase the visibility of the rink.

Spalding Field Issues and Planning:

In June of 2018, Drew sent an email to Margaret Heigl to list the ongoing issues with Spalding Field. The issues are sinkholes, surface water problems, grading issues, forest overgrowth, configurations issues for safe play, weeds and insect infestations, and animal waste from waterfowl. Mark stated the field was built approximately 60 years ago and was built on a landfill and a swamp. Drew suggested we hire an engineering firm to recommend the best potential use for Spalding field.

Update on Landscape Services:

Holly has sent several emails to Jared Davis to set up a meeting to discuss the fields and invoicing. Jared has not been responsive to the emails. In June of 2018, RecCom did vote to extend his contract for an additional year through June 30, 2019. Holly and Drew met with Jared in June of 2018 to discuss the fields going forward and to request invoices for the 2017/2018 season. Jared agreed to get the invoices to us by June 30th. Within days of this meeting, Jared hired a lawyer saying that we were going to withhold his payment if invoices were not received by June 30th which is the end of the fiscal year.

Motion: Mark made the motion to terminate the contract with Jared Davis for 2019 contingent upon further discussion that there are no concerns with this action by Town Counsel. Amy seconded the motion. All in favor: Yes

Update on the Banta Baseball Project Review "Caring for Carlisle" Survey Results:

North Turf completed the field renovation. Unfortunately, the field was mowed too early and ruined the new grass. For an additional fee, North Turf did repair the field in November. The field should be ready for use in spring. We can plan for a grand opening of the field for CCYB.

Drew will attend the upcoming CPC meeting to present the completion of the Banta Davis Field Renovation to officially close out the project.

Grass Issues/Grubs:

For many years, the town has applied organic treatments to the fields. The fields continue to have serious grub issues and declining condition of the grass that organic treatments have not solved. Some options to improve the fields are 1) Scrape fields and refill 2) Use non-organic chemicals to treat the grubs 3) Continue with the Organic treatment and hope to find a resolution to the field issues. Holly will contact Craig Cheeseman to invite him to the next meeting to discuss the treatment options.

Review Long-Term Priorities, Revisit 2006 Banta Plan, Review “Caring for Carlisle Results:

- Long-Term Priorities: RecCom is discussing long-term priorities to include projects such as a Dog Park, Track, Turf Field, Pool, Tennis Courts, and Basketball Courts.
- RecCom will revisit the 2006 Banta Davis Plan. Mark thought we could modify the plan to create a better traffic pattern and more parking.
- The Caring for Carlisle survey had a 14-15% response. However, the results of the survey do not provide the information we need to assist with long-term planning goals.
- The board discussed “artificial turf” as an option for Spalding. Turf construction was a point of concern during the 2006 BD plan that contributed to the plan’s demise; however, it has become much more of an accepted field benefit for the community, and will solve many of the maintenance challenges.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 28th at 7:00pm