

MINUTES
MILLIS FIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 23, 2014 7:30 PM
ROOM 130, 900 MAIN ST. MILLIS MA

PRESENT:

ANDREA WAGNER
RICHARD NICHOLS
JAMES MCKAY
DAVID BAKER
MARC CONROY

CHARLES ASPINWALL, EX-OFFICIO

GUESTS:

MATT MILLER
MIKE BANKS
DAVE SCHOFIELD

Ms. Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. She reported that both the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee had voted to support the project. She wanted to review what the committee could and could not do to provide information and advocate for the project.

Mr. Aspinwall distributed the Interpretive Bulletin from the Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF). The meeting tonight could not be used to formulate a strategy for providing information – see paragraph H. Mr. Nichols said that his desire was to use the meeting to determine what information he could provide within OCPF rules. Mr. baker said the information regarding the cost of the project, forty four cents per thousand with an average cost of \$121.85 per single family parcel should be information that the committee can provide. Mr. Conroy said that the user fee issue is also important but the analysis did not show how much athletes were already paying in user fees. Ms. Wagner pointed out that there is the potential of revenue coming from user groups that has not been figured into the total revenue picture. Mr. Baker said that the committee plan to manage the fields through central maintenance & scheduling should also be information that's valuable to the public. Ms. Wagner stated that we also need to convey information as to how the fields will be "reskinned."

Mr. Miller pointed out that the project will increase property values and would make the town a more attractive place to live. A committee member noted that increased property values may mean a higher tax bill so that might not be a good point to raise.

Mr. Baker said that the public should be educated about the options and those that were deferred or discarded. Some of the options like the school track will provide a walking area for seniors. It was noted that the Selectmen dropped the OGF field due to disinterest in a larger soccer field by the OGF commission.

Mr. Miller said that the financial issues surrounding the costs and the fees needs to be put out to the community as well as the viability/safety of crumb rubber infill. Ms. Wagner added that the alternatives to crumb rubber, cork, virgin rubber, and sand, also needs to get out there.

Mr. Aspinwall related the trouble that Holliston and Ashland have with announcing a plan to combine fire departments before employees were first made aware of it and before it was negotiated.

Mr. Baker said that many do not understand that over use is driving the need for synthetic fields; the fin Comm is not appreciative of the need for synthetic fields. Ms. Wagner said that we should also address those who say donors should be solicited for the project. Mr. Aspinwall suggested that the conversation was getting close to what is not allowed under paragraph H and suggested that those attending from private groups could discuss these things amongst themselves but that the committee had to follow the guidance from the OCPF.

Mr. Conroy updated the committee on the proposed Clyde Brown School project. It was evident that this project could have an impact on the public's willingness to fund two projects. Mr. Baker pointed out that interest rates have been at historic lows and it would be better to finance now than in the future.

Mr. Aspinwall handed out the OCPF guidance.

At 8:50 PM Mr. Baker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Nichols, vote unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Aspinwall