

Wayland Recreation Commission

June 9, 2014

minutes

In attendance Krasin, Wright, McShea, Foster

meeting called to order 7:08 pm

Wright – reviewed public comment new policy, no back and forth with the public. We will not respond. The commission will discuss amongst each other if necessary and will come back with follow up question to you if necessary.

Public comment- none

Eric Roise - **Gale presents the final draft of the Town Wide Athletic Field Usage Update (dated June 2014)**

Roise explains original work was done in 2011, this is an update that is much more in depth. This presentation will go over the document titled Town Wide Athletic Field Usage June 2014 available at the meeting. Vetted numbers, sent confirmation sheets, signed off by the users, difficult to capture were a few things 1. how different sports use field differently (usage multiplier). 2. when you overlay a smaller field inside a larger field, different usage wear. 3. how to capture multiple teams on one field at a time beyond the normal team usage, how to quantify this.

Roise went through the parts of the study and explain the 3 different parts of the study. He then went through the Field Usage Summary sheet. Eric explained the differences between the color coding of a field being green, yellow or red. Fields in the red are exceeding the usage threshold of 250 uses. Also explained why turf field is listed as a white field and that a blue shading meant that a team was playing on a field not appropriate for the sport being played on it. i.e. baseball being played on a softball field.

Eric talked about how we gathered the information from the users, showed the raw data collection and how it was converted over to an adjusted event usage number by going through a Multiplier sheet and the conversions on that sheet.

These numbers are then used to determine the fields needed in relations to the fields that we have. In the areas that we are exceeding the 200-250 events per year we can determine the number of additional fields needed by the amount that we are over in that area, i.e. if we area at 750 11 v11 fields then we are short 2 11v11 fields.

Virzi – is there any accountability for seasonality in these numbers. Roise we did not do this here. We do know that in the spring for instance we might lose 20% or so of the season. If we factor this into the data then we would really be showing even more of a need for fields and we don't want to overstate that fact. We do however try to address that issue in the narrative.

Roise explained the logic for the use of the Multiple Events per Field Multiplier (1.4).

This brings us to the field needs sheet: recommendations, 7 full size multipurpose/soccer, field hockey/lax fields; 8v8 soccer- 1 field; 6v6 soccer – 4 fields; micro soccer – 0 fields; softball 60' diamond – 0 fields; baseball 60' diamond- 2 fields.

Discussion on turf versus natural grass and how decision impacts the usage and number of fields you would need. Also whether or not changes to field maintenance can change the impact of the fields that are currently yellow. Red fields are lost, no amount of maintenance will sustain a stand of grass in playable condition because of the wear.

Virzi if we did 8- full size fields would that take away the 6v6 and 8v8 needs. Roise yes basically it would do that.

Wright – turf field would account for 2 fields. Roise yes if not lit, equivalent of 3 fields if lit.

Bruce Cummings – can you clarify the need for baseball fields and why you would need 2 baseball fields. Have you accounted for the non-resident teams in these calculations? Roise we have accounted for all current users in this study.

Oliver where has the discussion gone with maximizing the usage of existing fields through some alternate maintenance ideas and/or reconfiguring existing fields? Roise that is the next step in this process.

Roise can you redistribute usage of certain fields to somewhere else. Need to also look at programming needs sometimes it is not possible to move the program to another facility.

Virzi – no accounting for the peak usage times.

Wright- we have tried to capture too many teams at the same time on the same field. Peak usage is defined as when we can practice which is restricted to after school and before sunset as we don't have lights on most fields. We need user groups to make sure that the data looks accurate and then we will look at the options of how we can provide fields and get to the over usage solution. Likely not going to build 7 fields but can do a combination of things to reduce the over usage problem and provide usable space. Gale is not going to find that solution the commission will determine how to get to that solution.

Mark Lucier – explained how lacrosse often does not make up games that it misses and he also commented that if you accounted for every game/practice missed then it would be an outstanding amount of field need probably ten fields instead of 7.

Wright – some scenarios that we started throwing around last week, want to throw out ideas to the users and see what you think will be useful and would work. Last week we talked about baseball potentially building one new 60' baseball field at Loker and 1 8v8 soccer there and potentially just a flat space prepped for future use to be determined later. Also light Riverview and then we could move baseball off of the softball fields and take care of that issue. Also we could potentially put 2 8v8 fields

side by side on the turf field at the high school and get the 8v8 off of Alpine and Town Building 11 v 11 fields.

Oliver – I guess I am concerned that our minimum needs are grossly undermet. Need to accommodate our greatest demands and use our real estate wisely. Can we change any of our existing fields? What if we lit the JV baseball field at the high school? Would we need to have turf field put in if we wanted to put lights on it.

Shawn Fennelly – turf the JV baseball field and light that area and I am all set.

Wright – do we have all the user group numbers? Roise and McShea, yes. Wright, our goal is now to start to come up with a consolidated plan and look at the maintenance plan. Do we add maintenance staff or outsource that work through a contract? When it would be staged? When the field would come on line? What field we would off line and when and build all of that into our plan? Lay out the entire plan of building, resting and renovating the fields.

Lucier – biggest concern, is addressing the complexity of the plan at town meeting. How to present this plan so that the larger population will understand it could be challenging.

Oliver – plan can't be exclusive of just new construction. Must include renovations of existing fields and must also address how we can address some deficiencies within our existing fields, like adding turf pads to 6v6 goal mouths.

Wright this is just back up for the master plan. We will now take this information and complete that master plan with this information as the basis to back up our recommendations.

Lucier – what if we did not use the multiple events per field multiplier and just keep that at 1 instead of 1.4. would we still need fields if it was only a factor of 1?

Bruce Cumming – need to prioritize fields based on resident usage. We should not prioritize field development based on needs of non-residents.

Krasin what are the dimensions 50-60' by 45' wide. Would think we could put 3 or 4 6v6 fields at Alpine field.

Oliver – could only fit around 2 fields there, parking is an issue and it is notoriously a wet field. We could get by with turf pads in the 6v6 goal mouths as a way to get by likely without building new fields.

Cass- we could shorten our 6v6 fields by 10 yards and could rotate all the fields. Could fit 2 fields inside each of our 11 v 11 fields, such as Bennett, Town Building and Behind the Tennis Courts at the High School.

Wright – I agree with Bruce that as a commission we need to look at all options and we need to look at things such as the non-resident teams and see if they are driving the numbers up for field development. Not always sure who is the non-resident team, sometimes that varies season by season based on who registers.

Oliver – how do we address issues such as no one to deal with high school maintenance, no dedicated staff at various areas. How do we address that?

Wright – we have looked at that and don't have the answers for that. Have looked at can we outsource the work?

Oliver – better communication between departments would be helpful.

Wright – I am not opposed to the current system. Just want something to work.

Wright – 4 brand new directors represents an opportunity to do things differently.

Foster – I have been in contact with Weston regarding outsourcing and will be gathering information from them in the coming months and we will be looking for ways to see if this can be utilized here in a positive way to improve our field maintenance.

Oliver – what is the time line for your next step?

Wright – we will tweak the draft, approve the draft and start selecting out of this our revised master plan. Will begin working on that likely at our next meeting. Talked with Cherry Karlson and she did not advise going after a money article this fall but rather at the spring town meeting so that is likely what we are shooting for.

Field Usage Fee Discussion – tabled as there is now a field usage fee committee.

Public Comment – none

Not anticipated 48 hours in advance.

next meeting Wednesday July 2nd 7:00 PM

Krasin – what are we charging EMASS per season? McShea \$600 as a non-resident team.

Wright – would it make sense to charge per event per field?

Foster motion to adjourn, second Krasin. Vote unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned 9:02 pm.