

West Boylston Parks Facilities Committee (PFC) Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2014

PFC attendees: Gary Flynn, John Hadley, John Owanisian, Christopher Rucho, Timothy Shea

BETA Engineering attendees: Randall Collins, Steven D'Ambrosia

Other attendees: Christine Drappi (Goodale Park abutter), John Milewski (WBHS Baseball Coach), Elise Wellington

- Mr. Owanisian opened the meeting at 7:08PM.

Motion: A motion by Mr. Rucho and seconded by Mr. Hadley to approve PFC minutes of December 2, 2014 was approved.

- Mr. Owanisian welcomed the attendees and provided a brief overview of the Goodale Park master planning process, indicating the master plan will yield cost estimates and alternatives for the park's future layout.
- Mr. Collins then provided a further explanation of the master planning process and described some of the challenges associated with the Goodale Park site:
 - The slope of terrain was described as a major challenge.
 - The steeply sloped "in between zones" of site are especially challenging.
 - It will likely be difficult to accommodate all users' desired features within the park's footprint.
 - Indicated that preliminary alternatives will be presented at this meeting with more alternatives to follow at future meetings.
- Ms. Wellington recommended "buffer space" should be incorporated into project to provide separation from neighbors.
- Ms. Wellington inquired about process to notify neighbors concerning the Goodale Park master planning process – Mr. Rucho replied that the activity has been publicized in *Banner* articles and through Town Administrator's Blog, unlike Planning Board activities, there is not a need to send notification to abutters via postal mail. All PFC meetings are posted and considered open meetings with public welcome to attend.
- Mr. D'Ambrosia then kicked off a review of preliminary Goodale Park alternative plans (referenced as plans 1, 1A, 2, 3, and 4) that were presented in hardcopy form (roughly 2' x 3' drawings) - .pdf versions of these plans are provided in a separate attachment, Mr. Owanisian was also provided with hardcopy of the plans.
 - Plan 1A: Relocates multi-purpose field to pine grove, locates multi-use practice field at current location of multi-purpose field, eliminates one LL field (Mr. Rucho expressed concern), expands baseball outfield dimensions, provides added parking in location of current LL fields and pine grove, and locates stage in central area that could possibly accommodate a water facility.
 - Plan 1: Similar to plan 1A, but completely eliminates LL fields (Mr. Rucho expressed concern), adds passive recreation areas, more trees, walking trails and a "formal park" along Crescent St.
 - Plan 2: relocates HS Baseball field to pine grove with home plate facing Newton St., eliminates LL fields, includes pool facility in location of current LL field, creates expanded multi-purpose field at current location, and locates practice field at current HS baseball field location.

- Plan 3: Similar to plan 1A, but locates pool facility in area of current LL fields, creates central parking area with new access from Goodale St, and creates additional parking area along roadway that interconnects Newton St. to access driveway at school (consensus indicated this inter-connected roadway was highly desirable).
 - Plan 4: Locates HS Baseball field to location of current multi-purpose field, current HS Baseball field becomes practice field, multi-purpose field moves to pine grove, LL fields eliminated with pool facility in current LL area.
 - All of the plans provide a stage/bandstand area, concession/restroom/storage facilities, expanded parking, interconnected walking trails.
- Discussion then ensued concerning the need to create new alternatives based largely on revision of plans 1A and 3 that included the following modifications:
 - Replace pool depicted in plan 3 with a 2nd LL field.
 - Create location for pool by cutting into central parking area depicted in plan 3.
 - Reorient practice field 90 degrees in plan 3 and possibly reduce size.
 - Use multi-purpose field orientation (in pine grove) depicted in plan 1A.
 - Include inter-connection of Newton St. with school access driveway.
 - Messrs. D'Ambrossia and Collins agreed to provide updated alternatives at next PFC meeting that incorporated the revisions above.
- Mr. Shea indicated running irrigation to a multi-purpose field located in pine grove may present challenges.
- Agreed to following date/time for next PFC meeting: Tuesday, January 13 at 7PM.
- There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was approved at 9:02PM.