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Community Relations Minutes 05/14/2008

Approved Minutes 06.02.08

Community Relations Subcommittee
May 14, 2008
-Minutes-

In attendance: Jeff Thielman (Subcommittee Chair)
Ron Spangler (Subcommittee Member)
Sue Sheffler (Subcommittee Member)
Nate Levenson (Superintendent)
Ted Dever (Athletic Director)
Joe Connelly (Director of Parks & Recreation)
Rob DiLoreto (Arlington High School)
Steve Moniak (Arlington Soccer Club, Adult Soccer)
Lisa Reale (Arlington Women's Adult Soccer)
Ted Wilson (President, Schools for Children)
Mat Dolan (Executive Director, Arlington Children's Center)
John Larnar (Head of School, International School of Boston)

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m.

1. Fees for Peirce Field

- a. Mr. Thielman began the meeting by explaining that the School Committee approved a budget for FY '09 that includes \$30,000 in new revenue from fees from the Peirce Field. The purpose of today's meeting was to begin the process of setting fees for groups using the fields. *Any recommendation from the subcommittee must be approved by the full School Committee.*
- b. Mr. Thielman said that it was critical that there be sufficient public input into the setting of fees. There would be at least one subcommittee meeting in the evening plus the opportunity for people to speak at a School Committee meeting prior to any vote on the fee structure. Consequently, it would take at least two subcommittee meetings before a recommendation would be ready for the full School Committee. Mr. Thielman said a goal was to present a proposal to the full School Committee by June 10th.
- c. Mr. Levenson explained that the \$30,000 target included all of the School Department's costs, including lights.
- d. Mr. Connelly said that there has to be an additional fee for turning the lights on and off. Said fee (currently \$25) pays the individual who performs this duty for the Park and Recreation Department.
- e. The subcommittee and those participating in the meeting reviewed several pieces of data, including:
 - Ø Chart assembled by Joe Connelly summarizing the current usage of Peirce Field.
 - Ø Chart from Mr. Levenson with fee schedules from Lincoln-Sudbury, Medfield, Reading and Somerville showing the costs of field rental.
 - Ø Suggested fee schedule presented by Lisa Reale of the Arlington Women's Adult Soccer Club.
 - Ø Suggested fee schedule developed by Clint Schwamb of Arlington Adult Soccer
 - Ø Lexington Recreation Field Permit Fee schedule
 - Ø Memo from Ted Dever, Athletic Director, with a fee structure from Reading, suggestions for management of Peirce Field, and ideas for generating revenue by hosting youth tournaments and changing the name of the field to Alumni Field and creating a donation structure.
- f. Mr. Dever said that an increase in the use of the field necessitated additional staffing in his office. Someone must manage the field usage, he said. Mr. Levenson responded by saying that he would have to research this and that an administrative position was not part of the \$30,000 fee.
- g. The subcommittee and the participants in the meeting were in agreement that no fees should be assessed to Arlington Youth Sports programs for Arlington residents.
- h. The subcommittee and participants discussed Mr. Schwamb's proposal, which called for \$100 per hour fees for Adult Soccer, \$25 per hour fees for Arlington Recreation and Summer Field Hockey, and \$50 per hour fee for other

private and public schools.

i. Mr. DiLoreto said that the school department was undercharging for the field currently. He explained that when Peirce Field was under construction several years ago and he was serving as Athletic Director, he paid considerably more per hour to use fields in surrounding towns. Mr. DiLoreto said that several non-Arlington schools could use the fields if they were available.

j. Ms. Reale suggested that there should be one fee schedule for games played under the lights and one for games without lights. She suggested a non-light fee of \$75 per hour, and "with lights" fee of \$125 per hour. Mr. Moniak and others felt comfortable with this figure.

k. With the assumption that all Arlington Youth Programs (e.g., Pop Warner, Arlington Soccer, Arlington Lacrosse) would pay no fee for using the field, the subcommittee and participants discussed the possibility of having the following categories of user fees:

- Ø Adult Leagues without lights
- Ø Adult Leagues with lights
- Ø Summer Youth Programs with lights
- Ø Summer Youth Programs without lights
- Ø Other high school sporting events (non Arlington residents) with lights
- Ø Other high school sporting events (non Arlington residents) without lights

l. Mr. Connelly, Mr. Dever, and Mr. DiLoreto agreed to meet with Mr. Levenson to work out a fee schedule. At the suggestion of Mr. Connelly, Mr. Levenson agreed to investigate the actual cost of the lights to see if there was a need to charge a greater amount.

m. ACTION ITEM: Mr. Levenson will meet with Mr. Connelly, Mr. Dever, and Mr. DiLoreto to draft a fee schedule with user group categories. Mr. Levenson will present a draft schedule to the subcommittee chair by no later than Thursday, May 22nd. Mr. Thielman will distribute the proposal to all sports user groups prior to the next subcommittee meeting.

2. Rental of Parmenter and Crosby Schools

a. Mr. Spangler explained that he met with the Town Manager and Board of Selectman Chairwoman Clarissa Rowe to discuss the lease terms of the Parmenter and Crosby schools. He reported that the Town Manager has agreed to offer three year leases (through June 30, 2011) to the tenants of each facility.

b. Mr. Levenson said that he would be visiting each facility in the next week or so. He noted that the school district is seeing an increase in population. The Kindergarten population has increased by about 5% per year the last two years and will see a 7% increase next year. He is not certain what this trend means, but he cautioned that the schools may need more space at some point in the future.

c. There was discussion of the possibility that one day proceeds from the sale of these facilities could be used to pay for renovations to the Stratton and Thompson schools. However, no data has been put forward to date detailing the value of the buildings or whether more revenue would be generated from renting the facilities versus selling them.

d. The representatives of the three tenants spoke about their hopes and plans:

Ø Mr. Dolan, Arlington Children's Center (ACC) – he would like to keep the program at the former Parmenter School for as long as possible. The program would be interested in a long term lease (20 or more years) or the opportunity to buy the facility. The program has been operating at the former Parmenter School since 1971. Mr. Dolan explained that it is an important part of the community.

Ø Mr. Wilson, Schools for Children – he said that Schools for Children operates Dearborn Academy from the former Crosby School. He would like to keep the program there for the foreseeable future and would like a long term lease or the opportunity to purchase the facility. He noted that Schools for Children employs more than 150 people in Arlington, making the organization one of the town's largest employers.

Ø Mr. Larner said that the International School is expanding and is actively looking for a permanent site, preferably one with fields. The school has already launched the International Baccalaureate program that is sure to draw many more students. His board has directed him to actively look for a larger site. The school would bid on any Arlington facility if it became available, and the school very much wants to have a presence in Arlington. Mr. Larner said the town is a very good location for the International School.

3. Because of a lack of time, the subcommittee tabled discussions on university partnerships, a security working group, and other business.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m. Motion by Mr. Spangler, second by Ms. Sheffler. Approved 3-0.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the School Committee Room

Contact Information of Attendees to today's meeting

Name	Affiliation	Email
Ted Dever	High School Athletic Director	tdever@arlington.k12.ma.us
Joe Connelly	Director of Parks & Recreation	jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Rob DiLoreto	High School Counselor, former High School Athletic Director	rdiloreto@arlington.k12.ma.us
Steve Moniak	Member of the Board of Arlington Youth Soccer, representative of Arlington Adult soccer programs	stevmsoccer@comcast.net
Lisa Reale	Representative of Arlington Women's Soccer	lisamreale@gmail.com
Ted Wilson	President, Schools for Children	twilson@sfcinc.org
Mat Dolan	Executive Director, Arlington Children's Center	mdolan@conversent.net
John Lerner	Head of School, International School of Boston	jlerner@isbos.org