

Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2014 at 6:00pm

Attendees: Rick Amodei, Dave Moreau, Holly Mansfield

Mosquito: Sarah Hart

Guests: Peter Coletti (Baseball), Aimee Cupp (Softball), Nancy DiRomualdo (Soccer), Pam Rockwell (Soccer), Jeff Blue (Volleyball), Dennis McCollum (Basketball), Margaret Heigl (Carlisle Middle School, Drew McMorrow, Representatives from Gale Associates.

Meeting began at 6:10pm

Carlisle Field Study:

The meeting began with an introduction from Gale Associates. Gale is looking to talk about the various sites in Carlisle and to get some input from various sports organization concerning the needs in town.

Gale Associates complete site visits during the winter months and plans to revisit the areas with in the upcoming months.

Banta Davis: Nancy D. discussed the poor drainage at the Banta Davis soccer field. There is also a hole in the center field at the baseball diamond. The grass is currently in good condition but historically gets worse in the spring. The softball field is one of the best in the league at BD. The baseball field and benches at BD is too close to the road causing a safety hazard. The fence along the first base line needs to be higher. Children often get hit in the head with balls that bounce of the current fence falling back into the baseball field.

Spalding: At Spalding Field there are sink holes. This field was built on fill and continues to settle leaving large sink holes on the field. The softball field at Spalding is in terrible and not considered a competition field. Softballs often end up in the swamp and the field drains poorly. This softball field is primarily used by t-ball. There is a safety concern if both baseball and soccer are sharing the space. Often times, baseballs can be hit into the middle of a soccer game.

Pam R. stated that soccer used the fields in the fall from dawn to dusk. If the Carlisle soccer fields are closed due to drainage issues then there are not enough fields in Concord for in-town and travel soccer.

Backboard for lacrosse has a hole in it due to damage from an animal.

In the fall, the middle school uses Spalding field 2x per week for grades 5-8. In the spring, the field is used for all grades. The school uses Spalding from April vacation through the end of the school year. The school will also use BD if extra teams are scheduled (JV & Varsity).

Travel Soccer begins the first week of April. Often times, the Carlisle fields are not yet opened causing scheduling issues for soccer. Soccer uses the Concord fields to schedule fields until Carlisle fields are open.

Lacrosse is looking for field space in Carlisle. This season, the travel lacrosse program had to rent space because there are not enough fields. If soccer and lacrosse share fields, then there will be no open fields for practices.

Parking: There are issues with parking at both locations. At Spalding, many cars are parked in front of the cistern which does not allow room for emergency vehicles. Cars parked in the parking spaces along the field are subject to getting hit by baseballs. At BD, cars are parked along the road. The road is basically a one car way and with cars parked along the side it is difficult to pass. If multiple sports/games/practices are scheduled at the same time, there is

The stairs from the school to Spalding will eventually need to be replaced. There is currently no way for a handicap child in a wheelchair to get to Spalding field without going on the road.

Gale Associates is putting together a report of all the concerns regarding scheduling and safety. Generally fields can't take more than 200/300 uses per year due to the damage it would cause to the roots. Carlisle fields are currently exceeding the recommended use for fields.

Concord is not happy that Carlisle is under represented in field use. Carlisle is not contributing their share for field scheduling. Carlisle offers a percentage of players but not fields.

Margaret H. mentioned that there is a big push right now for a track and field program. However, there is no place to offer a track and field program in town. Currently there is no venue for track and field, lacrosse or tennis.

The tennis courts are in rough shape and are currently not playable. The posts are not secure and there are many cracks. It was mentioned that new courts could be built at BD. The current tennis courts could be transformed into full-size basketball and street hockey courts.

Lacrosse currently runs as an 8 week season and has 26 teams. There are approximately 18 participants per team. This season there were 262 boys and 211 girls. 20% of the boys and 10% of the girls are from Carlisle.

A turf field with lights would be a great asset for all sports. Games could be scheduled after dark allowing more time to schedule practices and such. The upper field at BD would be a great location to light fields.

Margaret inquired about getting drinking fountains to the fields. A restroom facility would also be a great addition to the facilities.

The various sport organizations need to meet at least once a year to work on field schedules. Perhaps there is a field scheduling software program that could be accessed by all groups for scheduling purposes. It is also important to schedule "rest" periods for all fields.

Neighborhood fields offer a benefit as they can be used after school until dusk as opposed to school fields which are not accessible to organization until after 5:30. The downfall with neighborhood fields is there is often no water, parking issues, etc. If additional neighborhood fields are built it would be important for the town to work the maintenance costs into the budget.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm