



RECREATION COMMISSION INFORMATIONAL PLANNING MEETING FOLLOW UP

Via Zoom Meeting Minutes

Concord Recreation is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Rideout Informational Planning Meeting Follow Up
Time: Apr 5, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Meeting ID: 206 866 5867

Present:

Casey Atkins
Jenn Lutz
Paul Boehm
Jim Howard
Matt Johnson, Select Board Liaison
Anna McKeown, Recreation Director
Adam Lapointe, Assistant Recreation Director

Absent:

Pete Funkhouser

1. Open Meeting
 - a. The meeting opened by Ms. Atkins at 7:01 pm.
2. Approval of March 30, 2022 Minutes
 - a. Ms. Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Boehm seconded. All in favor.
3. Commission Discussion on March 30th meeting
 - a. Ms. McKeown thanked the Commission and community for a great discussion. She sent a PDF of all the comments. Mr. Boehm was thankful for the process and appreciated the compromise between CCYB and the town. Ms. Atkins discussed that the proposed plans changed, rescinding the temporary fencing. The new request includes a new backstop on Rideout #2 and #3, batting cage carpet, and painting lines on fields #2 and #3 to identify playing field. The backstop padding is the same as the one on field #1 currently. The new carpeting on the batting cages would be considered safer for those that use the cages and is like what is already installed at Ripley. Ms. McKeown and Ms. Atkins discussed that the procedure moving forward would be more concrete, including materials specifications, shelf life, and installation. The painted lines would be like the proposed specification of the temporary fencing in the previous proposal. The lines would also be a different color than the color of the soccer field lines.
4. Vote for Letter of Support
 - a. Ms. McKeown presented the commission with the letter of support, outlining the proposal that CCYB sent for review. Everything was reviewed, including that CCYB would come to the commission for repair/ replacement of materials, CPW's involvement in the project, and that they will approve it only for the spring. Ms. Atkins like the specificity of the letter, outlining that the letter has a lot of good information. Mr. Boehm asked to fix



a lining ambiguity issue, which Ms. McKeown noted. Ms. Lutz asked about continued maintenance of the padding. Ms. McKeown mentioned there typically is no maintenance of the padding. Ms. Atkins asked Mr. Johnson about conditions on shelf life of products. Mr. Johnson mentioned that there was no need for specific language for this, but there are some other cases that there is a need or a precedent for it. Ms. McKeown mentioned that there is not any precedent as of now. Mr. Boehm asked about field lining application, and that if CPW is aware of the understanding that lining is done on a regular basis. Ms. McKeown mentioned that there is regular lining throughout the season, and CPW will have no problem lining the fields. Ms. Atkins stated that she was fine with April-June as the timeframe for the lining for baseball. Mr. Boehm asked if there were other organized groups that used the fields. Ms. McKeown said there was not. Ms. Atkins mentioned that if there was any need to do anything else if the commission wanted to extend the lining. Ms. McKeown said it shouldn't need another meeting, just a commission meeting. Mr. Johnson found information on the backstop on field #1 from a Select Board meeting, and that the process was like what was done then. Ms. McKeown asked if the commission should include the gift amount in the support letter. Mr. Johnson said it didn't need to be. Ms. McKeown mentioned that they should include the approval of the support letter in the letter itself. Ms. Atkins mentioned adding something about the Administrative Code to the letter of support. Mr. Boehm made a motion to send the letter of support to CCYBS, Mr. Howard seconded the motion. All in favor.

5. Public Input

- a. Mr. Boehm prepared a presentation on safety at Rideout with baseball. His biggest points the location of field #2 can be a safety issue on the playground and the left side of the field. He mentioned that older kids do use this field, and that it could cause a large concern of the ball going into the playground or hit someone even on the third base line. He mentioned he did not have any solutions but wanted to bring this to CCYB's attention. Ms. Atkins mentioned that we needed to look at the safety zones for the field. She also mentioned that the commission should ask about protocols for safety in this area. Ms. McKeown mentioned that we could request CPW to move the picnic tables that may be in concern. She also mentioned that there are firms out there that evaluate safety in the parks and fields, and that we should include these audits in our strategic plan. Ms. Lutz asked who schedules the games, and that it may make sense to put the younger kids on this field until safety measures are in place. Ms. McKeown mentioned that Recreation just permits the fields and have nothing to do with scheduling the fields themselves. Mr. Boehm also mentioned that sometimes the umpires tell people to move out of the way at that field. Ms. Atkins also suggested that maybe there should be a sign mentioning that there could be a caution sign. Mr. Boehm asked if flags on the field would need approval by the town. Ms. Atkins mentioned that CCYB was looking at other long-term options, and that nothing should be voted on tonight. Mr. Howard mentioned that there needs to be something more robust on that field other than the flags. He mentioned that the fencing on the left field side may need to be extended or a line needs to be painted. Ms. Atkins said that we can act in the short term by getting CCYB's protocols and procedures on safety before looking at other fencing ideas. Mr. Boehm suggested that CCYB makes sure that there is an adult to



supervise all games. Mr. Howard said it is challenging for coaches to balance paying attention and coaching. Ms. Lutz mentioned about the strong yellow signage as well, and if Recreation knew when all the games were. Ms. McKeown and Mr. Lapointe mentioned that they basically get a blank permit and that we don't know when exactly they are on the field.

- b. Jean Easterday- thanked the commission for thoughtful consideration of the proposal. She asked about if temporary fencing alternative proposals come from CCYB, and recommended a stronger outreach.
 - c. Susan Mlodozenic- WCAC Representative- She asked about increased usage of the field usage. Ms. McKeown mentioned that usage won't change, and that the facility is just being improved.
6. Close Meeting
- a. Recreation Commission scheduled the next meeting for April 12 at 7 PM via Zoom for Article 45, which is approval of the budget for the Beede Swim and Fitness Center. Ms. McKeown mentioned that she is recommending that the commission chair will attend Town Meeting to provide an affirmative action. Mr. Johnson said Article 45 may get into the consent agenda.
 - b. Ms. Atkins made a motion to close the meeting at 8:14 PM. All in favor.

Minutes taken by Adam Lapointe.