

**REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM**

“Amended Minutes”

The March 2008 regular meeting of the Weston Parks & Recreation Commission (“WPRC”) was held Monday, March 10. Present: Carl Bernstein, Bob Uzenoff, Marc Butlein, Vice Chairman Carlos Mello, Chairman Dave Juneau and Nancy Babyak. Absent: Pat Kane. Public: Cory Attra, Peter Figliola, Edward Parker, Samantha Parker, Selectman Gale Weinstein, Brian McMahon and several Weston residents. Staff present: Dave Ungar and Gloria Sundlof.

- 1) **Call to order:** Chairman Juneau called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.
- 2) **Approval of minutes of February 11, 2008:** The minutes of the February 11th meeting were approved with corrections. Carl thanked Bob for the amendments. Dave J. moved and Carl seconded motion. All in favor 6-0.
- 3) **Public Forum:** Cory Attra, project manager Weston Park Project (WPP), architect Edward Parker and Samantha Parker reported on the plans for phase 2 at BSP. Edward presented the proposal of phase 2 which will include the construction of a pavilion, allowance for a new gazebo and installing a path near the access road for maintenance trucks and equipment. The WPP budget is \$40,000 for one of the two roads. Edward reported the WPP will speak with the public works department for help on improvement on the access road. The plans and pricing for the pavilion and tower are within the WPP budget. Cory stated the project would restrict access from the south. Routine traffic would deform the brick overtime and would need to be repaired. This was not done last year and P&R lost maintenance access to the pond. Presently equipment can not be brought down the access road but ambulatory care would not be a problem. The total spent is \$89,000 and the total raised is \$256,000. Cory stated the public is utilizing the park more now with the new amenities from phase 1. He reported the WPP is on budget but will be out of budget for the road and will need town support. The commission questioned Cory and Edward on phase 2. Dave U. stated if equal finances were coming in he would prefer to have the access and maintenance vehicles come in from the north side which would allow the playground to remain open. WPP has already received commitments for amenities, such as a chess table and bird feeders from donors. Dave J. would like Dave U. to speak to the public works department on this. The Selectmen have approved

the Capital budget for next year and this would need to be approved as a supplemental appropriation. The WPP will speak with Town Administrator Tom Landry and if necessary they will speak with the Board of Selectmen. Dave U. will keep the commission updated.

Peter Figliola, President of the Weston Gridiron Club spoke on the potential WHS football bleachers. Selectman Weinstein stated they may still have some money left for stands. Peter reported the Weston Gridiron Club organization holds fund raisers to support the football team. The Weston Gridiron Club would like to complete the project which would include a press box, booster barn and restrooms. Peter stated a bank might loan the town \$500,000. Dave J. stated this is a BOE facility first and the town shares the cost with the BOE. The P&R put this into their budget and it has been taken out of the capital request. Dave J. stated this needs to be discussed and approved by the town. Peter reported the debt might be serviced by possibly raising the contribution fee from the user participating groups, Gridiron club, booster club, soccer, cross country and track clubs. Peter reported the quote was \$500,000 to cover these items. Brian McMahon stated he spoke with the First Selectman. A meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2008 with the First Selectman and reps from various sports. Brian stated he would like representatives from the community along with the clubs support. He feels the town is losing money due to the lack of utilizing the H.S. field. Nancy suggested they should go outside of the schools and sport teams to get support from the townspeople. Bob suggested consider petitioning the town for a special meeting. This could piggyback the annual town meeting to appropriate public support which would allow people to vote for this. Peter stated if user groups can raise \$36,000 they can proceed with the loan. Dave J. stated they have support from the commission. Dave J. asked Peter to keep the commission informed on this.

4) Unfinished Business:

a) Review of action items:

- 08-01. Dave J. stated Mr. Albin reviewed and edited the draft history sign at MFP. Dave J. will propose the day after the April meeting to post.
- 08-03. Dave U. reported on the WPP expenditures from Finance Director Rick Darling. Rick stated expenses to date are \$112,000.
- 08-04. Carlos reported the new Superintendent will be appointed on May 1st. He will then meet with him to discuss the care of the turf field. Dave U. will meet Dan Clarke on education of maintenance. Dave U. will meet with Athletic Director Mark Berkowitz and John Venus with any amendments on the turf field care booklet. The commission discussed if we should budget for this. The BOE maintains the turf field. Bob suggested another memorandum of understanding. Carlos stated upon completion of a working document by Dave U. and the BOE staff, he will meet with Joe Fitzpatrick chair of the BOE building committee to review existing policies regarding the artificial turf fields and running track to determine if updated use policies should be presented to the BOE and the Commission for their consideration. The commission discussed putting the stands and lights in next budget cycle in the 10 year plan for next year's budget. Dave U. will contact the manufacturer on the care.

08-05. Dave U. sent the copy of the turf field care booklet to Facilities Director Dan Clarke and H.S. Principal Rose Marie Cipriano.

08-06. Dave U. stated he has not located the warranties for the turf field and H.S. track to review. They may be on the signed contracts. He will update the commission next month.

- b) Report on Board of Finance Budget Hearing: Bob reported he attended the BOF meeting. Bob reported there were no changes or deletions on the potential proposed budget. Dave U. stated we will have a part time employee for field maintenance department in addition to night help with the gates. Dave U. thanked Bob for representing the commission at the Board of Finance meeting.
- c) MFP Human & Natural History signage: Dave J. will distribute the final language for the human and natural history sign at MFP prior to the April meeting. Dave J. will ask the Albins for photos of Mrs. Heady to be posted with the human and natural history sign.
- d) Other unfinished business: none

5) Reports of standing committees and resulting motions:

- a) **Administrative Committee:** none
- b) **Aquatics Committee:** Dave U. stated the pool is running well.
- c) **Fields Committee:** Dave J. asked about the field availability for various groups for the spring. Dave U. reported the AAU baseball league has approached him again for space this season. The commission discussed the options of painting the dugouts at BSP green or sealing them. The snack stand is painted tan. Dave U. will speak with Little League reps regarding painting or staining the dugouts.
- d) **Programs Committee:** Dave U. distributed the programs comparison report for 2005 - 2008. The commission will review and follow up at next month's meeting. Dave U. reported the spring registrations will be held soon.
- e) **Parks Committee:** Dave J. reported seeing a new sign at Keene Park displayed under the park sign regarding environmental concern. Dave U. reported the batting cage was blown down from wind damage at BSP.

6) New Business:

- a) **Weston Park Project Phase #2 Proposal:** see above
- b) **Annual Report 2007:** Dave U. distributed a draft copy of the commission annual report for 2007. The commission will review this at next month's meeting. Dave U. will file a copy at the town clerk. The commission discussed having a future meeting at the Recreation office.
- c) **Spring Field Scheduling Meeting:** Dave U. reported the meeting went well. Dave had the sport team reps sign the rules and regulations. The commission discussed the new Weston H.S. lacrosse coach. Bob asked about the location of the P&R link on the town website.
- d) **Other new business:** none

7) Correspondence: Dave U. distributed a copy of the Weston Board of Ethics rules and Regulations for review.

8) Announcement: The commission wished Dave U. and Carl a happy birthday.

9) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 p.m. All in favor 5-0. Nancy was not present at time of vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Sundlof
Adm. Asst.