

## **MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 17, 2004 ROBERTS PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING**

PRESENT: Council members Ellen Zoppo, Al Myers & Tom Lavigne; Park Superintendent Edward Swicklas, Kenneth Cockayne, Charles Cyr, Christopher Cassin, John Novakowski, Sean Moore, Nathan Peabody and Board of Finance Liaison Delores Capers.

Chair Ellen Zoppo called the meeting to order at 5:00pm, and asked that those present to introduce themselves. She also referred the committee to the packets presented to them which contained the minutes, news articles of interest, and comments regarding the public hearing that were received after the public hearing.

The chair asked for approval for the September 15, October 2 and October 20 meeting minutes. The committee approved the three sets of minutes on a voice vote.

Chairwoman Zoppo asked Superintendent Swicklas if there had been any activity concerning the remediation that was approved at the last meeting. Swicklas responded that they have not done the work to date but expected it would be soon.

Chairwoman Zoppo summarized the results of the October 20, 2004 public hearing. She stated that she was happy with the attendance and that the dog constituency was well-organized and well-spoken. She also stated that many of the youth sports leagues had contacted her as well, to correct what they felt was a misrepresentation about the "abundance of fields," and reiterated their interest in discussing the future composition of the Roberts Property.

Chairwoman Zoppo stated that she felt two action points emerged from the public hearing:

- The parking situation needs to be enlarged or better laid out to avoid the haphazard parking patterns currently being employed....in the road, on the sidewalks, and in various directions.
  
- Additional data needs to be gathered concerning the needs of youth rec leagues.

A discussion ensued on improving the parking on a temporary basis and that West Cemetery would need to be contacted since that is their property. Council members Tom Lavigne and Al Myers, both of whom sit on Public Works, were tasked with bringing this issue to Public Works for their input as to how this could be handled. Lise DellaBianca, 133 Sherwood Road also noted that there is no snow removal for that parking area.

Chairwoman Zoppo stated that she would like to see either a brief surbey or focus groups held to collect relevant data from the youth rec leagues. Ken Cockayne suggested a letter be sent to the various organizations. Sean Moore also suggested visiting similar facilities such as Simsbury Meadows and other parks.

Chairwoman Zoppo took public participation under New Business. Al Morsch from Pinemeadow Drive reiterated his desire to see type of golf activity incorporated since there is nowhere else in town that would allow for it.

Members of the Bristol Soccer League, Mark Gauvain, Bob Smith, and Glenn Heiser, were present to discuss their needs. Despite cooperation from both the BOE and Parks, the leagues still face a pressing need when it comes to practice fields. Overuse of the fields also affects maintenance. Glenn Heiser suggested some reciprocity with St. Paul's for the use of their fields. Mark Gauvain also mentioned that there is interest in adult leagues but they cannot be contemplated without additional fields, nor can tournaments be conducted. Ed Swicklas that the Parks Dept has turned away groups such as fall baseball due to lack of fields.

Chairwoman Zoppo asked the Soccer Club representatives if they had the ability to collect the data that has been discussed, namely enrollment figures and projections, as well as information on economic data and fields in time for the spring public hearing. Bob Smith stated that most of the data already exists so that it would be no problem, although he suggested an earlier public hearing date in February or early March so as to not conflict with when the leagues are in play.

Dave Mourad from Wickham Park disc golf spoke concerning the inclusion of disc golf into the design. He stated that the entire cost for initiating this sport would be approximately \$10-15,000.

Ken Cockayne asked the status of the Slo-Pitch agreement with the Park Dept. Ed stated that a meeting had been scheduled but the Slo-Pitch representative had to cancel. This will be rescheduled.

Nate Peabody made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:55pm. The motion was seconded by Charlie Cyr. and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Ellen Zoppo-Sassu