

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
February 28, 2013 - Thursday**

BUDGET/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Present: Kenneth DiFazio, Chairman
Michael Molisse, Councilor
Michael Smart, Councilor

Not Present: Patrick O'Connor, Vice Chairman
Arthur Mathews, Councilor

PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairman
Robert Conlon, Councilor
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor

Not Present Edmund Harrington, Vice Chairman
Thomas J. Lacey, Councilor

Also Present: Susan M. Kay, Mayor
James Clarke, Director/Planning & Community
Development
Jeff Bina, Director/ DPW
John McLeod, Construction Supervisor
Michael Doyle, Director/Parks & Recreation
Tom Slattery, WPS

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman DiFazio called the Budget/Management Committee meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

13 017- Appointment to the Community Preservation Committee-Patricia O'Leary

Chairman DiFazio reported that this measure, to appoint Patricia O'Leary, of 999 Commercial Street to the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2014, was referred on February 19, 2013. Patricia O'Leary was unable to be present, but she will be at the Town Council meeting on March 4, 2013. She is well known to many members of the committee and Council as a strong advocate in the East Weymouth neighborhood. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Donna O'Sullivan.

A motion was made by Councilor Molisse to proceed with the request for appointment, in her absence, and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Councilor Molisse to forward measure 13 017-Appointment to the Community Preservation Committee-Patricia O'Leary, to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

13 018- Appointment to the Redevelopment Authority-Steven McCloskey

Chairman DiFazio reported that this measure, to appoint Steven McCloskey of 38 Saunders Street to the Redevelopment Authority for a term to expire on June 30, 2018, was referred to the committee on February 19, 2013. This appointment will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Thomas Vincent.

Steven McCloskey was invited to the table to review his interest and qualifications. He reported that he is a 25 year resident and 5 year homeowner in town. He has seen many changes over the years, and most of it catches his attention after plans are in place. He would like to take a larger part in the community and this is a good way to get in at the ground level and understand the issues.

A motion was made by Councilor Molisse to forward measure 13 018-Appointment to the Redevelopment Authority-Steven McCloskey to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Chairman Molisse called the Public Parks & Recreation Committee to order at 6:40 PM.

13 10-Special Purpose Stabilization Fund-Legion Field Design and Construction Plans Funding-Community Preservation Committee

Jim Clarke, Director of Planning and Community Development, and Jeff Bina, Director of Public Works, presented the request for funding. Jim provided a brief review of the power point presentation and an overview of the proposed work for the two fields identified in the study. The power point was presented in two prior public venues.

In spring 2012, \$35,000 was appropriated to fund a study of the town's twenty fields. Six candidates were further identified for major upgrades; Bicknell, Nash, Pingree, Legion, Central and Talbot. One of the key reasons was concern regarding overuse of the fields, as compared to national standards and minimal maintenance.

Legion Field has been a concern for ten years. Some initial work was done in that time: the stands have been taken down, grass reseeded, stormwater mitigation to improve drainage, a wetland area in the corner near the tennis courts, and the memorial wall has been restored. Jim Clarke reviewed the current conditions on the map in the presentation and the improvements suggested as a result of the study. They would like to move forward with the synthetic turf plan. Although Stantec did not make a recommendation for turf or grass field, it did note that there are concerns with peat that will merit further

review if proceeding with a grass field. He then reviewed the plan prepared by Matt Soule. Matt Soule provided an initial design plan that Stantec's presentation incorporated. Matt continues to assist the working group which includes members of the administration, school department, and parks department-- many good comments have come from the public, and people were generally supportive of the plan. A lighting option was also presented for the fields, courts, perimeter and walkways.

Pingree has been a multipurpose field with significant wear. Jim reviewed the map. There are issues with the field and parking. The plan presented by Stantec includes three large and seven small turf fields, a play area moved to a more central area, practice area, additional parking to the north and access from Broad Street by the skate park area with expanded parking.

Cost for the two locations as presented by Stantec's analysis are \$6 million for Pingree that includes construction, design, overhead and profit, engineering and planning and 20% contingency; and \$2.3 million for Legion Field.

Three measures were submitted to Council:

\$300,000 from the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund

\$150,000 from Community Preservation Fund (approved by the CPC and the Mayor)

\$100,000 from the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund

The total request for funding is \$550,000. If the project goes out to bid as a single project, it will probably get a better price than separating it out. It can be separated out if funding is limited. Funding is not in place now. The request is for design costs at this time. The town does not know what the state budget will be or the potential other demands for funds, but they are interested in moving forward to make this happen. Legion, because of the length of time the field has been in construction and Pingree because it can be taken off line now and be worked on. Jim also noted that earth can be swapped between the two locations as fill is needed.

Chairman DiFazio noted there seems to be a significant cost savings in engineering and construction by combining the two projects.

Councilor Conlon expressed his disappointment with choosing to put "plastic grass" down on this field. He noted it's a historical park that is for the benefit of everyone in Weymouth. No town has a similar space except Boston.

Councilor Smart asked if the plan included parking on Commercial or Middle Streets. Jim Clarke responded that events requiring a bigger demand would rely on parking where allowed. He noted the Mayor has done a great job with community outreach. Councilor Smart also asked if the work at Pingree would impact the school. Jeff Bina responded that the construction schedule will be coordinated with the school department to be done during summer and will be accommodated in the construction schedule. He also commented that the comparison to Boston Common is not a fair one. Boston's is strictly

passive recreational use. The public has been vocal and synthetic turf does not diminish the park. He would like to see that the town is committed to maintain the fields once they are installed.

Chairman DiFazio agreed; if the town spends the money required on engineering, designing and construction to improve its fields, it must be diligent in pursuing fees in the future to produce funding in order to maintain them. In 10-12 years, the town will need to replace some of the fields, and planning must start now for a revenue source to support the maintenance.

Councilor Conlon responded that Boston Common does have organized sports in place. He recommended that the working group complete the work at Pingree and choose other fields for plastic grass, but to do minimal work to Legion Field. Jeff Bina responded that the working group reviewed all of the recommendations presented to them in the study, and based on what the working group and the community have discussed, the two options proposed by them are Legion and Pingree. He also noted that maintenance is part of the working group's discussion and a part of the Mayor's plan.

Councilor Hackett requested confirmation that the funding request does not include lighting. She also noted that the town already has a single venue- Weymouth High School that it can use to model for a facility at Legion Field. She also noted the cost estimates are low because they do not include bathroom facilities, lights or concessions. She noted the presentation is well done and shows creative components but she would like to see the full package including lights, concessions, etc.

Chairman DiFazio noted he had spoken with Auditor Swanson who confirmed there are sufficient funds in the identified sources for all three measures.

Chairman Molisse thanked Mr. Clarke and Bina for the presentation. He noted that Legion Field has always been used as a recreational site and he would also like to see concessions and lights. Pingree is a very good location and has the potential to be great. By installing lights and concessions, these sites could generate revenue. Whatever is funded, there will be the need to maintain them, with qualified people.

Mayor Kay addressed the committee. She noted that she has always felt that maintenance must be a consideration in the process. The town is currently interviewing candidates; the successful person will be involved in developing both short and long term plans to phase in maintenance.

Councilor Smart had asked that the town Auditor provide the committee with a recap of all measures funded from the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for Legion Field. Chairman DiFazio noted a cursory review of the report indicates \$3.5 million was earmarked for parks plus \$2 million specifically for Legion Field. So far, \$300,000 was expended on Legion Field. Councilor Hackett requested the total funding from Community Preservation to date on Legion Field.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Molisse to forward measure 13 010- Special Purpose Stabilization Fund-Legion Field Design and Construction Plans Funding-Community Preservation Committee to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

13 014- Pingree Field-Legion Field Design and Construction Plans Funding-Community Preservation Fund

Councilor DiFazio noted this measure was referred on February 19, 2013; that the Town of Weymouth raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Unreserved Account to fund the costs associated with the preparation of the design and construction plans for the renovation of Pingree Field. Said funds to be used in conjunction with design funds for Legion Field. Chairman DiFazio noted that this will accomplish two objectives and will satisfy the needs of a huge amount of families. Councilor Smart noted this is not regional to any particular area and will satisfy families across the town.

A motion was made by Councilor Molisse to forward measure 13 014-Pingree Field-Legion Field Design and Construction Plans Funding-Community Preservation Fund to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

13 015-Pingree Field-Legion Field Design and Construction Plans Funding-Special Purpose Stabilization Fund

Chairman DiFazio noted that this measure was referred on February 19, 2013; that the town of Weymouth raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 from the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund, to fund the costs associated with the preparation of the design and construction plans for the renovation of Pingree Field. Said funds to be used in conjunction with design funds for Legion Field.

A motion was made by Councilor Molisse to forward measure 13 015- Pingree Field-Legion Field Design and Construction Plans Funding-Special Purpose Stabilization Fund to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

At 7:28 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Vice Chairman O'Connor to adjourn the Public Parks & Recreation Committee meeting and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

At 7:29PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Smart to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Chairman Kenneth DiFazio/Budget/Management

Approved by Chairman Michael Molisse/Public Parks and Recreation Committee