

Minutes: Dolores Parks Advisory Committee meeting 9/16/20

Present: Tracy Murphy, Marianne Mate, Hugh Robinson, Kalin Grigg

Absent: Nikki Gillespie

Action: Minutes for the July 2020 and August 2020 approved

Discussion:

1. Soccer goals: Our committee met at the soccer field at Joe Rowell Park with several community members who have approached the committee previously and expressed interest in securing soccer goals for the field at Joe Rowell park. Their request and recommendation is for the town to acquire 2 sets of goals; one full, official size set (8x24) for adult and high school level tournament play and another smaller set (approx. 12x6) appropriate for adult 5-on-5 competition and mid age youth play. We discussed field lay-out options and ideas for securing the goals, including a plan for possibly checking out a key from town hall to unlock the smaller secured goals and move them as appropriate. The recommendation is for the larger goals to be placed appropriately on a full size soccer field and to remain anchored in place. The committee and citizens all agreed that a realistic target date for acquiring the goals and having them set on the fields in Spring 2021. Our committee will draft a cost proposal and submit it to the Town Manager with recommendations that acquiring the goals be a budget priority for the Parks budget in the 2021 fiscal year.
2. Baseball fields: We looked over the baseball fields which obviously have a number of issues which must be addressed. The primary field the high school uses is in obvious need of weed control and surface improvements. Additionally the bleachers and surrounding area suffer from lack of maintenance. The Committee agreed to support and work with the Town Manager in developing a cooperative partnership with appropriate school district personnel to formulate a plan to get the primary field useable again. While it seems at this time that field with lights should also be maintained as a playable field, the field furthest to the Southeast warrants consideration for alternative uses of the field area as it is so seldom used for baseball or softball.
3. Kaboom build: Most of the Parks Committee members were on the 9/16 Kaboom conference call to discuss communication issues. We divided tasks among us pertaining to press releases, social media, local photographs/quotes and waivers as recommended by the Kaboom and CHF staff.
4. We continued to discuss forming a "Friends of the Playground" group to assist the town staff with care and maintenance of the playground. We will follow up with the Town Manager and the maintenance supervisor about forming the group.
5. PBD playground: Nikki is in conversation with Megan Crowley about the entry sign for the playground. We will follow up with her when she returns to town. We will also do final reviews of the donor list and work with the Town Manager on a sign.
6. Fencing: Final decisions for fencing of the Kaboom play area will be made after the build is complete (the target date for the build is currently Oct 24). In the meantime Marianne is continuing to raise funds by selling engraved pickets.