

**PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE**

**MINUTES**

**March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**7:45 am online zoom meeting**

**Attending:**

Voting Members:

Bea Bezmalinovic – Natural Resources Commission (NRC); Laurance Stuntz – Recreation Commission (RC) (Chair), Linda Chow – School Committee (SC), Jerry Nigro – Boys Lacrosse (BL), Kelly Uller – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Angela Snyder – Field Hockey (FH); Charles Bauminster – Wellesley United Soccer (S); Ann Williams – Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball (LL); Rick Kinney – Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball (LL); Maura Renzella – Wellesley Youth Football (F); Tripp Sheehan – Representative At-Large (RAL)

Board/Commission staff and other guests:

John Brown– SC; Tim Bania – BPW; Ansley Martin – S; Chris Howard – S; Matt Chin - Rec

1. Call to order by Laurance Stuntz at 7:50 am
2. Citizen Speak: None
3. Minutes:

**Motion:** By Bea Bezmalinovic: To approve the Minutes from the February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting

**Seconded:** by Maura Renzella

Voted in Favor: Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC, Linda Chow –SC, Jerry Nigro –BL, Kelly Uller –GL; Angela Snyder –FH; Charles Bauminster - S; Ann Williams – LL; Maura Renzella – F; Tripp Sheehan - RAL

4. Field Applications:
  - a. Spring Field User Group Applications
    - i. Matt Chin presented, and the group discussed, a number of outside group applications for use of fields. All applications have been vetted to ensure that they don't conflict with permitted usage by the primary User Groups.
    - ii. In addition to discussing the applications, the group discussed the fees that would be charged these groups for use of the fields to ensure that there is clarity.
    - iii. The applications were from:
      1. Wellesley Tennis – no fee to be charged in recognition of Wellesley Tennis Association's sizeable donation for the tennis courts pre-COVID
      2. Beantown Bombers (Baseball) – to be charged at the field rental rate of \$150/hour and minimum 1.5 hour increments
      3. Temple Beth Elohim (Softball on Warren and at Kelly on Sunday mornings) –
      4. Freight Train Lacrosse Clinic – Lacrosse clinics at Sprague in late June/early July to be charged at the field rental rate of \$150/hour and minimum 1.5 hour increments
    - iv. The group also discussed ensuring that actual usage is captured in the same way that we are requiring of the User Groups. Reporting this usage will be a condition of the permit.

**Motion:** By Kelly Uller: To approve the spring user group permits, as amended by the user groups' resolution of their conflicts, and contingent on providing actual usage data to Matt for recording in RecTrac.

**Seconded:** by Tripp Sheehan

Voted in Favor: Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC, Linda Chow –SC, Jerry Nigro –BL, Kelly Uller –GL; Angela Snyder –FH; Charles Bauminster - S; Ann Williams – LL; Maura Renzella – F; Tripp Sheehan - RAL

b. Summer Field Applications

i. Matt Chin presented, and the group briefly discussed the following applications to use the fields at various times throughout the summer

1. Terriers Camp – priced per participant
2. Million Lacrosse Camp – priced per participant
3. Wellesley Adult Softball – timing may be adjusted after discussion with Wellesley Little League – priced as a Wellesley sports user group
4. ProPath Soccer Camp – priced per participant
5. James Beede Soccer Camp – priced per participant
6. Terriers Baseball Skills Clinic Camp – pricing to be determined by Matt after further discussion with Terriers about the nature of the camp
7. Field Hockey Captains' Practices – priced as a Wellesley sports user group
8. Wellesley Youth Football – priced as a Wellesley sports user group
9. Boys Soccer – Summer Soccer – priced as a Wellesley sports user group

**Motion:** By Bea Bezmalinovic: To approve the summer user group permits, as amended by the user groups' resolution of their conflicts, and contingent on providing actual usage data to Matt for recording in RecTrac.

**Seconded:** by Kelly Uller

Voted in Favor: Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC, Linda Chow –SC, Jerry Nigro –BL, Kelly Uller –GL; Angela Snyder –FH; Charles Bauminster - S; Ann Williams – LL; Tripp Sheehan - RAL

5. Weston & Sampson Field Utilization Study Project update:

- a. Brandon Kunkel, Ryan Chmielewsky, and Amanda Gaal presented their findings from the data collection portion of the Field Use study, including an assessment of current field capacity in Wellesley.
- b. The conclusions of the analysis showed that:
  - i. Additional availability of field use hours are needed in both Spring and Fall for rectangular fields
  - ii. Available field use hours for diamond fields exceed the demand for Spring and Fall
  - iii. Natural turf rectangular fields and small diamond fields are over permitted.
  - iv. Over permitting of fields beyond a user groups' needs is limiting other user groups' ability to permit field space to meet their demand
- c. Next steps include a benchmarking study, developing recommendations, presenting at a community forum, and developing a final report.

6. Project Updates

- a. None

7. General Fields discussion

- a. John Brown reported that Schools, Recreation, and the DPW are working to install additional safety netting at the Sprague high school baseball field (Sprague #5) to limit the number of foul balls that make their way onto the tennis / pickleball courts at Sprague. He asked anyone with concerns to contact him.
- b. Bea Bezmalinovic asked that teams respond by the end of March to the survey that the NRC circulated relative to field storage boxes.

8. Adjourn:

**Motion:** To adjourn by Kelly Uller

**Seconded:** by Tripp Sheehan

Voted in Favor: Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC, Linda Chow –SC, Jerry Nigro –BL, Kelly Uller –GL; Angela Snyder –FH; Charles Bauminster - S; Ann Williams – LL; Maura Renzella – F; Tripp Sheehan - RAL

Voted Opposed: None