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Roberts Field Advisory Committee (RFAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/12/18

Time: 7pm

Location: Chelmsford Town Offices [Room 205 50 Billerica Rd Chelmsford, MA](#)

Committee Attendees: Bill Askenburg, Elisabeth Bobrow, and Denille Ruth

Chelmsford Telemedia recorded and re-broadcast on Verizon 37/Comcast 39

Link to Meeting Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BUENsFoGc0&feature=youtu.be>

Link to Agenda (prepared by Bill):

<http://www.townofchelmsford.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/02122018-3484>

Meeting Presentation Doc (prepared by Bill): <http://www.robertsfield.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/February-12-2018-RFAC-Meeting-Presentation-Document.pdf>

Bill convened the meeting of the Roberts Field Advisory Committee (RFAC) at approximately 7:14pm following a brief recess after a RFAC First Draft Playground Design Meeting. Meghan O'Brien from O'Brien and Sons (OBS), the selected playground vendor and Steve Jahnle from DPW were both still in attendance. Seeing as there was no public input the committee jumped right into discussing the current playground design and layout DPW planning session came up with. Meeting attendees of DPW planning session were Gary Persichetti, Steve Jahnle, Nick Parlee, Meghan O'Brien, Joe Amore, Bill Askenberg, and Adelle Stavis.

RFAC was provided with an updated equipment list and catalogue to use while discussing equipment changes.

- Steve noted that the swing area may have to move due to proximity to abutter & property lines to allow for landscaping buffer
- Meghan to look at exact cost and feasibility of the following and incorporate into next design draft
 - 1) "natural" climber to large tower area
 - 2) tree trunk slide to replace roller slide (estimate is \$10k more)
 - 3) remove PIP under double bounce/rider in 2-5 area (cost savings for more equipment or where to better utilize PIP as goal was to have as close to 50% of play area with PIP)
 - 4) switch "oodle" swing to friendship swing
 - 5) replace 2/4 "curved/contoured" 6-12 swings with flat swings
 - 6) rain panel
- Meghan and Steve agreed to send revised design to chair by Friday, 2/16

Discussion regarding Design & Construction milestones followed. Currently things are running and ok as planned and shown in presentation timeline.

- DPW did follow up with baseball and our projected timeline works within their schedule
- Design to be dropped in master plan to visualize how everything works with property lines, fields, etc.
- Weston nurseries offered landscape design services, RFAC & DPW happy to accept their help
- Friends of Roberts Field (FoRF) will help RFAC & DPW with signage design. Steve can get quotes based on what is wanted.
 - Next committee meeting agenda item to develop signage plan based on Castle in Trees signage, John B to work on mock ups.
- The chair sent both Park stakeholders (CYB and CLAX) were sent copies of the timeline and plan design. No feedback was given.

Discussion on possible removal of Bradford Pear (tree identified by independent firm DPW hired for tree assessment that should be removed) followed. RFAC members present in agreement that unless tree impacts playground design (would possibly change some members position), their desire is that it not be removed. Steve excused himself from the meeting following the discussion.

- Community member Barry Jefferson in attendance asked if it would be a problem to leave the tree and remove later if/when it presents a problem. Steve: not really, but could be trickier to remove so it doesn't damage playground and urged the committee/DPW to seek a third arborist's opinion.
- RFAC chair expressed his desire to wait until the Feb 27th Public Input Session to discuss removal because design would be finalized and provide the opportunity for the public to provide input on removing tree.

A Fundraising update from the FoRF was provided regarding their efforts in assist in this area- notably a gift brick campaign, grant writing, and corporate sponsorships.

A brief volunteer update from the FoRF was also provided. The numbers presented in the presentation showed increasing community support.

The RFAC agreed upon next meeting dates previously set & briefly discussed upcoming public input session on 2/27 (how to drive attendance, set-up, format, etc.).

- Timing of Public Input Session email to be before weekend ahead of 2/27

The minutes from 1/31/18 (with Bill's suggested changes) were unanimously voted on and approved.

Meeting was unanimously voted to end and adjourned at 9:05pm.