

Approved 5/2/18

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TOWN OF CHELMSFORD PATRICIA E. DZURIS TOWN CLERK

Roberts Field Advisory Committee (RFAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/27/18

Time: 6pm

Location: Chelmsford Senior Center Main Hall 75 Groton Rd N Chelmsford, MA 01863

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

Also in Attendance Meghan O'Brien from playground vendor and Steve Jahnle from Chelmsford DPW

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

Link to Meeting Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hm-23bhJUSg&feature=youtu.be>

Link to Agenda (prepared by Bill):

<http://www.townofchelmsford.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/02272018-3502>

Meeting Presentation Doc (prepared by Bill): <http://www.robertsfield.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Feb-27-Public-Input-Session-Presentation-Document.pdf>

Link to My Dream Playground Drawing Submissions: <http://www.robertsfield.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/My-Dream-Playground-Drawings.pdf>

South Row Elementary Dream Playground Designs: <http://www.robertsfield.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/South-Row-Grade-4-Dream-Playground-Ideas.pdf>

O'Brien & Sons Community Build Documents (SAMPLES): <http://www.robertsfield.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/OBrien-Sons-Community-Build-Documents.pdf>

Bill convened the meeting at 6:10pm

Meghan O'Brien discussed her firm's approach to the design, meeting the inclusive and accessible goals of the town & committee, and the equipment choices for the new playground. Focus on meeting a variety of needs, abilities, senses, and providing different play experiences along with nature throughout.

Steve Jahnle touched on need for new walkway from upper lot, fencing, DPW's task to prep site and work with contractors to lend support to contractors and community build. He also talked about timeline. Final design ready in a week, get final approval and equipment ordered- goal is to have playground opened prior to school summer release.

RFAC chair echoed sentiments to create better sight lines (movement of fields & equipment placement), "park within a park" feel, central gathering place that allowed families with kids playing in all areas to keep an eye on them. Centralized portable and accessible restrooms would be provided and a shade structure there in addition to one inside playground. Friends of Roberts Field will be "fundraising arm" of this project and those going forward. Community Build projects save town money.

Community Questions

Unidentified resident that lives "up the road" expressed concern regarding bittersweet: Bill & Steve explained plan going forward to manage as best it can be- many chemicals have unwanted side effects and "aren't worth it". Expanding the area will help maintenance access.

Dee Miller 17 Cottage Rd: drinking fountain? Recycling bins? Due to Chelmsford Water Dept. concerns volume will not be enough to limit bacteria growth so no drinking fountains. Bill said DPW committed to recycling bins.

Richard & Samuel Friesner 12 Lovett Ln expressed excitement for the new playground and the public input.

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Mich Alley lives across the street from the park expressed concerns about vandalism & security going forward. Steve noted plan in place with CPD and to later install cameras. Better sight lines in new playground design will also allow patrols to see better. Mich also asked if town might purchase Rosies to use as a snack shack. Steve answered that was doubtful. Later he came back and asked if people would be able to sponsor a bench or other equipment in addition to gift bricks- yes! In the works!

New resident on Mansfield Dr: no monkey bars in plans, are other climbing opportunities provided? Musical elements? RFAC and Meghan pointed out the numerous climbing challenges (i.e. "lolly ladder" and noted that 4 and under difficult so focus on 5-12) also noted that "musical play panels" may be an option in addition to PVC "air drummer" currently in place and planned rain panel. Returned to ask if paths within the park would be wide enough to accommodate a bike or scooter- yes. Bill talked about ways trying to incorporate

Unidentified resident: How does funding impact the opening and where does fundraising campaign stand? Marcus Bush is spearheading the fundraising and explained things are in place and will be in full swing once equipment is ordered and prices are finalized. Expressed interest and need for community to help with this. Bill also mentioned conversion to 501c3 of FoRF did hold things up. Funds are already in place and will not affect park opening.

Sandie Rainey of Chelmsford Mass Rocks would like to be part of the nature play area and will follow up with FoRF to make this happen. Question regarding fencing and openings: Steve- swing gate in back for maintenance, 3 other openings, no gates, no locks.

Denis Hara of Horseshoe Rd asked the surfaces in the renderings be clarified: Steve & Billblue=PIP, brown=woodchips, paths to be concrete or crusher stone or even bricks from campaign.