

Meeting Minutes Roberts Field Advisory Council

Meeting date: 01/26/2023

Place: virtual (Microsoft Teams)

Committee attendees: Barry Jefferson, Marcus Bush, Elisabeth Bobrow, Bill Askenburg, Amanda von Zirpolo

Other attendees: Peter Morin, Kristen Dillon, Erin Drew, David Nelson

Next meeting target: March 2023 (specific date TBD)

- I. Call to order, notification of recording
- II. Approval of previous meeting minutes (07/19/2022)
 - a. Unanimous approval
- III. **COMMITTEE OFFICER POSITIONS:** Barry announced his decision to step down as co-chair, with a gracious offer to remain available for consultation / assistance to existing and any new members. Marcus (co-chair) and Amanda (secretary) agreed to remain in their positions for the time being. In the hopes of attracting new members, committee recruitment efforts will be focused on local social media groups and outreach to the Chelmsford Mothers Club. Sarah Morin may consider joining. The role of Dan Leahy in the committee will be clarified moving forward.
- IV. **“JUNIE’S PLACE”:** Kristen Dillon and Erin Drew shared their touching vision for a new playground area in honor of Kristen’s recently-deceased 2.5-year old daughter, Juniper, who loved to play at friendship park. There are current fundraising efforts in place, including w/ Friends of Robert’s Field, and plans for additional corporate fundraising. Kristen has been in communication with Bill, who has also been discussing plans with Steve Callaghan. An ideal area was identified for the park addition (the grassy area between the Little Free Library and brick walkway entrance behind the Country Creamery). Because Junie loved music, there were hopes that the new area could include a musical component. Unfortunately, there is a noise ordinance in place that will prohibit the inclusion of functional musical instruments. When the question was raised of whether the ordinance could be circumvented with the agreement of park abutters, abutter David Nelson described the profound hardship that hearing musical noise emanating from the children’s playground places on him and his household. Some brainstorming occurred: re whether the musical component of the area could be aesthetic/visual rather than auditory. Next steps are identifying specific equipment / structures.
- V. **TREES:** An additional 8 yards of mulch were added in August. No further remediation planned at this time.
- VI. **LACROSSE NETS:** No progress made in lacrosse net procurement/fundings. Current plan is to monitor field use and determine need for further discussion based on observations and any identified safety concerns this Spring.

- VII. **SECURITY CAMERAS:** The new camera pole has been installed. There are plans to put up two additional security cameras to also be monitored by CPD: one with a view of the parking area and one that would look over the playground area toward the path entrance from Jonathan Lane. 360-degree capability and long focus cameras recommended. "Monitored by Video" signs to be added at park entrance. Per Ted Lutter, funding will be available for the cameras on July 1st, 2023. David Nelson expressed concern that the camera monitoring the park would infringe upon his privacy. Barry provided him with the names of CPD points of contact to discuss his concerns.
- VIII. **BENCHES AND TABLES** Appreciation expressed to Bill by all committee members for his excellent work with the metal and granite bench installation in collaboration with DPW. All metal benches with sponsor plates have been installed. All but six granite benches have been installed. Remaining sponsor plates will be installed when the weather warms up. Table #10 has been sold and is ready for installation. Table #2 is till available. Discussion occurred re: plan for old aluminum bleachers currently sitting in the wooded area between the baseball diamonds. They will likely either be set up for use once baseball games begin, or be moved by DPW to a different park for use there.
- IX. **SPONSORSHIP ROCK AND PLAQUE INSTALLATION:** Has been completed, courtesy of Rob Tower.
- X. **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY:** Has been installed and is in use.
- XI. **GRANT APPLICATIONS:** Barry, Elisabeth & Amanda conducted 120 additional interviews for the demographic survey. Participants traveled from 32 different towns (unique zip codes) to the park. Barry agreed to calculate the percentage of Chelmsford vs. out-of-town guests. Adelle continues her work on the grant application, which could result in \$400k - \$450k of additional funding if awarded. Adelle may be in need of support to complete application. Barry & Elisabeth plan to reach out.
- XII. **CREAMERY BRIDGE AREA:** Per Peter Morin, the engineering plot plan he received from the town reveals that the entire bridge is Creamery property. Plans for its renovation / use have not yet been solidified, but the idea of a covered bridge was supported by committee members. Peter stated that there would likely be financial barriers to covered bridge construction. His main focus is functionality and safety/ADA compliance with any potential renovations.
- XIII. **REVIEW OF PRIORITIES:** Grant application and supporting Kristen Dillon / construction of "Junie's Place" both identified as top priorities. Agreement made to formally review priorities and establish 2023 goals at next meeting (to be held in March).
- XIV. Meeting adjourned.