

Town of Agawam
Community Preservation Committee
Minutes
December 1, 2010

Members Present: Henry Kozloski; Chair, Louis Russo-Vice-Chair, Richard Maggi, Tom Tierney, Richard Bennett, Vi Baldwin, Corinne Wingard, Others Present: Jennifer Bonfiglio; CPA Secretary

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman Kozloski.

1. Motion to go into executive session by Tom Tierney. Second by Ray Moreau. All in Favor.
2. Motion to come out of executive session by Richard Bennett, Second by Vi Baldwin. All in favor.
3. ***Approval of minutes:*** Motion to approve minutes of October 27, 2010 by Vi Baldwin, 2nd by Tom Tierney. Ray Moreau and Corinne Wingard abstain. All others in favor.
4. ***Correspondences:*** Letter from Joan Linnehan read into record which states that a tenant in the public housing needs a handicap ramp. It is suggested by the committee that the tenant shall exhaust all available resources with Agawam Housing Authority and ADA commission before CPA will entertain an application and/or a request for determination.
5. ***School Street Park Conceptual Plan:*** Michael Liu; Berkshire Design presented the final conceptual plan of Phase II of the School Street Park. He explained that four concepts were presented to town officials and based on feedback they were given, they came up with the plan being presented. He explained that this plan is just conceptual and certain aspects may change. Discussion opened to CPA committee:
 - Vi Baldwin asked if there is pedestrian access to the band shell and how far it is from the parking lot. Mike Liu stated approx. 350'-400'. Vi also asked how far the parking lot is from the picnic areas. 300'
 - Tom Tierney asked if any consideration was given to the sun. Since the band shell faces north and sun sets in the west it should not be a factor.
 - Ray Moreau asked if there will be lighting. That will be discussed at a later date when plan becomes more finalized. Chris Sparks stated that he and Michelle Chase have talked about lighting the walkways to the parking lot for safety purposes.
 - Ray Moreau asked if all town parks close at dusk. Chris Sparks stated that per the Town Charter, parks close at 9PM.
 - Tom Tierney asked if there is plan for a power outlet near band shell. Chris Sparks stated yes.
 - Dick Bennett asked if the trees will be specimen trees. Mike Liu stated yes because they are low maintenance, but will also include some native trees. They will also try to save existing trees. Dick is concerned about losing all the planting and asked if there will be sprinklers. Chris stated yes.
 - Chairperson Kozloski asked what the need for the baseball and soccer field is. Chris Sparks stated that there are multiple requests from private organizations such as Little League and Soccer Association for more fields. Chris provided a list of all existing fields in town to Chairperson Kozloski which was distributed to committee members and read to the public.
 - Chairperson Kozloski suggested a storm warning system.
 - Chairperson Kozloski would like to see the picnic area moved where the baseball field is and

moving the baseball field elsewhere.

-Corinne Wingard states she supports sports for kids and feels most people are interested in more passive recreation and does not see it in this plan. She would like to see items such as a rose garden and a dog park. Mike Liu states that since the Sportsman Club is no longer included in the plan some passive recreation items were lost but the picnic area was enlarged.

-Ray Moreau asks how large the picnic area is. Mike Liu states roughly 6/10 acre and is modeled somewhat after the Look Park pavilion /picnic area.

-Dick Bennett asked about the baseball fields at Sacred Heart. Chris stated that the town does not have access. Little League is charged a high rent there and is looking to get out which is why they have requested more fields.

-Louis Russo suggests moving the picnic area closer to the parking lot for senior citizens. Mike Liu states there is another picnic area near the parking lot.

-Tom Tierney states that the senior population is growing in town and it makes sense to keep the picnic area and passive recreation closer to parking area.

Chris Sparks states that youth sports is growing as well. Families can also use baseball fields during picnics.

-Dick Bennett asked if there has been any talk about including the barn in the next phase of the park. Chris Sparks states that he has not been a part of the Barn Restoration Project, but would like that committee to piggy back this projects.

-Jill Messick; City Councilor, Suggested moving baseball field to accommodate picnic area near parking lot. She also asked if a skate park can be included and feels that the barn should also be included in this phase as it will be a unique feature and is a great community space.

- Scott Milliken, 26 Melrose Place would like to see a dog park. He currently visits the park 3-4 times a week. There are a lot of dogs and they must remain on a leash. He visits a great dog park in Granby regularly.

-Teresa Kozloski, 102 Meadow Street, asked if trees will be saved in the grove. Mike Liu states that they are hoping to save trees but is unable to tell until they are flagged.

Teresa also asks how many pavilions they are proposing. Mike Liu is proposing 8.

Teresa also states that she does support ball fields, but there are many more people in town and asks what % of area is for the older population.

Jennie Sill, 60 Alhambra Cir, states she also likes the idea of the picnic area closer to the parking lot.

John Frederick, 88 Jennie Circle, asks if there will be sidewalks along Corey Street and thinks it is a good idea with all the increased traffic. He also agrees with the idea of a dog park instead of another ball field.

Dick Bennett states there is a strong case for a sidewalk on Corey Street due to the increased traffic in the area.

Jim Laudato, 418 Meadow Street asks if there will be access from Corey Street-yes

Rich Maggi feels there is a lot of good planning but maybe moving some things to allow for more readily available access to picnic areas.

Jen Bonfiglio, Admin. Asst. feels that more thought should be given to what is seen when driving into the park, unlike the first phase of the park where the playground is hidden behind the bathroom.

Dick Bennett states that lighting should be thought of because of vandalism and suggests low impact lighting and also agrees that play area, etc should be visible from entrance.

-Mike Liu states that security lighting can be added and feels that if the play areas are moved too far away from the parking area they are subject to vandalism.

-Ray Moreau asks if the dog park is an option and how big it would be.

-Scott Milliken states that the dog park in Granby is tucked away in the back of the park and is about 1/3 acre and is fenced in with many obstacles and a play area.

-Rich Maggi suggests eliminating the baseball field and moving the picnic area and placing the dog park in the back area.

-Corinne Wingard feels that community gardens would be a nice addition. There are a lot of condos in town.

-Jennifer Bonfiglio reads into record a letter from Karen Gomez, 17 Harvey Johnson Drive suggesting community gardens.

-Vi Baldwin asks what is the lot size or usable area of the next phase of the park. Chris Sparks states 15 acres

-Tom Tierney asks because Berkshire Design has designed so many parks if Mike Liu sees any trends or anything the Town is missing in this park. Mike Liu feels a lot is available at this park compared to others he has seen. Most other parks are more limited.

-Tom Tierney asks where the runoff water from the splash park will go. Mike Liu states that it can be disposed of or recycled but the maintenance can be expensive. Tom Tierney suggests a leech field for water to be used for plantings.

-Ray Moreau asks how many athletic fields were included in Phase 1. Chris Sparks states that there is currently a 60' and 90' diamond and three (3) multi use fields.

-Henry Kozloski suggest following the open space plan and maybe moving some ball fields to Feeding Hills area.

-Ray Moreau asks why Tuckahoe is not used. Chris Sparks states because no proposal has been brought to him.

-Henry asks why there is no long range plan to have a place with more than just one ball field. He feels the town needs to look beyond today and feels that one additional baseball field here will not solve recreation problems especially if Little League is losing multiple fields at Sacred Heart.

-Dick Bennett asks how this next phase will affect recreation staff. Chris Sparks states he currently has 2 part time staffers.

-Dick Bennett asks where he will get all the funding. Chris Sparks would like to apply for CPA funding again and also apply for another Urban Self Help Grant using CPA as seed money.

-Tom Tierney asks what is the timeline for suggestions and changes. Chris Sparks advised that the final plan will be presented before application for funding but after soil samplings are done and detention areas are mapped.

-No additional conceptual plans will be done and there is no funding for the final plans yet.

-Corinne Wingard asks what is the consensus about the barn being included. Dick Bennett states that a preliminary study was done and the next step is to get the barn on the National Historic Register so that it is eligible for grants.

-Tom Tierney suggests to Chris Sparks to include in the plan a recreation/park office near the activities.

-No additional comments. Henry Kozloski closes the public meeting

6. Motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM by Richard Maggi. Second by Louis Russo. Vote: Unanimous