

BOROUGH OF GLEN ROCK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday February 19, 2019

8pm

Attendance: Mark Sabow, William Leonard, Jim Leonard, Eric Stutzke, Matt Deely, Keith Stewart, Pete Isoldi, Jon Hendl, Gino Reina, Anne Camp, Katie Frey, Lenora Benjamin

Guests: Bruce Watson, Mike Rinderknecht, Sanjiv Ohri, Sharon Scarpelli, Ed Hayward, Ken Jones, Tom Vielbig, Sylvia Rabacchi, David Glaser, Luca Reina, Bruce Packer, Ben Meyer, Carl O'Brien

Old Business: The 2018-2019 Roster was passed around to make sure that everyone's information is up to date. Mark Sabow asked Bill Leonard if the council could start a Trust for Recreation Advisory so that the money we put into it can be used to make the improvements or upkeep any equipment or facilities as problems arise. This would give the Board a chance to help more around town and keep everything safe and in pristine condition.

Background Checks-The policy will be updated to show that since each group is currently performing their own background checks yearly(bi-yearly) for their specific leagues that we will create one document for everyone to cross reference and if needed the background check will run through the Borough.

The meeting date has been a constant issue because we never have representation from the BOE since our meetings coincide. With the planned field renovations, it will be imperative that both agencies keep each other informed and up to date so it was proposed that meetings be switched to the third Tuesday of the month. Members of the Board were in agreement, but the council chambers availability had to be double checked before it is made official. Katie will let the Board know at the March meeting.

Boswell and Earthworks needs to come and reassess Upper Faber because of the poor dirt, the grass not growing, and other issues that have been taking place up there before our warranty with them ends.

New Business: Carl O'Brien the Principal Engineer from Maser was introduced as the towns new engineer and was given the floor to discuss the plans for Faber Field. Carl started by letting everyone know that he does not have a plan set yet because he wants to get all the stakeholder's ideas and concerns. When told about the history of Lower Faber and how it is a mess with no grass, poor drainage, and flooding, Carl discussed how the will have to look at everything in regards to flood, environmental, wetlands etc. but he does know that he doesn't want to run a pipe to the brook because of flooding it and for the purpose that we would never get the permits to do so. The goal would be to make the area like a bathtub for example: there must be a place to

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hold the water and slowly release it into the drainage system. When asked if we could store water and use it on Upper Faber, he said that it was something that would have to be looked at but to get water from Lower Faber to Upper Faber, we'd need a pumphouse and could mitigate the runoff into a storm system where we would tie it out and place a cistern. Of course, we must design a system that works and before we do that we need to get permits from Bergen County Soil and the Dep for flood hazards, storm water, etc. The fields that we would be looking to put in at Lower Faber would be a multi age baseball/softball field (preferably in the back half of the complex), soccer fields for 7v7 up to 11v11, 2 small lax field and one for 7 v 7, a full field in the front and a place for football to practice, as well as lighting. Lighting is very important. When discussing lighting, LED lights would be looked at because they are more efficient, but they also make new lights that shine pn the field and don't flood outside that would cause neighbors to complain. Other aspects of the complex that would be investigated would be making everything ADA compliant and making it a passive recreation area for parents and people in the community who are not playing sports. This could include walking paths with mile markers, exercise equipment, a bandshell, water fountains and more.

The next portion of the discussion was about the field's makeup. Any natural grass put in will need irrigation, and we can devise a plan to use storm water or a cistern system to help irrigate. Watering, aerating, seeding, and a full season of rest are all factors that will help new grass to stay otherwise we'd be looking at re-sodding repeatedly if it is not properly maintained. Especially with 400-600 hours of field use. If it is not maintained properly we'd be looking at re-sodding the field every 2 years. Right now, Brookside is one of the worst fields that Carl has seen. It's not just the surface but also the foot traffic. It is at the point where the ground doesn't allow an athlete's cleats to grip it and have traction which can lead to injuries. Now if any aspect of the field becomes artificial turf, the question was posed as to what type of infill would be used. Carl explained that if you looked at a cross section of turf there is the carpet, sand layers, and the infill. Infill options can vary based on what each individual place is looking for. Some options out there are

- Cryogenically frozen tires (different gradients)
- Cool Play-an alternative infill rubber & sand mixture made of recycled carpet that is green and helps reduce the temperature of the field by 30-40 degrees.
- Cork-It cools the field like cool play but when there is a heavy rain it tends to migrate around the field and needs to be groomed. It involves more maintenance and is more money.
- Nike Grind-ground up bits of the soles of Nike sneakers. It isn't as hot, but the infill looks like funfetti and give the carpet a funny color.
- Olive pits (walnuts)- this moves around (but doesn't migrate as much as cork). It has its own natural problems and hasn't been used as much to give enough information on how it breaks

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down and disintegrates over time that it would need to be refilled. There are also no facts on how it relates to allergies.

The costs of the infill also vary with regular turf with carpet, rubber and sand costing about \$5/ft². Cool play would add an additional \$.50, Nike infill is an additional \$1/ft², Cork is the most expensive at an additional \$2-3/ft². The base is \$45/ft². In regard to any health or environmental concerns, there is nothing proving that A=B.

Making sure the infill does not float away or go down the drains can be an issue but when designing it is important to make sure the field is not level with where it is running off, one thought is to put something like a curb around the field and if we put in a walking path raised sidewalks would help to keep infill from running off. To keep it from going down the drain, the drainage is vertical, and the back end of the fabric keeps it from going down the drain as well as keeping things from coming back up.

Keith Stewart asked about a catch basin for 100-year storm plan. Carl said they would design for 2, 5, 10 years etc. He would store this under the field since there is not enough space above and valves would have to be installed. Mr. Ben Meyer asked if the engineers had investigated the capacity of what we have now and if it could even handle this. Carl said that nothing had been surveyed yet but if it does go over capacity we would have to come up with a new plan.

Mayor Bruce Packer addressed the room to let everyone know that currently we have not done anything and have no plans other than approving money for Maser Engineering to start surveying & preparing plans. Learning from our past experience, we do know that we will not be putting in 100% turf with black infill and are instead looking for a creative way to fix the issues at hand with everyone input. Carl and Maser were chosen because they had the most experience with grass/ turf/ and solutions to different problems. In 3-4 months, we will talk again about something tangible. Now we are in the process of conversing with those who were against the previous referendum to get their views and allow them a chance to voice their opinions and ask Carl questions about their concerns.

Ken Jones asked about the plans with regards to the wetlands and if the town would be open to working with an outside environmental agency who works with wetlands and has expertise in this area to give a second opinion to see if our plans are appropriate or not. Mr. O'Brien's response was that since we are encroaching on the wetlands and floodways we have to go to Land Use at the DEP to review permits. They will have comments on the permits and will give us the yes or no. Since the approval of the plans has to be done by the DEP and Bergen County Soil a second opinion would be up to the Borough because if the second firm says no but the DEP says yes, then we'd be in a different situation. When asked if Maser works with other

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agencies and certain contractors, they responded that they work with multiple engineers who have different areas of expertise (one such area of expertise is Landscape architect, which would help plan the area and prevent invasive species which was another concern brought to the table) and they use the contractors that are awarded the public bids.

After meeting with the BOE and hearing about how much time would be lost with construction of Hamilton, the question was posed as to how much time this project would take.

The answer depends on the bid time. If we were to go out to bid now, we have 4-6-month time frame before we first go out with the contractor. If we bid in a few months, it would be more expensive, and we would get subpar contractors. If we bid in the fall, we could break ground in the fall around Thanksgiving, get drainage in during December/winter, then get the field ready for spring. This would give us better pricing and better contractors. We would try to mimic that schedule, but the problem will be permitting because it takes 9 days with the DEP. When we have a final plan, we could also do it in phases depending on what is going in. Grass seed takes 6+ months, sod is ready in 4-6 weeks and 3 cuts (plus making sure there are no weeds, fungus, its watered and cut). If we did turf, try to open that first so that the grass seed/sod can fully germinate and get settled. To ensure that the field does not turn brown or lose its luster like Upper Faber, it would have to have a strong maintenance plan scheduled and be given intense care. The goal is to start in late 2019, and open in spring/early summer, 4-6 months for turf Summer 2020, sod over seed in early spring 2020. The problem with this timeline is if we can stick to it and how it will interfere/overlap with the Hamilton timeline and how the weather treats us.

Board of Education Update: Superintendent Bruce Watson and Business Administrator Mike Rinderknecht presented the group with the Board of Education's Referendum, highlighting the renovations that would take place at Hamilton School and how it would affect the field usage. The referendum would call for the scraping of the field, installing a sprinkler system, crowning the field for better drainage, pure grass, and ADA bleachers. The timeline shows that construction would begin in October of 2019 and pause in December before picking up again in April-June 2020. The grass being put down would need to grow during the August-October season of 2020. The programs that would be most affected would be the Shooting Stars and GRSC (2019-2020) as well as baseball (2020) and men's softball (2020). With these programs losing seasons, Bruce Watson said that the BOE would work with RAB to give us field space and try to keep the lights on longer to help. A question was asked if lights were going to be put in since this is a poorly lit field but has the least amount of neighbors who would be affected by lights and the answer was no, not at this time. Other concerns were that the BOE make sure that when the time comes, the appropriate sod be used and that it would be maintained properly (BOE will be doing maintenance) so that the field grows correctly and doesn't fail. Going forward, it will be important for the BOE and RAB (specifically the Parks & Recreation office) to communicate and stay on the same page so that programs can still get the field usage needed

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and that the field stay in proper shape. There will be a lot of scheduling and planning going forward to insure this. The BOE will also be holding Community Forums to discuss this and the other projects included in the referendum between now and March 4.

Recreational Athletic Organization Updates

Little League- February 15 the \$50/person late fee will go into affect. Right now there are 709 kids total, there were 730 last year. Fees are \$100/child, \$80 for the second, and \$250 max. There are 365 Baseball players, 218 softball, and 125 kickball, but over 200 people didn't register from last year so there are a lot of new people in those numbers. The league did lose 50% in Seniors baseball. Softball is holding a clinics to help increase numbers. There are 80 volunteer coaches and the league is all set for opening day and their parade on April 6.

Lacrosse-Registration is closed and there is a \$50 late fee. There are 372 registered total. The clinic is open until the 1st day and they get 30-40 registered that day so numbers should be close to 400. Winter Box league has wrapped up and the 4, 5, and 6 all did well. They are fundraising March 9 for the HS with Grades 1,2,3 and all money going to the HS teams. Lax Day will be held on May 11 which coincides with Senior Day. Hoping to get on the turf in the next week. Also looking for a place to store nets.

GRSC- No report

GRSS- Will be giving out \$1500 scholarship to a boy and girl from the high school. There were 320 kids this fall plus 120 kids for indoor soccer. They are adding 3 high school teams. Looking for more field space, possibly the grass outside of right field at the high school for 4v4. While looking at fields, Jon stopped at Sycamore and reported that it looked like someone tore it up and that some tree limbs needed to be trimmed back before the field could be used. (This will be given to DPW for a work order)

Jr Football- No report, but they suggest that when Hamilton is worked on they should look into putting in conduits.

Wrestling-No report

Basketball- No report

Men's Basketball-No report

Member Reports- No reports.

Recreation Director Report: Saturday February 23 will be Wilde Winterfest with ice skating on the roller rink. There were 4 time slots with 50 people scheduled in each. Registration sold out within 3 hours and a waitlist was created. Synthetic ice and rental skates are being brought in, there will be hot chocolate, and outdoor games (jenga, corn hole, bean bag toss).

The heaters in the pool need to be replaced and we are working with Maser to put together a plan to bid out the project.

Maser has also met with Katie to assess the tennis courts and work on a plan for those.

We have one pool manager coming back this year and no one else has answered the job listing so if anyone knows someone interested they should refer them to Katie.

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Katie is working on pool fees for 2019 and will be bringing them to the next meeting for discussion.

Next Scheduled Meeting

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Frey

Director of Parks & Recreation, Borough of Glen Rock