

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting
Held February 2, 2004

The meeting of the Wilton Park and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Joe Sporko.

Melody explained to everyone that Christine had called a few minutes ago to say she couldn't make the meeting because she was ill.

ATTENDING the meeting were: Joe Sporko, Dale Long, Lynette Robinson, Don McPherson, Steve Porto, Chuck Gerber, Melody Thornton.

I. A motion to approve the minutes of December's meeting was made by Dale Long and Seconded by Lynette Robinson. All in Favor

II. Saratoga Travel Soccer Club
Joe introduced Lisa Mayo from the Saratoga Travel Source.

Lisa: Introduction of Members Present: Joann Klepetar, Dan Cogan, Steve Dorsey. She talked about upcoming 7th Annual May Day Classic. Lisa spoke of the good relationship she and the club has had with the staff at Gavin. She introduced Dan Cogan.

Dan: Said he will spend 30-40 hours the first week he starts laying out the fields. He stressed several points on time constraints and equipment used. He also spoke on the goals the club has purchased as well as the paint and paint machine. Lisa asked Dan how long it takes to lay out a field. Dan stated most of one week to do ten with as many people as he can get help. Three hours for four people for one field. Last year he did 15 fields for the tournament. Dan explained it is now a system he and Ray use and he worked out the fields for regular league and practice use as well. Melody explained scheduling will help with location of baseball/soccer field. Lisa stated that the schedule for the league doesn't come out for several weeks and then she will know how many fields we need. Melody explained how we had rested this field in middle and avoided conflict with softball and baseball. Lisa and Dan asked how they scheduled the fields. Melody stated that we can't tell you what fields we will restore and use – went over damage and possible use of back fields. Lisa asked if the baseball fields would be open in the back and how that will affect soccer and modified fields and back fields. She also explained how they use Daniels Road fields. If club can use back and modified there should be no conflict with baseball. Lisa stated how Gavin fields are the best – everyone tells the club what great condition the fields are in. Lisa went on to explain different aspects of the tournament with concessions and vendors and other areas the club uses for the tournament. Lisa reiterated the Soccer Club is here to support the Department and community and park. She asked other members of the club present if anyone would like to ask questions on will there be issues with baseball. Melody stated there would not be a conflict with at least one baseball field in the back corner – the second field closest to modified and larger soccer field she could not say and directed the question to Dale Long, Joe Sporko and Don McPherson.

Dale asked about parking. Joe Sporko asked if parking is going to be a concern and if there is a parking committee. Melody explained that committees of the tournament are well organized they have with radios and concise planning goes into every aspect of the tournament. The new baseball fields was an area used in past for parking and will not be available this year.

Joe S. asked if the tournament gets bigger every year. Dan and Lisa stated yes but it is now maxed out at 110 teams. Lisa explained how they break up the teams on Saturday and Sunday and this year will try to make more games on Sunday to even out parking issues. She went into detail on how the tournament works, how the club had tried to use Vincek's field but could not because of muddy weather. Steve Porto asked Melody how much is too much. Melody explained how all entrances are monitored, how Emergency Corp is here and how emergency services are a main focus. Steve asked about bathrooms. Melody stated that the club provides porta potties to service the need. Dan Cogan stated that they cannot expand anymore than we have. Lisa stated that they are at their max with schedules and such, with referees. Timing is of utmost importance. J. Sporko stated that we need to plan for more parking. Melody, Lisa and Dan agreed.

Lisa explained how the teams are broken up over the two days. Melody stated that the person who was doing parking on Saturday had a problem and that was addressed. Dan stated that she wasn't doing it this year, that a new person was doing it. Lisa stated that the games will be staggered this year. Dan asked about using Dorothy Nolan for parking. J. Sporko and Melody suggested the options. Melody told the club that no prisoners will be available to clear the path for the school to the back fields. Dan stated that they can make that part of a committee duty. Dale Long stated that fencing for baseball will not be a problem. Lisa asked what the time frame is to get the baseball fields ready. Lisa remarked on time before tournament and how long to get ready and how maintenance department will do their job.

Don McPherson stated that for at least two meetings we discussed it and asked if there is an obstacle with baseball fields. Dale Long stated any areas hanging over the very edge of the infield or outfield will meet a soccer field. Dan Cogan asked where fields will go in relation to existing back stops. Dale stated there will be minimal interference with soccer. Don McPherson stated that if fields aren't an obstacle, what about use of fields while setting up the tournament? Dan asked when baseball was scheduled to start using the fields. Don stated that we did not have a definite plan. Melody stated fall 2004 for our program. Dale Long explained fall '04 then spring '05 for our own Wilton Rec program. Lisa asked if there are going to be practice games. Dale stated that this year the fields will be used for practices mostly then in the fall we will host Fall Ball here then next year our program or joint with Saratoga will start in the spring. Lisa stated that parking is going to be an issue for soccer, basketball, playground, gym and baseball. As the programs join and get going, parking is going to be an issue that needs to be looked at. Melody stated that a little later on our agenda we are going to talk about the

“Christopher Dailey Foundation” and parking may be a big issue and will be addressed with that project. It will be an ideal time to work the parking out.

Lisa stated that they are interested in the “Christopher Dailey Foundation”. D. Cogan asked if we can use the back parking lot. Melody said no due to the safety issue of the playground and blind spots. Two children were almost injured. Don McPherson asked what area soccer uses. Lisa stated that they use every area. Dan asked Don if he has a copy of the field layout. Yes, so does Dave Carr. D. Cogan stated Dave has it on his computer. He’ll call Dave Carr to get a copy. Melody stated that her copy is for placement of her EMT’s on the fields. S. Porto stated that another idea might be bus service. CDTA or Saratoga Bus Garage. Other clubs hired a bus service and they park at the mall and players and family have a bus pass. The mall would love to have 100+ cars. J. Sporko stated again Dorothy Nolan. Dale Long also stated the middle school would be a good location. Lisa stated that there is a waiting list every year. We have to say it has gotten so popular with the early birds. The wait list was over 30 in 2003. They thought of expanding to Maple Ave, but you have to run two separate tournaments. Melody stated that she can help with contacts for busses.

The discussion continued for some time on various tournament items. D. Cogan stated that they will have a committee for each area from setup, parking, registration etc... Lisa stated that the contract between the Town and the Club runs out in 2006 and would like to entertain negotiations on renewal of contract between Wilton & Club. J. Sporko stated sometime after tournament. Lisa asked who she should call. Melody stated to Lisa that she will get together with Lisa’s committee and work out a plan and submit it and go from there. Joe thanked Lisa and her group for coming.

III. Director’s Report

Melody gave her report and stated that programs are running well. She updated the commission on current programs and staff. She also informed the commission on upcoming events.

Upcoming events:

- Spring track/running program
- JR NBA game at the Pepsi Arena
- Gorilla Ball
- May Day Classic
- AAU Boys & Girls tryouts
- Hornet’s basketball tournament

Melody informed the commission that Chris Banks has resigned and Jennifer Poorman has been provisionally appointed to the job. The job has been reclassified as a Senior Clerk position and is now civil service classified. The test will be given in September.

Discussion followed regarding the County reclassification and salary changes. Chuck Gerber explained that the Town Board is currently working with the County to work out a new wage and salary scale. Chuck will be working with Melody in the next few days to become informed on the current positions and salaries. There was much discussion on this item and Melody and Chuck will get together. Chuck asked Melody if she was available at 10 a.m. on Tuesday and Melody stated that she was. Chuck stated that he would like to get together to discuss the brochure, layout of fields, position and salaries. Melody continued about the after school staff and gave the status of staff.

IV. Christopher Dailey Foundation

Melody discussed Christopher Dailey Foundation gym construction. The Foundation approached the Town Board to build a facility and place it in the Park at the Town Board's January meeting. The Town Board gave their support in this location for the facility. They currently have \$160K raised and are looking to raise another \$100K before they can break ground. Don McPherson asked if \$260K is a reasonable amount. Melody said she believes they are looking to spend \$600K. They will have a Land lease with the Town. The Foundation does not want the Facility to be a burden on the Town. Town will run programs and keep revenue to offset cost of maintenance and operations. By raising \$260,000 dollars the foundation will have demonstrated fund raising abilities and they will continue with their annual events they can demonstrate to a lender that they're able to raise money.

Chuck Gerber told the Commission that no formal resolution was made other than a committee formation but it's a go. Everyone is excited. Melody – many ideas for fundraising were given at the meeting to help foundation raise the needed \$100K. Foundation is obtaining an attorney to help with the legal issues. They'll apply for permits and follow the regular course of procedure to build in the Town of Wilton. Melody – we need to give them ideas of what we want to see. Joe Sporko stated we should have final approval over what they want to do and give them direction as to what should be in here. Steve Porto stated we need to assess what the Town needs and hopefully it's compatible with what they're looking to do. Don McPherson: I like the concept but I see storage, lockers, bathrooms, lobby, and office space as issues. Steve Porto: Town has to consider operational costs and if it's compatible with what we're doing. It's almost like a whole separate complex. Melody: I don't believe the drawing is true to scale. Just a picture that they used to garner support and to be able to put it out there and say to people what they were asking money for, this is an idea. We said to them when they originally came to the commission with the idea that they would have to put something on paper so someone can see it. Dale Long asked if there is room to fit it between this building and the pavilion. Don McPherson: Yes

Parking was discussed. Melody: Parking gets full for basketball and soccer quickly. Chuck: we have physical space to increase parking. There has to be office space. How spectator friendly is this? Chuck Gerber: it's a rudimentary drawing. Worst case scenario is that the Town residents have to give some money, eventually it'll be an income generator – host tournaments, etc. Melody: we make money on tournaments now. Making facility conducive to spectators is beneficial to us. This plan can be extra special with planning, and what the foundation builds will be great. Joe Sporko: we need to study this and work it out. Melody: Steve, Don and Dale will work as committee to work with CDF committee. Chuck Gerber: We need input from Melody as to estimates, what needs to be done, what will staff cost, materials cost, construction cost? Don McPherson: Are they committing to 600K? It's important to know what they're going to commit to. Chuck Gerber: I think these people are serious about what they're doing and can raise the money. They do the Turkey Trot and Golf Classic. There is commitment there and have high caliber people on their Board. We need to know what kind of facility we need to have a net income generator to pay for the maintenance and operations.

Chuck to Melody – it would be good to have hard numbers – today's figures vs. 1995's figures to determine usage. If our usage is increasing, we have to figure the future use of the facility to help CDF build state of the art gymnasium. Ten years from now we don't want to have to be deciding what else we need. Discussion of general use of facility – it must be general use. Melody: up until 8 p.m. we have youth programs. User fees are number one issue. Steve Porto: conversations with CDF have three conditions: 1.) youth programs 2.) One member of the foundation board on this committee 3.) Named in Christopher's name. The commission talked about adult programming and other issues concerning programming and maintenance.

V. Old Business

a.) Baseball

Melody: One of the questions I still have is on opening fields to use for baseball when we'd normally be using the time to prepare fields. If we are going to make them available before the May Day Classic we will need additional maintenance help for when kids are in school during the day. Problems arise when we fertilize and fields need to be closed for two days. Chuck Gerber: We can have conversations with groups who want to use fields for organized baseball. Melody: gist of it is that anyone can come and use it without asking. Chuck Gerber: but organizations can help. Chuck Gerber: Schedule groups like Little League. Melody: we put LL in other areas so we can do maintenance, and that's where we're having problems deciding how to use park. Agreement with LL or have open Park? Joe Sporko: Groups need to be scheduled in. Joe Sporko made a Motion that any organized team that wants to use has to schedule through the park office. Dale Long Seconded it. Discussion? Chuck Gerber: Whenever fields are available, that's when we'll allow people in. Melody: I'd like to be able to offer as much area as possible through scheduling if I can get maintenance done. If they need to move to back fields to practice, then they'll have to move, and vice versa. Scheduling – insurance policy is required. Letter will be written to organizations stating insurance is needed and they won't get choice of fields. Don McPherson I would like to call for vote on discussion. All in favor.

Dale gave Melody another estimate on baseball field installation from Morningstar. Michael Kravitz (built Joe Bruno stadium) has an outfield fencing it is portable, safe, etc.

B.) Playground

Melody is meeting with them next week to go over some of the different options in the structures. She will report to the commission at the next meeting.

VI. New Business

Steve Porto: Regarding the brochure - he checked with different towns on what they do. 1500 brochures will cost \$800 with color and we provide all information. Brochures tell nice story of what town is doing. The Town should want to talk about what the Town of Wilton has to offer. Application for programs can be put right into brochure. Melody: all applications except summer camp will be put on website. Chuck Gerber was investigating places to introduce son to skiing. West Mtn. gives program to introduce kids to skiing and gives discounted price. He will investigate and bring info back to commission for next year.

Steve Porto: Can we get information regarding Soccer Club? The time they use revenue field use etc. Melody: yes, at next meeting.

Next meeting will be March 1st.

Motion to adjourn made by Lynette Robinson at 9:45. Seconded by: Dale Long
All in Favor