



Town of West Boylston
140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

Select Board and Parks Commission Joint Meeting Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting
April 6, 2023; 6:00 p.m.
120 Prescott Street
West Boylston, MA 01583
Board Meeting Room 2nd Floor
Hybrid with Zoom

Members Present:
Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Chair
Christopher A. Rucho, Vice Chair
Marc Frieden, Clerk
Patrick J. Crowley
Kristina Pedone

Members NOT Present:

Invited Guests:
Jennifer Warren-Dyment, Town Administrator
Faye Zukowski, Municipal Assistant

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

CONVENE MEETING – 6:00 pm

- **Roll Call taken by Select Board all present**
- **Roll Call taken by Parks Commission**
- **Roll Call taken by Disability Commission**
- **Roll Call taken by School Committee**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Rajeshkumar announced in attendance is the members of Parks Facilities Committee, Disability Committee, School Committee and Finance Committee.

Mr. Rajeshkumar asked for people to silence electronic devices, he explained public comment will be limited to the design options only, he asked for all comments to be held off until presentation is completed, and he requested comments and questions to not be asked if already asked and answered.

Mr. Rajeshkumar turned the meeting over to the James Pedone the Parks Commission Chair.

- **Pride Park Phase One Update, Discussion, and Potential Votes**
 - **Presentation on Pride Park design and engineering progress by Weston & Sampson to include two concept design options.**
*The Presentation is attached to these meeting minutes.
Ms. Amanda Gall, Project Manager for Design and Jeannette Canteau of Weston & Sampson as Landscape Architects. She gave an overview of the project and the

schedule. She stated 50% design will be completed by end of April and will then wait for comments back and those comments will be incorporated into the 90% plan expected May 19th and work towards 100% plans for June 2nd. She stated they are hoping for construction to begin in the fall. She gave an overview of the existing conditions and equipment on the site which contains 13,000 square feet. She explained a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) inspected all the equipment and determined the equipment is at the end of its life. She explained they have prepared two concepts one being a larger and smaller playground the equipment previously purchased are shown in the plan in red. She described the new proposed elements to the playground. She stated they were sure the plan covered all five inclusive play types; social emotional, physical, sensory, cognitive and communication. She stated ADA Compliance required eight accessible elevated components and this plan provides for fourteen. She further explains the requirement for accessible ground level is five and the plan provides for nine. She stated the additional cost for purchase and install of the small playground is approximately \$500,000 and covers 7,010 square feet. She stated the option for larger playground covering 9,700 square feet will add one multifunctional play structure. She explained with this plan all five inclusive play types we met. She explained they have seven components by ramp and twelve by transfer stations with a requirement of eight by transfer station. She stated they are required to have five ground level components and there is twenty-four in this concept. She stated the town will also need to decide on colors of the playground and explained the town previously purchased some blue pieces. She gave overview of the amenities on the site such as benches, trees and signage. She stated the approximate additional cost for the larger playground is \$679,000.

Ms. Emily Miller asked about utilizing sand on the site, Ms. Gall explained sand is impervious and is not considered accessible.

Mr. Rajeshkumar asked what the cost difference is between the plans including the original purchases of \$150,000, Ms. Gall stated approximately \$180,000 more.

Mr. Rucho asked if the \$679,000 includes poured in place, Ms. Gall stated that is correct. He asked who the CPSI was, Ms. Gall stated it is someone that works within their firm. Ms. Gall stated the contractor hire a third party CPSI once the equipment is installed to sign off that everything is installed correctly.

Mr. Rajeshkumar asked who completed the inspection of the current equipment, Ms. Gall stated that the equipment has served its life expectancy and their CPSI complete the inspection in February and can provide the report if requested. She explained that issue is that the Town is installing a new surface and if existing components are used, they surface will outlive the equipment and then the surface will need to be cut into and will create a weak spot and will void the warranty.

Ms. Pedone confirmed with Ms. Gall that they only looked at Phase 1 as the scope of this project, she confirmed.

Mr. Pedone asked if the Disability Commission or School Committee wished to take a position on either of the plans, neither wished to.

Mr. Pedone opened the meeting up for public comment on the design only.

***Motion** Mr. Crowley moved the Select Board to support the larger concept design, Ms. Pedone second.*

Mr. Rajeshkumar would like to have public comment before a vote occurs, Mr. Crowley stated there is a motion and second on the floor at this time. Mr. Rucho asked for clarification on the motion and if this is only design or also the funding. Mr. Rajeshkumar would like to have public comment.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Rajeshkumar, no
Mr. Rucho, yes
Mr. Crowley, yes
Mr. Frieden, yes
Ms. Pedone, yes
Approved

Ms. Brown, 128 North Main Street, gave the overview of how the town got to this point and how people with disabilities have civil rights and they have a right to use the playground like everyone else.

Ms. Jennifer Martel, 524 Prospect Street, would like a motion to fund the project also tonight. She voiced her support for this project moving forward and hopes there is also funding discussed.

Ms. Cliona Archambault, 30 Goodale Street, thanked the Board for support and that the concept design has structures for all children.

Child, Anne gave a speech “Save the Playground”

Child, Leila Peteson, gave a speech on behalf of her classmates.

Mr. Kelsey Houghton, 28 Scarlett Street agrees with the motion made with Mr. Crowley.

Ms. Judy Conway, 37 Holt Street asked if large design includes wheelchair swing, Ms. Gall stated a Oodle Swing is accessible with assistance. Ms. Conway would like the community to accept handicap children in their community.

Mr. Neil Peterson, 67 Malden Street explained the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan which had a seven-year action plan and would like to know if either plan complies with implementation plan.

Mr. Andy Beardsley, Hosmer Street has concern that the structures currently in place had only an 18-year life but the younger kids’ side is not being considered. He would like to have information on the warranty and longevity. Ms. Gall stated an 8–10-year warranty if the equipment is properly maintained with a life expectancy of 20 years and the manufacturer is Landscape Structures.

Mr. Chris Berglund, 340 Goodale Street discussed the maintenance requirements and if a third party will be utilized and what annual costs may be and what the cost is for a CPSI to inspect. Ms. Gall responded the Town would be responsible for the costs and she did not have the cost at this time.

Ms. Erin Palumbo, Malden Street supports the large plan and asked if there was a reason, they did not include a handicap accessible swing, Mr. Pedone responded that the plan is at 50% design and the number of changes will be minimal but they can discuss if it is feasible with Weston & Sampson.

Jacqueline Leonardo, Nuha Circle asked if the large structure has a occupancy restriction. Ms. Gall stated a occupancy study has not been completed at this time but is designed for the ages of 5-12, she can get an occupancy load for the playground. Mr. Rucho asked about the age restriction, Ms. Gall stated there are structures for ages under 5 but the requested design was for the ages of 5-12.

The Parks Commission voted to in favor of the large structure.

Mr. Pedone discussed funding sources available without taxation from CPC, Capital Investment, and ARPA. He would like to see the Select Board to get this plan funded and completed.

- **Discussion and potential vote on preferred design option.**

- **Public comment will be taken on design options.**

- Mr. Rajeshkumar requested the Mr. Crowley consider another vote now that the public and other committees have spoken.

***Motion** Mr. Crowley moved to reconsider the vote that the Select Board took on the large playground option, Ms. Pedone second.*

Mr. Rajeshkumar explained the prior vote was premature and wanted to hear comments from the public and Parks Commission.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes

Mr. Rucho, yes

Mr. Crowley, yes

Mr. Frieden, yes

Ms. Pedone, yes

All in favor

Approved

***Motion** Mr. Crowley moved to approve the large project, Ms. Pedone second.*

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes

Mr. Rucho, yes

Mr. Crowley, yes

Mr. Frieden, yes

Ms. Pedone, yes

All in favor

Approved

Mr. Pedone asked the Parks Commission to vote on the color option, they voted in favor of Option 4.

Mr. Rajeshkumar stated the Select Board will take over the remainder of the meeting.

- **Discussion and potential vote on funding for Pride Park Phase One, to include utilizing ARPA funds, Community Preservation Act, Capital Investment Fund, Free Cash, and any other sources.**

Mr. Rajeshkumar extended appreciation to the committee that assisted in the Pride Park planning.

He would like to seek majority of the funding to come from CPA funds which are raised from real estate taxes and matched by the State. He explained this requires vote from the CPA and also a vote from Town Meeting and is only available two times a year. He explained ARPA could also be used in a quicker timeline as it only requires Select Board approval. He would not like to only use ARPA funds but majority from CPA and remainder from ARPA. He explained Representative Jim O'Day was able to secure \$150,000 and the Town appropriated \$250,000 but \$150,000 of this funding was to be returned to CPA if the State earmark was approved leaving \$100,000 of CPA funds available. He stated \$40,300 has been spent of out the CPA funds. Mr. Crowley stated \$469,238 more is needed to complete this project. Ms. Warren-Dyment explained

\$150,000 has already been spent on equipment and poured in place material. She explained the \$209,700 remaining in CPA funds. She would request the Board include additional \$25-\$30,000 for project administration on top of quote from Weston & Sampson. Mr. Rajeshkumar stated the town funds available are CPA undesignated fund approximately \$1.2 million, Capital Investment Fund approximately \$1.2 million, Free Cash \$113,000, and ARPA fund balance is \$524,000.

Mr. Crowley clarified the CPA requirement to get approved funds, and as the Chair of the CPC he plans to hold a meeting and discuss the \$250,000 CPA funds with intention of going back to town meeting and requesting the full use of \$250,000. He disagrees the balance of funds should come out of the CPA funds and

Motion *Mr. Crowley moved to recommend to the Community Preservation Committee and Town Meeting expending the sum of \$250,000 from the CPA authorized vote taken under Article 18 of the May 2021 Annual Town Meeting and authorize the appropriation of \$500,000 from the remaining balance of funds received from ARPA to fund renovations at Pride Park, Ms. Pedone second.*

Mr. Frieden would like to take a different strategy to expedite the purchase of equipment and amend the motion to take \$182,000 of ARPA and balance from CPA. He does not want to drain the ARPA and would like to have on reserve in the event of emergency.

Mr. Rajeshkumar explained that if it is all funded from ARPA and the project runs over where will the additional funds come from. But if ARPA is saved it could be used to complete the project if needed.

Mr. Frieden stated the ARPA could also be used to fund additional equipment is not fully expended.

Mr. Pedone stated he agrees with Mr. Frieden but suggests that no other ARPA funds are spent until after a successful Town Meeting vote on the CPA funds.

Mr. Crowley stated he does not have a problem withdrawing his motion and changing the vote but would like the project funded before adjourning the meeting tonight.

Ms. Pedone has concern that if the funding is not set or approved at Town Meeting the project will not be completed.

Ms. Emily Lehman Miller asked if the project can go to bid without the funds and what is the lead time on how they can get started with equipment and prep the site. Ms. Warren-Dymont stated the estimated timeline is project bid will be in June and Town Meeting is scheduled for May 15th. She stated if ARPA funds are approved for the equipment purchase which has longest lead time. Mr. Rucho stated if they used ARPA for the purchase of equipment only and the balance from CPA the order could be completed, Ms. Warren-Dymont agreed.

Mr. Crowley clarified the issue with going to CPC is there is supposed to be a six-month window for application which is always waived. He explained the town meeting is six weeks away and the CPC has not seen or evaluated and he will need someone else to put the application together. He has no issues presenting next week but would still like the vote to use ARPA Funds and if the CPC and Town Meeting approved than ARPA will not be used. Mr. Rajeshkumar stated if it is voted through ARPA why would the CPC approve the request to fund, Ms. Pedone stated this has similarly been done in the past. Mr. Crowley read a list of items paid for with ARPA funds to date, Mr. Frieden stated this is exactly why the funds should be allocated from CPA funds these items could. Mr. Rajeshkumar would like to save ARPA funds to be sure it is completed and there are funds in the event of cost overruns. Mr. Crowley stated if there are cost overruns, they could always request more funding at fall town meeting, Mr. Pedone stated that may not be correct as it may be getting too cold and the poured in place may not get completed and will be delayed until spring and feels this is a risk.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Rajeshkumar, no

Mr. Rucho, no

Mr. Crowley, yes

Mr. Frieden, no
Ms. Pedone, yes

Mr. Frieden worked through a variety of motions prior to this final motion.

Motion *Mr. Frieden moved to fully fund the project with \$182,000 from ARPA now and \$318,000 from CPA which includes the \$30,000 construction administration costs, Mr. Rucho second.*

Mr. Crowley disagrees with leaving the meeting tonight without the project being fully funded. Mr. Rajeshkumar stated if the CPC votes it down it will come back to the Select Board for approval with ARPA.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes
Mr. Rucho, yes
Mr. Crowley, no
Mr. Frieden, yes
Ms. Pedone, no
Approved

The Parks Commission, Disability Commission and School Committee Meeting adjourned their meeting.

Motion *Mr. Rucho moved to adjourn at 7:26 p.m.; Mr. Frieden second.*

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Frieden, yes
Mr. Rucho yes,
Mr. Crowley yes,
Ms. Pedone, yes
Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes
All in favor
Approved

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: _____

Faye D. Zukowski, Municipal Assistant

Kristina Pedone, Chair

Patrick J. Crowley, Vice Chair

James Morrissey, Clerk

Marc Frieden

Barur R. Rajeshkumar