

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation Commission
June 27, 2011**

7 pm Meeting Called to Order

Present:

John Owens, Chair
David Kane, Vice Chair
Ann Bere
Laurie Carlson
Lee Slap
Andrew Levin
Stephanie King
Dennis Rocha

Diane Stafford, mother of Boy Scout Bobby Stafford, addressed the Commission to recap the plans her son has to construct a scoreboard at the Grove St baseball field. See attached summary of that discussion which concluded with a unanimous vote by the Recreation Commission to support that project.

Jim Fitzgerald of the Belmont Soccer Association addressed the Commission to give a season's end report on field use and planned improvements. Some discussion and notification of changes in the permitting process took place and changes were agreed upon by both parties.

Recreation Dept. staff updated members of the Commission on the schedules for the Underwood Pool opening and the start of summer sports and activity programs.

Revenue totals through June 24 were presented to the Commission.

Minutes of the Recreation Commission meeting of June 6 were reviewed and accepted.

9:45 pm Meeting Adjourned

From a draft of the Minutes of the Recreation Commission Meeting
of June 27, 2011

Scoreboard at Grove St.

Diane Stafford, the mother of Bobby Stafford presented the revised score board proposal in Bobby's stead, as Bobby was away as summer camp.~ She made the following points, both as to the communication process Bobby has followed in

communicating with park neighbors and the particulars of the score board proposal:

- Bobby met with neighborhood residents and REC Commission members on Saturday, June 11 on the “A” playing field located by Dalton Road.
- He showed the actual score board that is in question.~ The board is 4’ tall X 8’ wide.~ Once constructed, it will be supported by two permanent footings such that the overall structure will be approximately 8’ tall X 10’ wide.~ The structure will be topped with a roof running down 6’’ from the top on both the front and back sides – this to keep rain/snow off the top edge of the board.
- He discussed with the assembled neighbors/Commissioners the siting of the board – suggesting a location in the “V” formed by the outfield fence and the tennis court fence (see attached photo), either parallel or mostly parallel to the tennis court fence.~ The actual location should be sufficiently distant from the existing tennis court fence so that it won’t need to be disturbed in connection with any future tennis court renovation/removal project.
- With regard to the question raised at the June 6 Recreation Commission meeting as to whether or not the board could be made a temporary structure put in place only during the duration of the BYB season, the point was made that the board is heavy and will be bolted securely to the footings.~ Taking the board down/ putting it up year-after-year will degrade the structure and shorten its life span.~ The footings will be cemented into the ground and made permanent so as to assure structural integrity, resistant to wind, kids climbing on it, etc.
- With regard to the question of maintenance, Ms. Stafford offered that with the roof and the use of good weather-resistant materials as proposed, little in the way of maintenance will be required – certainly during the first 4 to 5 years of the board’s being in place.~ The point was reiterated that the Boy Scouts generally make a point of tending to and preserving community projects such as this orchestrated by predecessor scouts, i.e., future scouts may be relied upon to assure the board is well maintained.~ Also, Mr. Paul Miller, a representative of Belmont Youth Baseball, spoke and committed BYB to the maintenance and upkeep of the board, including replacing hardware as necessary, painting, removal of graffiti, etc.~
- Bobby plans to construct and hang on one of the support pillars a locked box (with BYB coaches having the combination) to house the letters and numbers to be used to show the scores of games played. He also plans to provide a stepping stool for use by smaller/younger children who, as envisioned, will be the ones changing out numbers so as to reflect the game score on the board.

- With regard to the question raised as to whether or not the board could be hung on the existing tennis court fence (and presumably made removable), the concern is that the fence is not structurally sound enough to support the weight of the board and the board would be less stable and unlikely to sustain wind pressures.~ Further, the tennis court fence might well be removed or replaced in a future court renovation/removal project – and so the board might be lost or damaged in that process.

Lengthy discussion ensued.~ Among the points raised by citizens in attendance who identified themselves as abutters of the playground were the following:

- Neighbors not provided with adequate notice of the meetings, the agenda item regarding the scoreboard or the plans.~ Commissioners pointed out that abutters/property owners within 300 feet of the Grove St. Park were mailed notices of the June 6 and June 11 meetings.
- Bobby Stafford has “no standing” to ask the Recreation Commission for permission to construct the score board, as he’s neither a voter nor a tax payer in the Town.
- The construction of the score board will be the “thin edge of the wedge” leading to further “commercialization” of the playground, including possible lights, batting cages and the like.
- One resident abutter asked to see a revised schematic diagram of what the board will look like as fully constructed, with the roof, numbers box, etc.

Following discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, and in reliance on the undertakings of the Boy Scouts and the BYB to maintain the structure, the Recreation Commission unanimously voted to support and recommend approval to the Board of Selectmen, the construction of the score board as proposed by Bobby Stafford at the site parallel to the tennis court fence depicted by the blue line in the attached photo.

[PHOTO](#)