

A work session of the Town Council held on Wednesday August 27, 2008 for the Town at Town Council Chambers and was called to order at 7:36 PM. Council President Budway presiding.

After pledging allegiance to the flag of our country, Town Clerk Long called the roll:

Councilman Collins-present	Councilman Salisbury - absent
Councilwoman Knowlton-absent	Councilman D'Agostino - present
Councilman Winfield - present	Council Vice-President Farrar - present
Council President Budway – present	

Council President Budway explained the reason for this evening's work session is to discuss possible development of Tasca Field. He said that the Soccer Association has been using the field for decades. He said that the idea of developing that parcel has been spoken about for 3-4 years. He said that the Town did engage a consultant to draw up a plan for the field.

David Provonsil said that a group has formed an ad hoc committee to look into this project. Some of the members are Town Treasurer Ted Przybyla, Town Engineer David Provonsil, Director of Public Works Dale Langlais, Chris Modisette and members of the Soccer Association, Jim Scacco, Mike Lee and Joe DaSilva. He said that the Town received a \$236,000 DEM grant which we need matching funds or in kind services at a 1 to 1 match. He said that the Soccer Association has some money to put toward the project too.

Joe DaSilva said that the youth soccer program has grown a lot over the past decade. Currently they have 550 kids playing in the fall program and 250 in the spring program. He said that these kids range in age from 3 to 19 years old. He said with the fall program there are about 50 volunteers and in the spring 20 volunteers.

Councilman Winfield asked what percentage is from out of Town.

Mr. DaSilva said that about 20 % are from Foster.

David Provonsil said about 5-6 years ago the Town along with the PWSB purchased the land from the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, which obtained the land from the Tasca family after a land swap. This swap allowed the Tasca family to build their car dealership on Pontiac Ave in Cranston. He said that the Scituate Land Trust holds title to the land. He said that the Town was awarded the grant to rebuild the fields. He said that the Town hired a landscape architect to design a plan that will encompass rebuilding the fields and organizing the traffic flow and parking. This will allow for more parking and a more organized traffic pattern.

Councilman Winfield asked how many spaces are there now.

Mr. Provonsil said that he is not exactly sure but would guess between 100 to 110 parking spots. He said that there will also be a walking path around the driveway with a low rustic fence around the field to prevent the vehicles from going on the fields. He said that eventually they would like to have concession stand. He said that he sent the plans and drawings to the PWSB for their comments. He said that the PWSB sent back large packet containing information and recommendations on the drainage and water run off. He said that there are new state of the art systems and he hopes that the PWSB will be a willing partner in the venture. Mr. Provonsil said that the plans include an irrigation and sprinkler system and hopes that we can draw the water from the pond instead of drilling a well which will save us money.

Mr. Provonsil said that they have put together a good comprehensive plan. He said that we have money put aside from fees charged to developers that are earmarked for recreation and open space. He said that phase one would consist of the road, rustic fencing, re-grading a portion of the existing field and roughing in the water source for the irrigation system with no well at this time. He said that this first phase would cost about \$326,000. He said that the walking path will not be in Phase One of this project.

Council President Budway said that the Town has most of the money for Phase One between the grant and the monies put aside from development fees.

Councilman Winfield asked how much the total project will cost.

Mr. Provonsil said that the entire project will cost about \$520,000.

Councilman Winfield asked how much money do we have at this point.

Council President Budway said that the grant is for \$236,000 the soccer association has about \$50,000 and the Town has \$191,000 set aside from the development fees. He did say the Town does not want to spend the entire amount that they have set aside because there are other projects that need to be done in the Town.

David Provonsil said that he would seek legal advice to see if the Soccer Association could use the grant money. He would also like to check to see if the Soccer Association uses the money, will the Town still have to go out to bid. He said that if we do not have to go out to bid it could save between 10-20% of the project cost.

General discussion followed with Joe DeSilva stating that he approached Council President Budway about getting permission to renovate the Tasca Field, just to put in some irrigation and regrade 1/3 of the field with the \$50,000 that the Association has. At that time he didn't realize that they might be able to use the money from the DEM grant.

Mike Lee said that there are other organizations that do help with these types of projects such as the Champlin Foundation, Textron, Hasbro and CVS Caremark. He said that the Soccer Association is going to form a sub committee to investigate these other funding sources.

Council President Budway said that the Town will have to look into all of the ramifications with the other funding sources before we commit to them. He said that sometimes there are more loopholes than you can deal with.

Mike Lee said that all we have to do is to tailor our request to fit into the specific foundations mission statement.

The question was asked who will get the money from the concession stand.

Council President Budway said that he is a member of the Lion's Club that currently runs the trailer. He said that they used to make around \$2,000 per year which they donated back to other community organizations. He said that the Lion's Club sometimes has a hard time manning the booth. He said that since the Soccer Associations is making such a substantial contribution to the renovations of the field he can't speak for the Lion's Club but he doesn't feel that they would mind.

Council Vice-President Farrar said that the concession stands at the State Beaches are not run by the State but by private citizens and then they pay DEM and then DEM uses the money to repair the beach.

General discussion followed with it being mentioned that once the project is completed we could start having tournaments there which will bring money into the Town.

Councilman Collins said that the fence is needed because you wouldn't want people driving over the brand new fields. He said that this project has it all; better parking, safety and one way traffic.

Council Vice-President Farrar said that with the combination of the funds and in kind services we have enough money.

Joe DeSilva asked if there are in kind or donated services would it still have to go to bid.

Council vice-President Farrar and David Provonsil said "no". They said that the only bad thing with that making sure the work is done properly and on time.

Council President Budway said that some of those things did happen with the donated services for the renovations of the dog pound.

Mike Lee asked if everything passes can they start work before the winter.

Council President Budway said that the Town Council cannot vote on this tonight but he feels that there is positive support for the project. He said that it will go on the September 11, 2008 Town Council agenda. He said that he would like to see Mr. David Provonsil draw up

some detailed phase plans. Once they are done come back to the Council for their approval and then execute the plan. He also said that he would like to have the PWSB contacted about the plans that they submitted. He said that the more people we get onboard for this project the better.

Councilman Winfield said that he thinks this is a good idea and the sooner we can get it done the better for the children.

Council Vice-President Farrar said that he feels the same way but he wishes that the walking path was in Phase One because it would be good for all of the residents of Scituate.

Motion made by Council Collins, seconded by Councilman Winfield and voted by consent agreement to adjourn at 8:30 PM and to keep the minutes of the meetings previously closed to the public; closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-4 and 42-46-5 and to allow the Town Clerk 14 days to prepare the minutes of the meeting. For complete discussion, refer to audiotape.

Attest:

Margaret M. Long, Town Clerk