

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

Minutes of Meeting

January 28, 2012

A meeting of the Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at Berkeley-Peckham Field, which is located on Green End Avenue in Middletown, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Anne Baptista, Cheryl Boergesson, Nicholas Coogan, Mason Hawes, John Pinto and Ralph Thomas

Members Absent: Christian Lambiase, Austin Pendergast and Ed Sisk

Ex-officio Members:

Present: Dick Adams, Planning Board, Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission

Absent: Bruce Long, Town Council Liaison

Neighboring Resident Present: Maureen Aboyou

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a site visit to Berkeley-Peckham Field and to receive comments with regard to the condition of the grounds and any suggestions for changes to the current park plan and its usages from neighboring residents and others interested in the park.

The committee generally found the baseball field and surrounding

grounds to be in excellent condition and was particularly pleased with the new bleachers that had been installed in 2011. Committee members also commended the appearance of the concession stand/storage building and a second storage building which appeared to have been recently painted.

The committee did note the following deficiencies:

- There is a broken pipe hanging loose at the top of the backstop.
- The wire screening has separated from the pipe at another location on the backstop.
- The fence surrounding the field has curled up in places allowing balls to roll under.
- The right field fence is too close to home plate. Consideration should be given to raising its height.

Prior to last year's renovation of the bleachers, there had been restroom at the field. That has been replaced with Porta Johns during the baseball season. The committee recommends that the Town consider installing the type of permanent restroom that has been placed at the West Main Recreation Complex at the field.

The committee noted that the playground equipment was in good condition. The committee believes the equipment is provided and maintained by East Bay Community Action, which occupies a portion of the former school building.

The committee also noted that there is a community gardening area approximately 25' x 60' in dimension on the grounds that is used by the Senior Center, which occupies another portion of the former school building.

Ms. Abouyoun, who resides across Green End Avenue from the field, noted that there was unauthorized use of the trash cans at the field by those coming from the beach and that windblown trash from full trash cans was a problem. She also noted that the lights on the scoreboard were, on occasion, not turned off after a game. She indicated she would call to report it so that they could be turned off, but needed the phone number of a point of contact.

Since this park is almost exclusively devoted to baseball, the committee does not believe that the appointment of a park steward is necessary. We did provide Ms. Abouyoun information of how to contact the Open Space & Fields Committee officers with future concerns she may have or conditions that should be reported.

Ralph Thomas

Recording Secretary