

**PLL Board Meeting, June 13, 5:45 p.m., at complex**

**Attendance:**

Kevin Boczkowski  
Ian Browne  
John Burns  
Kevin Cloutier  
Rich Curran  
Pat Goonan  
Dave Greenwood  
Masai King  
Mike Liendo  
Tim Mills  
Matt Pieroway  
Dennis Roache  
Brian Taggart

**Absent:**

Keith Gagnon  
Mike Seaton  
Bill Sittig

**11:9:8**

**Bunker Field Project History and Update**

Dennis would like to give some history on this whole project. He mentions how it had already been talked about when he came on the board six years ago or so and had been talked about for years before that. Former president Keith Barry really had an appetite to attack the project. Dennis told Keith of his expertise in parks and working with the city, and the process for getting grants, money, etc. They decided to partner together. Dennis and Keith worked as a duo for a couple of years and it took them a long time to get funding. It was looked at as a legacy project for Keith, Dennis and others if we could secure the funding. At first, the city offered us about a third of about the minimum of what this project would take. Dennis pushed as hard as he could and wound up getting \$350,000. Dennis felt that was the true minimum of what it would take to get this project done, with the field renovation and a new retaining wall. Dennis has extensive experience with renovations for Boston Parks. Dennis told them he felt it would take \$450,000. In the meantime, we were securing some development money that could help close the gap. Dennis felt we were right on that line.

Dennis and Keith felt they could cut some costs by working it with some of the labor unions. About two years ago, they sat in front of the Boston Labor Board. The Labor Board was excited about the project. Some of the people on the Labor Board actually played on this field. They would help build us. They knew the money we had. They knew what the project looked like. They were going to help us build it. We were told to get the final design and put it in front of them and they would assign a contractor. At that point, Dennis felt pretty confident about what the commitment was. They got a design from someone who was doing it pro bono, it took a lot longer to get the design we wanted to. The design we wanted last October

or November we didn't see until mid-March of this year. Since we received that grant a year and a half ago, the landscape of the world has changed in terms of labor, supply chain, everything around. We were looking for a \$450,000 project and we have no idea what that's going to cost now to order parts or what types of materials would even be available. We had to push back to the union a little bit and see if they could help us more with this stuff. They met with us six weeks ago. Dennis said they didn't back off the commitment, but they started slowly backing away of how big of a project they wanted to manage. Dennis believes it's because of what's happening in the labor market. Now they are juggling a lot of projects and they don't have the labor they thought they had a year and a half. They were saying it's a lot bigger than they thought it was even though we fully explained it to them.

We have a Plan B. Ed Foley has done work as a contractor and what it would take for him to take the lead. He doesn't have as much manpower as the labor union has but we're still working with him on the side about what it would cost for him to do the project. We are currently with Ed Foley while also working with the labor board to see what we can get out of it. Now, we are wondering if a \$450,000 project is a \$600,000 project.

There has been a sense of, let's dive into it and build a retaining wall as the first phase, then wait a few months and destroy the field. Dennis doesn't feel comfortable dropping one piece of construction equipment down here and spending city money until we know we can go from soup to nuts and finish the project. It's on the league then, if we don't finish the project and have to return the money. That's what the holdup is, getting a firm commitment and getting ducks in a row and knowing how the supply chain will shake itself out to know we can complete the project and complete it with fiscal responsibility at about \$450,000. What Dennis has gotten from Ed Foley is he believes he can complete everything soup to nuts except the field-finish work and that's basically bringing in the sod, cutting the sod, rolling out the field specification with the irrigation system. Dennis knows someone from his previous job who does that kind of thing. But he would cost a premium because we would have to pay him what it costs. So right now it's a matter of figuring out what Ed Foley can accomplish for \$300,000 and then we bring in the field finish guy or \$120-150,000. Dennis reiterates we could start the hill but he doesn't want to spend a time until he knows we can complete the project.

The deadline is March, 2023 to complete the project and spend the money. They are willing to extend that and roll it out longer. Now his thought is to roll it back a year. But he needs the full commitment from soup to nuts. We are trying to piece a puzzle together. If the cost gets way out of control, Dennis mentions the possibility of mending what we do. This whole thing is moving the field, shifting it left, it's replacing all the dugouts and all the fencing and making it a 200-foot field for tournament play. We could replace components as is and the city would probably be OK with that but it wouldn't get to where we were trying to go with it. If we're trying to rebuild a field, we should make it tournament ready and have all the features we originally wanted.

**Bottom line:** Dennis says we are working on a myriad of solutions. He is open to anybody who wants to help or makes suggestions. He will continue to work with Ed Foley and talk to the unions. They are still talking about going back to the union board. They are looking to still hopefully put a project back on board for the same original schedule we had, start next fall, play next season, rebuild next summer. Just a year delayed.

The city would be OK with that but Dennis isn't signing a dime unless we have everything solidified.

Dennis reiterates we are working as hard as we can to figure this out. It's definitely not easy.

**Action:** Dennis will continue to work with Ed Foley and get his assessment. We're going to get back with the labor board. We're going to target this fall to start the project if we have it fully set in stone. We will have an update next meeting.

#### **6:13:1**

Potential boundary expansion

This is something that has been kicking around for a while, whether to expand the boundary. We have to think about expanding into Hyde Park or putting it to rest. There are pros and cons to both sides. It is fair to wonder about the future of the league the way the school system is going, and the chance more families will move out of the city. Right now, the league is in good shape. Right now, Hyde Park is there for the taking. It could possibly add some teams.

**Action:** The board should think about this as a whole and discuss next board meeting.

#### **6:13:2**

##### **Complex wish list**

Dennis and Tim Mills note we have a series of projects we've been estimating some costs on. Between now and the next board meeting, Brian Taggart will see what the surplus is we have on projects like this.

Here are some projects we should decide if we want to proceed on:

The outfield fence is something that needs to be worked on. Signs are falling off. The boards are rotting away.

We just got a price for netting beyond the fence at Bunker to protect the three homes and yards behind it. It is a community best-interest project and something we should really look at, Dennis says. The cost is going to be what the cost is, but Dennis thinks it should be high on the priority list.

We are also looking at an automated lighting system to turn the lights off with an app like they have at city fields. It would be a 10-year agreement with this company.

Another wish-list item: The batting cages. The fence is starting to fall apart. The netting is torn. It's getting to be a little bit of a safety hazard.

Smaller projects: Getting weather sensors for the irrigation system so we're not watering the fields when it's rainy. A lot of those things would need Wifi and internet service at complex, which has been an issue for a while.

Brian Taggart looked at options for scoreboards because every year the boxes get left out and rained on at some point. It is \$800 per box to replace those. Another option would be wifi and blue-tooth operated scoreboards. For \$250, a company would come in and go into all three scoreboards and make them remote-app operated. The coach could actually run the scoreboard from the dugout. The app system seems to make much more sense than paying \$800 every time one of the control boxes break.

Tim and Rich Curran mentions writing grants for some of these costs. Nobody on the board has expertise at this, but we could possibly e-mail the volunteer/parent group.

Action: All estimates for projects will be presented at the board at the next meeting for a vote on which to pursue.

**6:13:3**

**All-Star practices at complex.**

We are doing our best to get all the All-Star teams practicing at the complex. Just a couple of things we have to manage. One of them is how much work Curley is doing out there to keep up with the fields. As much as we can, let's move all All-Star practices to Bunker. We'll have full use of the cage.

**6:13:4**

**Update on All-Stars**

The 10-year-olds held a tryout from a pool of Minors kids to help fill out their roster. Rob Lopez made his two picks from that group.

**6:13:5**

**Summer Travel Team tryouts**

Mike Liendo said we had as successful as a summer tryout as you could have. Mike was pleased that there were a ton of people helping out. We placed about 151 kids. We budgeted for nine teams, we have 11. We have 2 year-old teams, 3 9-year-olds, 2 10-year-old teams, 2 11-year-old teams and two 12-B teams. Rich Curran pitched in with uniforms. We would have had to cut a lot of extra kids and Mike Liendo did a great job creating extra teams.

**1:10:1**

**General Ledger update**

Brian Taggart sent out a general ledger update earlier in the day to the board. If anyone has any questions, please follow up with Brian.

**6:13:6**

**Tryouts/Draft**

John Burns notes we should set dates for tryouts and draft for September. We can do that next month.

**12:13:2**

**Sponsorship update**

As of today, we have 61 donations for \$39,575 dollars. A year ago, we had 65 donations for \$42,910. The Irish Social Club is going to sponsor a summer team. The Dick's Sporting Goods raffle, Dave Greenwood spoke to Dennis, Dave said he got it out too late and then we had Corrib tickets. We decided that next year we'll start right around Opening Day and we'll do a raffle with \$500 as main prize, \$250 for second place and maybe \$150 for third and \$100 for fourth.