

IPM Committee Meeting Minutes 12/3/2020 - Amended

In attendance via conference call: Margaret Doris, Kelly Brown, Dana Hanson, Bruce Wenning, Justin Traxler, Rob McClary and Derek Mannion

- Review 10/29/2020 and 11/12/2020 ipm meeting minutes
10/29/20 Motion to approve by DH and seconded by MD
11/12/20 Motion to approve by KB and seconded by Bruce and JT
MD commented on non-present ipm committee members and their ability to approve documents while not being present.
- Discuss next steps for IPM
 - Review edits to ipm pilot report w/JT
JT and DM went through the report after the last meeting. They updated the power point based on feedback in meeting. JT does not think the message was changed. None of the changes were to the material. We took out more than we added. Any area we added was to add some specificity and changed adjectives and adverbs. If there is any feedback, please let them know. The deck was emailed to all. We all need to look at the distribution plan of this document.
DM- the message is the same there were grammar issues. He is fine with power point is as revised.
DH- it seems like the presentation is sound and there were a few strategic twists to be made. How will we disseminate it? Does it make sense to present it at an upcoming Park & Rec. Commission meeting.
DM- to Park & Rec. Commission, City Councilors and field subcommittee.
MD- in history we should look at who we made presentations to and if there is a deviation from priors, we should be clear as to why. At least Park & Rec. Commission?
DM & DH feel this should go to the Parks & Rec. Commission.
DH Park & Rec. Commission is the place that all the business of park and rec and postings should be there as City Councilors can see it in the electronic posting board they will see it and then if there are interested they can attend or email and inquire. It is a good place to begin with.
DM will update the commission with report and check with IT to get a new tab on web page What is new with IPM ?? and populate with what is coming up shortly.
DH- Who would give presentation at a P&R meeting?
DM – will discuss with Commissioner Banks.
 - Field acreage assessment year one w/Maintenance
DM- JT was going to do this. RM and DM took it on as they had the time and it was related to the memo on pesticide expansion.

NNHS, Burr Park, Forte and Cabot. NNHS is multi use. Burr Park is utilized by middle schools track and field, softball, Forte is softball and soccer very defines sports fields.
The four sites combined have 39 total acres. There are 13 acres of grass of the 39 total acres. Nine acres of the 13 acres of grass are to be treated. This is approximately 70% of the total grass area or approximately 23% of the total site acreage.
These are high school and middle school used fields. Premier locations.
JT did not know cabot was a multi-purpose field. NYS and NGS does not use cabot.
I would like to follow up a weeks with goosegrass as that is the most heavily used field for soccer in the city.
I get what we are trying to do with limiting treatment to athletic fields. Do we want to put this in the context of the total acres P&R maintains city wide? It is very low percent of the total acres maintained by the City is much larger than the sports field.
DM- he is looking at the total acres in the open space and recreation plan. This is what we are treating this year in relation to the total acreage. A good definition of IPM is the percent of total acres.

○ Memo on pesticide expansion w/Maintenance

JT it is excellent.

DM even though we are listing the irrigated and non-irrigated sites. On the master irrigated field acres assessment sheet, we show for example we show irrigated elementary schools. Our intent is NOT to treat elementary schools irrigated fields with pesticides.

DM- 3rd paragraph explains where the program is headed now. DM and RM wrote it and reviewed with Commissioner.

Proposed looking at 4 sites that fall under IPM threshold for broadleaf weed and grassy weed IPM threshold
Priority - Who uses it? Priority is High School and Middle School.

Priority # 2 - What is the level of weed threshold? Have we reached a grassy and broadleaf weed threshold?

We are looking at a 3-year program to get through all the fields. The 3-year plan is in paragraph #3 of the memo. We still will be out this spring and summer into the fall to monitor all sites using the IPM Inspection Sheet. Our hope is to document and know what is going on at each site. At Newton Highlands there is white clover in the football field. Baseball is not meeting that level yet. But it may. Our memo is also based on listening to Newton Athletics and that the safety and playability on fields is the driver.

DM - feels it falls on Maintenance staff to determine the priority of the fields. And it should be maintenance driving the location of the fields. The locations are a work in progress.

DH - Question: looking at the NNHS, Cabot, Forte, it looks like a North and Central array of fields and nothing deep South. Brown Oak Hill NSHS area?

DM - South side fields are in good shape. Plan is not to apply at Brown / Oak Hill- that location needs a different approach to improve. There are grading, drainage issues, sink hole issues, drain lines have collapsed. So, they are not on the plan for IPM. They need another approach.

In the 2020 pilot program 2/3 of the locations were on the South side.

○ IPM checklist w/Maintenance

DM I mis-diagnosed prostate knotweed as a grassy weed.

This is how we are approaching what we do. All will have a chance to review it.

JT inspect and document it seems like it listed at the beginning and end. I would include the process around how sites are selected annually.

DH- there are 2 ways any given field can come into the IPM. 1 via an advocacy group a sport. Or internally from the maintenance division – Do we need to have just one bubble on the top line... how the given process got triggered? The checklist? The Memo?

JT – the work that Derek has done Maintenance group will assess the fields and they will come up with a proposed list each year of target list. And then we will need to set the priorities. Hopefully this will help set the priorities and all will be one the same page going forward.

The field sub-committee

Challenge in year 1 , 2, 3 there were more field eligible than we can treat. The hope by year 3 the number that need treatment will go down. The desired outcome will be that we do not need expand the list. By year three the number of sites will go down.

The 2021 School Athletics schedule potentially ends July 3rd, 2021. This will impact the timeline and when we can apply any pesticides. The fiscal year starts 7/1/21 Mid July is the best time to apply.

Our turf management contract ends June 30th, 2021. We are currently rewriting the turf management contract. Thanked Rob for the help and the IPM Committee too.

BW- have you seen the fields after all the rain? Any problems due to snow mold.

DM yes there is potential for that.

DM- I have been in role of Super for @ a full year. We will be able to take contractual Tuft Management program take 11 sites , irrigated sites and follow through the whole year. Manage the 11 sites aerate, fertilize, slice seed and irrigate.

The other 2022 the ones that were departmentally managed will be flipped with the one contracted out. So, we

can manage them more closely. We will have a better product. Tom Irwin and Associates and Newton Girls Soccer have been a huge help. July 1 we are really looking to build a better microbiology in the soil.

BW- it looks like a good program. It is really top-notch plan. It will make a nice story in the Tab. JT has come Newton with a concern and he is really impressed with Newton and the teams work to formulate a plan and get to this point. It is really top notch.

DM thanks to all

Next Meeting 12/17/20.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Brown