

Athletic Fields Renovation Committee

1/18/2018 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Victor Karlsson, Denise Harrington-Cohen, Andrew Bates, Dean Berardo, Lisa Delzio, Robin Greene, Lisa McPartland, Chrissy King, Pete Fragiacomio, Adam Beal, Cathy Chiudina

Guests: John Watson (Insite Engineering), Amy Winberg (KG&D Architects)

Absent: Glenn Niles, Matt Cunningham, Gabriella Anfuso, Pete Lamoreaux, Ann Marie Chalmers

Meeting began at 6:39pm.

Victor briefly recapped the discussions from the November meeting and introduced John Watson from Insite Engineering and Amy Winberg from KG&D Architects. John explained that his office performed elevation tests for each field using sophisticated laser technology, taking over 400 samples on each field. Their tests revealed that both fields are in much worse condition than initially believed, with outfield elevation drops of over 1 foot in certain areas, just 20 feet beyond the infield.

John provided an overview of the project, which is a complete and total regrading of both fields so that they are pitched properly to allow for adequate drainage. He noted that there are several depressions in the outfields which create a ponding effect after heavy rains. The grading would be in accordance with National Federation of High School Associations (NFHSA) field and geotechnical engineering standards, which lists a 2% pitch for each 20 feet of outfield. Victor questioned whether or not the slit drains that were listed in the previous proposal were necessary to which John replied that there are other options which are less expensive and just as efficient.

Robin asked what the expected useful life of the fields would be after the repair to which John replied that the fields should remain in good condition for at least 10 years, but likely longer. He went on to say that the deterioration of the fields were not caused by neglect, but is most likely the result of poor soil compaction of the infill used many years ago. Insite is soliciting the services of a geotechnical engineer to perform soil compaction testing to determine the proper infill that must be used in the repair to prevent future sinking. John acknowledged that the fields may be on wetlands, so sinking may unfortunately be an inevitable occurrence. Dean added that it is important for the geotechnical survey to provide us with a measure of compaction quality, which will provide us with a roadmap for future maintenance requirements.

Lisa Delzio asked if there was any cure for the short-term that would allow the softball field to be used this spring. John reviewed the findings of the elevation tests and stated that based on the steep changes in grade that at least half of the field would need to be regraded, only to be ripped up and regraded again when the entire field is repaired. It would not be practical or financially responsible to attempt a short-term repair.

Lisa then questioned whether or not the repairs would be deemed acceptable by our insurance company to which Victor responded that he would present the proposed plan for their review. Victor believes that if the repair is done in accordance with NFHSA and geotechnical engineering standards that our insurance company will approve.

Chrissy asked when the project would begin. John explained that the required Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is being fast-tracked by the DEP, since the fields are being repaired in-kind and no additional impervious surfaces are being created. He expects the review process to take several months with

the work beginning this summer. Victor then added that the District must also file two additional SWPPP's: one for paving at JFK and another one retroactively for the JFK and CVS renovations. The DEP views all of these projects as having one "common plan of development" so we will exceed the 2-acre limit, triggering the requirement of a SWPPP. Cathy asked when Insite would be filing the SWPPP to which John answered that he expects it to be filed within the next several weeks.

Adam asked whether the project could carry into next year to which John replied that it is dependent on the DEP's approval, but it is unlikely. KG&D and Insite are condensing the schedule by bidding the work concurrently with the DEP permitting review. As soon as the DEP approves the permit, the District will be in a position to award a contract at the next Board of Education meeting.

Amy Winberg then reviewed the other field amenities that were discussed at the previous meeting. Victor reminded the committee that we are restricted by state ed law to commit only those costs which would constitute as an emergency repair/replacement in-kind and that any additional amenities require additional funding sources.

Robin suggested that we apply again to the Baseball of Tomorrow Fund and other grant opportunities. Dean agreed and asked for the committee's assistance in identifying grant opportunities. The application submitted to the Baseball of Tomorrow Fund can be used as a template and edited as appropriate for each new grant application.

Dean provided the committee with the tentative alternate locations for next year: Zimmer Road for baseball and Markell Park for softball. Dean will follow-up with Cathy and Patti Bohrman from the Town of Southeast Recreation Department to formalize the agreement. Pete requested that he and Brewster Little League be involved in the coordination and scheduling of the fields' use to which Dean emphatically agreed.

The committee agreed to schedule the next meeting on Thursday, March 22nd at 5pm. The committee will meet at the Concession Stand and proceed to the fields to inspect the condition of the existing amenities, allowing the group to prioritize the list.

Meeting ended at 8:04pm.