

Mt. Lebanon Sports Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2014 - 8:00 p.m.

Municipal Building Room 104C

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chris Curran called the meeting to order. David Donnellan called the roll. The meeting was attended by board members Brian Auer, Dale Cable, Chris Curran, Chip Dalesandro, Scott Foor, Dave Franklin, Don Gavett, Walt Henry, James Menegazzi and Joy Pajak.

The meeting was also attended by Commissioner John Bendel and Director of Recreation David Donnellan.

Stacey Franklin, Dave Klasnick, and Tim White were absent.

2. Citizen Comments

Kimberly Schevtchuk asked the board to reconsider their decision to install artificial turf on Middle and Wildcat Fields, and urged the board to redirect resources and efforts towards developing natural grass fields.

3. Approval of the February 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

4. Turf Project Update

David Donnellan distributed a copy of the concept plan for the artificial turf layout on Middle and Wildcat Fields. Mr. Donnellan indicated that the Turf Taskforce met on March 27 to review the plan. He said that a new survey indicates the project covers 111,200 square feet and that the design would include permanent lines for soccer, lacrosse and baseball foul lines. He said the soccer field is 165'x320' feet (W.P.I.A.L. regulation field), men's and women's lacrosse are collegiate regulation sized fields, Wildcat baseball field foul lines are 330 feet at first base and 284 feet at third base, Middle Field foul lines at 228 feet for first base and 203 feet for third base. Mr. Donnellan said the engineers conducted soil borings and their initial reports did not reveal any concerns regarding soil conditions. He told the board there may be a portable mound on Middle Field and a permanent clay mound on Wildcat Fields.

Mr. Auer said the soccer field is smaller than both the high school field and the Jefferson field, and asked Mr. Donnellan if a full size field (360' x 180') is feasible for that space. Mr. Donnellan said he will consult with the engineers.

The board members discussed the possibility of shifting or angling the field in order to gain additional space.

Mr. Donnellan said the plan calls for the fencing around the field to be replaced, but not the high fence along Cedar Boulevard. He added that the staging area for equipment and materials will be at the parking lot by the batting cages.

A meeting with residents/property owners who live close to the fields is scheduled for Thursday, April 24 at 6:00 p.m. The residents will have the opportunity to ask questions and give their feedback regarding the project.

Mr. Donnellan said the board has been asked to fine-tune the estimate of the revenue from the turf field fees, and to demonstrate that there will be a fair allocation of field time. Mr. Donnellan said he would like each association to submit needed field time for Middle and Wildcat Fields. This will allow a preliminary field schedule to be created that will show the allocation of fields and demonstrate the associated revenue. He said a preliminary field scheduling meeting will be required. He reminded the board that the soccer and lacrosse fields span the entire surface of the field; therefore, a game will require renting both fields.

Mr. Franklin reported that the Mt. Lebanon Endowment website is now functioning and the public can go online to make donations towards the turf project. He said that after the initial notice went out to the community, the donations have been coming in quickly through the website. He estimated total fundraising to be \$115,000-\$120,000 to date.

Mr. Donnellan said he will make the field plan available to view on the municipal website once Commission reviews it.

5. Field Sign Sponsorship Program Update

The board reviewed the 2015 draft policy. Mr. Donnellan said this policy will be reviewed by Commission next week. He said the fee for a field sign sponsorship was raised to \$750.

Chip Dalesandro suggested using a different material for the signs, in order to cut costs and to attract more sponsors. He said a mesh, windscreen material would be cheaper and would allow airflow and partial view through the signs.

David Donnellan said he will investigate different material options and their costs.

6. Potential Capital Projects

Mr. Donnellan distributed a capital project worksheet, and a small projects worksheet for the board to review and identify potential 2015 improvement projects. These lists were generated from board suggestions and from the Municipal Capital Improvement Plan. He stated that none of the projects on these lists were funded.

Potential projects discussed included: sidewalk installation at the tennis center, ice rink flooring, a pavilion at the golf course, a multi-purpose recreation complex, lighting on Middle and Wildcat Fields, replacing platform tennis courts 1 and 2, tennis hitting wall repairs and a soccer/lacrosse rebound wall.

It was decided that the each member would prepare a prioritized list prior to the meeting on June 5, and submit the list to David Donnellan.

7. New Business

Mr. Auer discussed the wear and tear on athletic fields as a result heavy use and play when field conditions are too wet. He stated there is a need for standards to be set regarding field closings based on conditions. He added that someone should be appointed to oversee the fields to make the decision to close fields based on poor playing conditions. He said field updates could be sent via email blasts and field conditions could be posted online. Mr. Dalesandro suggested using an app that will show updates on field conditions. Mr. Franklin said one person should be appointed per organization to make the decision regarding field use.

It was decided that this topic would be discussed with the sports organizations at the 2015 field scheduling meeting.

8. Announcements

Mr. Henry announced that the tennis bubbles at are schedule to come down on Saturday, April 19.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.