

Mt. Lebanon Sports Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2015 - 8:00 p.m.

Municipal Building Room 104C

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chris Curran called the meeting to order and David Donnellan called the roll. The meeting was attended by Board members Brian Auer, Dale Cable, Chris Curran, Stacey Franklin, Don Gavett, James Menegazzi and Joy Pajak. The meeting was also attended by Athletic Director John Grogan and Recreation Director David Donnellan.

Chip Dalesandro, Scott Foor, Walt Henry and Dave Klasnick were absent.

2. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

3. Approval of the June 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

4. Sports Related Improvement Projects

a. Commission Discussion Session on September 28

Mr. Donnellan reported that board's recommended improvements were shared with the Commission and that the Commission would tentatively discuss those improvements at the September 28 Discussion Session. He said Don Gavett planned to attend and that he would invite Walt Henry (who was not present), but anyone from the board was also welcome.

Regarding the 'Light Additional Field' project, it was agreed that Wildcat Field would be at the top of the list. Mr. Donnellan added that the cost estimate for this and other projects have changed since the list was established.

He said the estimated cost to light Wildcat Field is now \$698,500, but this number may include both fields and the number will be revisited. He encouraged the board to view the costs for the projects in the 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Program, which is posted on the municipal website.

Dale Cable discussed the possibility of a 'Multi-Purpose Athletic Facility' project. He asked what needed to be done to move the project forward. Mr. Donnellan suggested a feasibility study to determine the cost, scope, public interest etc. He added that the project cost would be substantial. Various locations for the facility were discussed.

Ms. Pajak suggested collaborating with Cool Springs to save costs. It was noted that competition and cost for space at that facility would be challenging.

The cost of such a building was discussed. Comparison costs of other local facilities may be helpful.

The possibility of a joint project between the municipality and school district was mentioned as well as securing corporate partners.

Mr. Donnellan agreed to investigate the cost of a feasibility study.

Mr. Curran asked if there were any proposed changes to the list of improvements. Ms. Pajak inquired about the golf course sprayer. Mr. Donnellan said the golf course sprayer was very old and was next in line for replacement on the schedule.

The board did not suggest any changes to the order of the sports related improvement projects list.

5. Park Basketball Court Improvements- Dale Cable

Mr. Cable proposed that improvements be made to the outside basketball courts at Mt. Lebanon Park. Mr. Cable said the courts were slippery and suggested the courts be resurfaced and relined. In addition, he stated the need for the glass backboards to be cleaned and safety padding be installed on the poles. Mr. Cable stated that the benches are old and need to be replaced or painted, and the fence and light standards need to be painted. He said the main focus should be on the court surfaces to make them safer and more attractive. He said he would send Mr. Donnellan additional information on resurfacing.

Mr. Donnellan agreed with the need for basketball court improvements. He said the court lines were repainted within the last few weeks. He said that one court surface was in good condition, but the other had some cracking. He said new nets were hung and new padding was ordered for all of the poles. He stated he would request that the public works department try to clean the backboards. Mr. Donnellan also reported that there was a park lighting project in the CIP which would replace the court lighting if approved.

Don Gavett suggested adding lights on the stairs that lead from the platform tennis courts up to the high school stadium.

6. Seymour Naming Rights Proposal

John Grogan discussed the proposal. He said he was approached by Don Seymour, the father of Clint Seymour. He said the Seymour family lived in Mt. Lebanon for a long time and that Clint played baseball for Mt. Lebanon High School and in college, and was tragically killed in April of 2014 at the age of 27. Don established a fund in Clint's name with the goal of raising money and giving back to youth baseball. The name of the fund is the 'Clint Seymour Play Ball Fund'.

He said the proposal included naming the varsity baseball field, Clint Seymour Field, and the two-field complex could retain the name of Wildcat. The proposal included \$55-60,000 in field improvements.

Mr. Donnellan said the Commission discussed the proposal on August 11, along with a draft municipal policy for naming rights. He said the Commission thought it was a very positive and well thought out proposal. He shared some of their other comments as follows:

- The naming rights policy should be established before any naming rights are granted.
- Should there be a competitive element when it comes to naming municipal assets?
- Could it include other elements: spectator seating, turf replacement funds, and since it is multi use field could it offer something to other sports e.g. could the scoreboard accommodate other sports?

Mr. Donnellan said the discussion could be viewed on MLTV on the Municipality's website.

Mr. Donnellan reported that the Parks and Sports Advisory boards had reviewed the draft naming rights policy, and that their suggestions were incorporated into a revised draft for the Commission's consideration. He said both topics are tentatively on the September 28 Commission Discussion Session agenda.

Ms. Franklin expressed concern that if the offer was not acted on quickly, the opportunity may be lost.

The board recommended that the proposal from the Clint Seymour Play Ball Fund be accepted by the Commission.

7. Turf Project Update

a. Opened July 16, 2015

Mr. Donnellan reported that the turf has been busy and things have been going well.

b. Schedule

He said the schedule was implemented with few problems and had diverse usage. He said in the future organizations will be required to submit written requests for time in advance, and then a preliminary schedule would be reviewed at the fields meeting. He said usage tapered down in November, but was pretty full until then. He said he anticipated heavy use in spring.

Mr. Auer asked if the schedule would be posted publicly. Mr. Donnellan stated that initially that seemed like a good idea, but after further consideration it was not advisable for two reasons: first, the schedule changes continually, and second, that some would use the information to attempt to avoid paying the fees. Mr. Donnellan said other recreation facility schedules are not posted, and that he would provide a copy of the current schedule to users upon request.

c. Rules and Regulations

Mr. Donnellan stated there were a few issues with rule infractions. He said the rules are distributed to the user groups and the user is responsible for enforcement during their use. He said rules could be distributed by user groups in advance to try to avoid problems.

He also reported that the Commission is considering an ordinance that would incorporate these rules into the rules for municipal parks.

d. Banner Sales

Mr. Donnellan reported that in spite of the late opening of the turf, 5 banners were sold this year, which was the target.

He added that the contractor is returning September 8 to add soil and seed along the Cedar Boulevard side of the field and to complete some other punchlist items.

He said a crushed brick warning track would not be installed due to maintenance concerns.

Ms. Pajak asked if the municipality had insurance on the field covering vandalism. Mr. Donnellan said the field was covered, and that user groups were also required to have insurance naming the municipality as an additional insured.

8. New Business

Mr. Donnellan said that the ordinance under consideration regarding the turf rules, also included a rule against smoking at playgrounds and ballfields. This was previously recommended by the Parks and Sports Advisory Boards.

9. Announcements

There were no announcements.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.