

MINUTES: Meeting of the Monona Grove School District, Athletic Field Use Ad Hoc Committee held in the Nichols School District Office Board Room, February 27, 2008 starting at 4:00 P.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jake Anderson, Angie Fassl, Sharon Henes, Pat Mackesey, Susan Manning, Pat Marsh, Rich Plier, Tory Pomeroy, Carl Pulvermacher, Jim Smecko, Mike Stassi, Brian Storms, Jacob Tissue, John Weinberger, Dan Zweifel

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Benitez, Derrick Daggett, Dennis Davidson, Morris Haukereid, Jeff Thompson, Jeff Vitense

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Mary Ellen Van Valin, Mark Scullion, Jeff Schreiner

I. Opening of Meeting – Mary Ellen Van Valin, Director of Business Services

II. Declaration of Public Notice – acknowledged

III. Presentation and Discussion Regarding Artificial Turf – Rich Riggs, Rettler Corporation

Mark Scullion introduced Rich Riggs of Rettler Corporation, who has been working with the Monona Grove School District yearly in maintaining the athletic field. Rich Riggs stated even if the district spent \$130,000 on the football field it would show wear and tear and be down to dirt after approximately 50 events occurred. Jeff Schreiner stated last year the football field had between 75 and 90 events.

Rich Riggs presented information on artificial turf and the advantages over a grass field. Discussion was held regarding advantages of installing artificial turf over spending the \$130,000 Mark has budgeted to maintain the grass football field.

Advantages of the artificial turf would be the district would not have to worry about the number of events on the field, bad weather would not be an issue, grooming of the field would be needed but less than upkeep on the grass field, lifetime warranty with only the top part of the turf needing replacement after 8-12 years (65% of cost of new field), crown would not be needed for soccer play, and no injuries or bacterial infections have been documented from play on the artificial turf. It was determined that if artificial turf would be installed the track should be replaced as part of the project. One draw back to the artificial turf is that it does retain heat. Rich Riggs also stated if the district would like to move forward with installation of artificial turf he would recommend that it be done for the next school year with completion by fall of 2009.

Costs for the artificial turf would be approximately \$700,000-850,000. Maintaining the current football field would be \$130,000 and would not solve any of the problems of the need for additional playing field to keep events off the football field.

John Weinberger stated the Board does not have the money for any field work and it is facing a deficit budget for the 2008-2009 school year.

IV. Presentation of Current and Possible Field/Facility Usage in the City of Monona – Pat Marsh

Pat Marsh began his presentation by introducing Jacob Anderson the new Park & Recreations Department, and Chris Homburg who gave background information on field usage in the City

of Monona and primarily at Ahuska Park. Pat Marsh stated the City is offering one soccer field at Ahuska Park for exclusive usage by the soccer teams during their sports season. When the soccer season is over the field would be open to the public. The City would need to have an answer from the school district soon because if the school district will not be using it they would like to schedule it to other teams. Chris Homburg stated more work is being done on the field to make it suitable for high school play.

Jacob Anderson reviewed other fields presently being used by the school district in the City of Monona. Discussion was held regarding maintenance of the fields and the condition of the field at Ahuska Park if the public was allowed to play on the field off-season.

V. Presentation of Current and Possible Field/Facility Usage in the Village of Cottage Grove – Jacob Tissue

Jacob Tissue reviewed a handout he passed out at the last meeting regarding field usage at Northlawn Park, Fireman's Park, and Cottage Grove School. Discussion was held regarding the Village's renovations at Fireman's Park and future plans for land adjacent to the park. A diagram of the area being discussed was distributed.

VI. Presentation of M.A.Y.S.A. Opportunities – Tory Pomeroy

Tory Pomeroy left before this agenda item was discussed. Mary Ellen Van Valin distributed a handout prepared by Tory for the Committee.

VII. Discussion of Potential Programming Impact of Installation of Artificial Turf or Field (Grass) Repair on Stadium Field – Small Group Discussion

Because of time constraints, this agenda item was not discussed.

VIII. Discussion and Possible Recommendation for Field Usage for 2008-2009

Mark Scullion reported because nothing has been decided and time is a factor regarding field usage he is recommending that the programs stay status quo for the 2008-2009 school year.

IX. Discussion of March Board of Education Meeting Report/Recommendation

Mary Ellen Van Valin announced Susan Manning has agreed to report to the Board of Education on behalf of the Athletic Field Use Ad Hoc Committee.

Sharon Henes moved that the Athletic Field Use Ad Hoc Committee recommend to the Board of Education to move forward with the high school athletic complex modifications (artificial turf, track, press box). Brian Storms seconded. Discussion was held.

Susan Manning suggested that contingent on clarification of funding be included in the motion. Carl Pulvermacher seconded. Discussion was held. A vote on the amendment to the motion passed.

Vote on motion as amended carried. The following motion was approved – The Athletic Field Use Ad Hoc Committee recommends to the Board of Education to move forward with the high school athletic complex modifications (artificial turf, track, press box) contingent on clarification of funding.

X. Establish Next Meeting Date

A future meeting of the Athletic Fields Use Ad Hoc Committee will be determined after the March Board of Education meeting.

XI. Adjournment

Sharon Henes moved that the meeting be adjourned. Pat Mackesey seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.