

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
KENILWORTH PARK DISTRICT BOARD HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL,
419 RICHMOND ROAD, AT 5:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2008.**

Park District President Thomas Feeney called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and the Secretary called the roll as follows:

Present:	Thomas Feeney Chip Kenyon Richard Peterson	President Commissioner Commissioner
Absent:	Heidi Higgins Jason Hanold	Commissioner Commissioner
Others Present:	Brad Burke Lou Maggi Mary Cole Maryann Van Dyke Tom Graceffa Brett McGinnis Debby Killion Ed Chestnut Marti Niemann Eileen Madigan Steve Ashmore Mike Broderick Susie Healey Jane Fraleigh Kris Fishman Adrienne Weisenberger Leslie Holling April Callahan Richard Norton Marilyn Brooks	Secretary Superintendent Secretary to Mr. Burke Finance Administrator Landscape Architect 136 Tudor Place 515 Cumnor Road 133 Kenilworth Avenue 433 Cumnor Road 353 Melrose Avenue 208 Oxford Road 537 Abbotsford Road 1306 Richmond Road, Wilmette 244 Cumnor Road 354 Sterling Road 422 Cumnor Road 515 Essex Road 416 Cumnor Road 222 Oxford Road 428 Cumnor Road

The minutes of the January 10, 2008 meeting were placed before the Board. President Feeney made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Kenyon seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried, and the minutes were approved as presented.

Secretary Burke introduced Tom Graceffa, a landscape architect from Rockford, Illinois. Secretary Burke cited the background information on Commissioner Kenyon's proposal for the installation of Field Turf. He said Commissioner Kenyon made the proposal to the Park Board in September or October, and the Park Board asked Commissioner Kenyon to gather information. Secretary Burke said Mr. Graceffa is present at tonight's meeting to review a possible concept plan for Townley Field.

Tom Graceffa took the floor and passed out drawings to the Board members and for the audience to look at. Mr. Graceffa noted he had come up with two different schemes for Townley Field. Mr. Graceffa said Commissioner Kenyon had called him before Christmas to look at Townley Field. Mr. Graceffa said both of the schemes provide an all weather playing field with one end of Townley Field left with natural turf. Mr. Graceffa explained the layout, and said there would be extra plant material installed at the Cumnor Road edge of Townley Field, meaning more trees and evergreens to screen the field from the nearby residential area. Mr. Graceffa explained the infill is rubber and sand and there is drainage underneath. The advantage is that the field can be used in all weather, and there is little maintenance compared to regular turf. Mr.

Graceffa explained there will be a six foot high fence on the Cumnor Road side, and a concrete edge surrounding the field. Mr. Graceffa pointed out the differences in the two plans. He said tonight's presentation of concept plans are simply for discussion, and the Board does not need to decide between the two plans.

Mr. Graceffa passed out information on the proposed fence, and explained that the plans must meet the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) requirements. The Park District needs more detailed engineering drawings completed for the site in order to go forward with the plans. He explained that the current plans were to raise the field to provide for an under field drainage system that will connect to drainage pipes with inlets along Cumnor Road. Mr. Graceffa said there are also plans for new lights in Townley Field. He said they would be taller with more of a downward focus, and they would be done by professional lighting engineers. Mr. Graceffa explained the plan would include edging around the field that would be a limestone product, and the entire site is expected to be heavily landscaped along Cumnor Road, creating a beautiful walkway.

President Feeney asked if there were any questions.

One resident said there are already drainage problems in the area, and asked if the water from Townley Field would go into the same place as all the other water in the area. Tom Graceffa said it will go into the existing combined sewer system in this area; however, Mr. Graceffa explained the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) will have to approve the plan and issue a permit for any work contemplated.

President Feeney asked about the permeability of Field Turf. Mr. Graceffa said this type of product is very impervious. Mr. Graceffa reiterated a permit from the MWRD would be necessary in order for the project to proceed. He said the Park District could deepen the gravel area under the Field Turf to accommodate more drainage if needed. Mr. Graceffa said there will be no more run storm water run off with the field than there is currently. He said the drainage issue will have to be done right in order to obtain a permit from the MWRD. It cannot be implemented without a good way to address the storm water needs.

Mr. Graceffa explained that in certain areas along the southern end of the field a short retaining wall may be needed, and the proposed fencing would be installed on top of the retaining wall. Mr. Graceffa noted the field is flat but will have a slight crown.

Resident Eileen Madigan said if the fence begins at the top of the wall, it will be ten or eleven feet high. Tom Graceffa said no, it will be nine feet high at the most.

Another resident asked if there will be access for the public to use the field in the same manner as the park is now used. Commissioner Kenyon said the Field Turf area will not be good for picnics, but everything else will be the same as the site is currently used.

Another resident asked where people can play with their dogs, because many people meet and run their dogs on Townley Field.

Commissioner Kenyon explained that in order to preserve and protect the new playing surface, there should be no food or dogs taken onto the Field Turf area.

Susie Healey questioned the fact that picnics would not be allowed. She said she was originally from Connecticut where they had installed some Field Turf. Ms. Healey noted on the east coast many installations of this type of field have stopped, and communities are concerned about toxic dust.

Commissioner Kenyon passed out information about the safety of the product. Mr. Kenyon noted he has toured fields in the area that have installed Field Turf, for example, at Northwestern University and in Northbrook. Commissioner Kenyon explained the issue of toxicity is a rumor.

Resident Eileen Madigan asked about receiving grant funding for this installation. It was noted grant funding may be difficult to obtain, as this type of product is considered impervious surface.

Tom Graceffa explained that he is not a Field Turf vendor, but has been requested to work on behalf of a citizen group in anticipation of the Kenilworth Park District's participation in a project for Townley Field. Mr. Graceffa noted he has seen the drainage approach contemplated for this site and the trick is to catch the water and remove it safely.

One resident asked how Field Turf gets cleaned. Mr. Graceffa said a yard sweeper is pulled behind a tractor and about twice a year and a soft rake is used regularly to keep the turf and rubber surface in good playing condition. Mr. Graceffa noted in the event of an injury, body fluids are removed with a bleach mix.

Eileen Madigan asked for more information on the components in silica sand. Mr. Graceffa said it is white sand. Ms. Madigan asked how many pounds of rubber are used. Mr. Graceffa said two to two and a half inches of the ground rubber are placed over the entire installation. He suggested interested residents should seek out and take a walk on a field of Field Turf to see how it feels.

Debby Killion asked if the ice rink would be smaller. Superintendent Maggi said it would be slightly smaller if one of the concept plans was executed.

Commissioner Kenyon commented that hockey could be played on the black top.

A resident asked why not Field Turf the whole field. Commissioner Kenyon said the cost of the application makes such an approach prohibitive. Tom Graceffa noted money is a factor; however, there has also been consideration of the need to leave some natural area to the park.

Eileen Madigan asked where the fence would be. Tom Graceffa pointed it out on the plan and explained the proposed fence would surround the entire Field Turf playing area in order to protect the surface.

Another resident suggested not having a fence. Mr. Graceffa said that is possible, but it would be wise to protect your investment from activities that may be destructive or harmful to the Field Turf surface.

A resident asked about the life span of Field Turf. Mr. Graceffa said it has a 15 year guarantee. Mr. Graceffa noted there is no need to replace the entire field at the end of the 15 year lifespan. Mr. Graceffa explained for the worn areas, the rubber is cut out and replaced. Mr. Graceffa noted the areas that are replaced will have a slightly different color due to fading and sun exposure for those areas that are to remain. It is 25% of the original cost to replace bad areas. In response to a concern regarding the potential for fire hazard, Mr. Graceffa noted the material will not burn.

A resident asked what the process is to get going. President Feeney said there will have to be a couple of community meetings. He said this is just preliminary discussion. President Feeney noted the Field Turf project, if it moves forward, will be funded through the use of private funds for this publicly-owned Park District property.

President Feeney asked Park District Secretary Burke to explain any procedural steps in the consideration of this project. Secretary Burke said the Board will need to amend the Appropriation Ordinance to create a line item should the Park District decide to enter into a contract with Mr. Graceffa to develop plans for the Field Turf project. Secretary Burke noted another approach may be for the Park District to enter into an agreement with the private investor group to proceed with the project.

Commissioner Kenyon said he had collected money from private individuals to get Tom Graceffa going on developing the concepts presented at this meeting. Commissioner Kenyon noted in a best case scenario, it will be about three months until the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District can provide any indication on a possible permit.

Commissioner Peterson asked about a cost analysis.

A resident suggested this is an improvement to the space and more people need to be involved in the discussion and deliberation regarding whether such a project should be pursued.

Commissioner Kenyon said he has talked to Sears School, the Kenilworth-Winnetka Baseball Association, and the AYSO Soccer Organization. Commissioner Kenyon expressed his opinion there is not enough information on whether the project can be done and the issue is not at the point yet for a public meeting. Commissioner Kenyon noted Townley Field, in its current natural turf configuration, never has a chance to recover from its routine heavy use. Commissioner Kenyon said there is no grass left on the field, and the site it is the worst field in Illinois. Commissioner Kenyon expressed his opinion from a safety standpoint, Field Turf is needed.

A Cumnor Road resident said the park is already used for Lacrosse and many other sports activities, and with the installation of Field Turf, the park will be turned from a natural park area to an athletic or sports court. She asked about the impact on the terrible traffic problem created by sports games which already exists.

Commissioner Kenyon said Townley Field will be heavily used as it already is; however, Commissioner Kenyon explained the proposed Field Turf project is not anticipated to increase the intensity of usage. Commissioner Kenyon explained the Field Turf product may increase the amount of time the field is available for sports, and noted there will have to be a new traffic pattern. Commissioner Kenyon noted in his opinion, nothing else will change and there will be no increased usage.

Resident April Callahan said Townley Field is a big open green space currently, and now it will be a sports court. She asked what Turf Field smells like and how much it costs.

Commissioner Kenyon said natural grass is cheaper but it has to be replaced about every two years. Tom Graceffa explained after three or four cycles of grass replacement you will be at the Turf Field cost.

Resident Michael Broderick asked that the Park District post their minutes on the website. Another resident complained that he had just heard about the Field Turf issue yesterday.

President Feeney explained that the Park Board gave Commissioner Kenyon permission to investigate Field Turf, and that it is in the discussion and planning stage only. He reiterated that there will be several community-wide meetings when the Board gets further along on the issue.

Commissioner Peterson asked what the next step would be. Secretary Burke noted there may be some basic questions the Park Board would like to consider such as whether the Park Board supports the concept of Field Turf and the elimination of the natural field area that is currently in

existence. Secretary Burke noted the Park Board may want to consider if such a change to Townley Field is something they would like to pursue.

President Feeney said there are two Park Board members missing and he did not know their feelings about Field Turf. He said we have to look into the legal aspects and he wants the rest of the Park Board present before going forward.

April Callahan said the Park Board needs to decide the highest and best use or mission of the land. She reiterated that it is very important to decide upon the most appropriate use of the land.

President Feeney said the issue has gone farther and faster than any of the Board members anticipated.

A resident asked how many parks are in Kenilworth, and what percentage of green space will this use up. Secretary Burke said there are several passive parks, but he did not have an exact number with him at the meeting.

President Feeney said the Board is not going to vote on anything yet.

Commissioner Kenyon cited Park Board minutes and excerpts about plans to include residents in public meetings about Field Turf.

President Feeney said the Park Board has to engage Barb Adams, the Village's legal counsel in determining the appropriate course in this matter. Secretary Burke said he has talked to Barb Adams about a private group financing a change to public property.

Commissioner Peterson asked about going forward with public presentations. Secretary Burke said that engaging the public in this process has always been the main concern of this Board.

A resident asked if the Board was committed to anything after engaging Tom Graceffa. Secretary Burke said the Board is not, and there are several steps left before getting to the point of deciding whether or not to proceed with an actual installation.

Commissioner Peterson made a motion to go forward with putting together a conceptual plan and engineering plans for further consideration by the Park Board and by the public.

Commissioner Kenyon seconded the motion which was unanimously carried.

Secretary Burke pointed out the Park Board will need to amend the Appropriation Ordinance to include the expenditures for working with Mr. Graceffa and his team. Secretary Burke also noted, it will be important that the Park District receives the funds from the private individuals prior to executing the contract to ensure that Park District funds are not used for the project.

Commissioner Peterson asked if the Board was crossing any legal lines. President Feeney reiterated that the funds have to be with the Park District before the Board can engage Tom Graceffa, and then proceeding to the MWRD.

April Callahan asked about zoning limitations. Secretary Burke said it is a park and is considered a special use under the Village's Zoning Ordinance and changing the type of field materials would not trigger a zoning process. She asked about the height of the proposed new lights and the raised wall at one end of Townley Field. She also asked about impervious surface requirements.

Secretary Burke said the regular zoning regulations do not apply as the park property is considered a special use; however, zoning regulations may be triggered pertaining to the

proposed lighting changes and the fence around the field. Secretary Burke noted if the MWRD determines the field to be an impervious surface with the Field Turf material, the Park District would be required to meet these requirements.

President Feeney asked about a time line for everything. Tom Graceffa said it is in the information he provided to the Board. President Feeney found the information and noted the timeline is about twenty weeks. He said first the Board must seek MWRD approval to know if the project is even feasible.

Eileen Madigan asked if the Park Board intended to go to the MWRD before going to the residents. President Feeney said no, and explained he anticipated a community meeting prior to receiving any indication from MWRD on the feasibility of the project.

Tom Graceffa said an engineer has to present the plan to the MWRD and they will determine if the project can go forward.

President Feeney suggested scheduling a public meeting before the next Park Board meeting. Secretary Burke asked if the Board would want the meeting held at the school. President Feeney said perhaps in about three weeks at Sears School. Secretary Burke said he will have to check both the school's and the commissioners' availability.

Commissioner Peterson asked if it was feasible to do a design then present it to the public. President Feeney said he wants to hold a meeting just to let the community know about the Field Turf project and get feedback.

April Callahan asked if the people putting up the money should have some input. Commissioner Kenyon said that group is willing to take the loss of the preliminary costs.

Tom Graceffa said the MWRD needs to know the exact situation. He said open space will not be destroyed. There will just be two different kinds of grass on Townley Field.

Resident Marti Niemann noted there will be a difference in that the field be surrounded by a fence. Tom Graceffa said that can be amended.

President Feeney said the Board is finished discussing this issue and must move on to other items on the agenda.

Secretary Burke presented a bill for the liner for the ice rink. President Feeney made a motion to approve payment. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion which was unanimously carried, and payment was approved.

Commissioner Kenyon reported that he and Secretary Burke had interviewed Allison Lopuszynski for the position of summer camp co-director. He said she has camp experience, but he is also interested in someone else and he will pursue this.

President Feeney said we need someone soon. Commissioner Kenyon said then we should go with Allison.

Commissioner Peterson made a motion to hire Allison Lopuszynski as a co-director for the summer camp program. President Feeney seconded the motion which was unanimously carried.

Commissioner Peterson commented that the program will start on June 16th.

Secretary Burke said the basketball program has collected \$5,600, and lacrosse has collected \$9,600.

Commissioner Kenyon said he would like the lacrosse revenue to go into a special fund which would be go toward Townley Field replacement.

Commissioner Peterson commented that the public needs to hear the financial information. Commissioner Kenyon said the Park District should find out if the project is feasible first.

Superintendent Maggi reported on ice skating. He said there had been only 11 days of skating, and he had his crew working nights. He asked if the Board wanted him to line up a Blue Boy portable toilet again this year to be located near Pee Wee Park. He said there were a lot of positive comments from last year about the Blue Boy although it was vandalized on July 4th. It was the consensus of the Park Board to have a portable toilet placed again this season near Pee Wee Park.

Commissioner Kenyon made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cole

