

**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, MARCH 6, 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	President
	Chip Kenyon	Commissioner
	Richard Peterson	Commissioner
	Heidi Higgins	Commissioner
	Jason Hanold	Commissioner
Others Present:	Brad Burke	Secretary
	Lou Maggi	Superintendent
	Mary Cole	Secretary to Mr. Burke
	Kevin T. Flannery	350 Melrose Avenue
	Brett McGinnis	136 Tudor Place
	Frank Cavalier	507 Kenilworth Avenue
	Marti Nieman	433 Cumnor Road
	Susan DeLoach	337 Abbotsford Road
	Debby Killion	515 Cumnor Road
	Matt Renaud	415 Cumnor Road
	Ed Chestnut	133 Kenilworth Avenue
	Ed Chrabaszcz	523 Cumnor Road
	Eileen Madigan	353 Melrose Avenue
	Carmen Martin	330 Cumnor Road
	Lois Colberg	353 Sterling Road
	Katy Sutter	333 Richmond Road
	Elli Sutter	333 Richmond Road
	Jen Cortina	228 Leicester Road
	Cathy Sheehan	99 Robsart Road
	Miriam Pahl	316 Cumnor Road
	Becky Kenyon	545 Essex Road
	Rachel Noel	141 Kenilworth Avenue
	Kristin Casas	234 Warwick Road
	Kelly Chestnut	133 Kenilworth Avenue
	Marilyn Brooks	428 Cumnor Road
	Adrienne Weisenberger	422 Cumnor Road
	Larry Evangelides	338 Melrose Avenue
	Maura O'Connor	550 Melrose Avenue
	Julia Szafranski	38 Brier Street, Winnetka
	Carolyn McHugh	740 Maclean Avenue

The minutes of the February 7, 2008 meeting were placed before the Board. Commissioner Higgins made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried, and the minutes as presented were approved.

Secretary Burke discussed the February payables. He noted the Investment Policy was not included in the Park Commissioner's packets, but will be distributed at next month's meeting. He said the payables were typical and the Park District finances were in step with the budget.

He noted payment for basketball T-shirts and a refund in the amount of \$5,000 from IEMA for expenses related to the August 23, 2007 storm event.

President Feeney made a motion to approve the payables. Commissioner Kenyon seconded the motion which was unanimously carried, and the February payables were approved.

President Feeney suggested delaying discussion of the summer camp until later in the meeting, noting that the crowd in attendance was not at the meeting to discuss Little Springs.

The discussion turned to the Field Turf issue.

Commissioner Peterson said he had received a letter requesting the issue be put to a community-wide election. He made a motion to put the issue to vote.

Secretary Burke suggested the appropriate motion should be to direct staff to work with legal counsel to draft a resolution placing a referendum question on the upcoming election ballot. Secretary Burke noted the Board would need to come up with the wording that would be reflected on the ballot question.

President Feeney said he did not feel the Board needed to take any action immediately on the request for a referendum question and noted the deadline for submitting a referendum question for the November election would not be until August. President Feeney explained that by August, the Park Board may have received enough information to make a determination it does not want to move forward with the proposed Townley Field project.

Secretary Burke said the deadline for getting items to Cook County to be put on a ballot for the November election is September 2, 2008, which would mean the Park Board would have to take action to approve a resolution on a ballot question at the August meeting.

Commissioner Higgins said there was an email sent out stating that the Park Board had decided to use Field Turf. Commissioner Higgins noted the statements made in the email were completely untrue. She said the Park Board would want the whole Village to have a voice in making a decision to approve the installation of Field Turf at Townley Field. Commissioner Higgins expressed her opinion she believed the entire Park Board would agree that such a decision should be put to a vote of all the residents prior to moving forward with this type of a project.

President Feeney said no public monies had been used so far. He said a private group came to the Board and got permission from the Board to look into the issue and raise funds. President Feeney said the Board is just in the phase of exploring ideas.

Commissioner Hanold noted the Park Board is currently in a "due diligence" phase. The Board is just looking for information and trying to consider all the impact of such a proposal. He said Board members are doing research on the product, and noted the proposal being made by a group of residents is a recommendation that is meant for the betterment of the community. Commissioner Hanold noted the Park Board is not prepared to take a position, and wants all points of view prior to making a decision.

Kevin Flannery of 350 Melrose Avenue was angry because there had been no community input regarding Field Turf to date. He said he would have appreciated knowledge of the issue two or three months ago, and it should have been publicized.

Commissioner Kenyon said he has scanned past minutes and since December, he and the rest of the Board have talked about holding a community meeting at least seven times. Commissioner Kenyon noted the only action that has been taken to date is that about 50 people have come together to try to identify a plan to improve Townley Field.

Commissioner Peterson asked about the erroneous email circulating through the Village.

President Feeney reiterated that at least 3 to 4 times in each of the last meetings, he has said the Board needs to hold a public meeting prior to making any decision regarding a project for Townley Field.

A resident asked if the field improvements are being proposed to be made through the use of private funds, is a vote needed. Commissioner Higgins said that did not matter, the Park Board would want the community's approval of such a change to the field regardless of if the project were funded privately or through Park District funds.

President Feeney said the entire project is in a very initial and exploratory stage.

Commissioner Kenyon said the Park Board has not been participating with the group of citizens who are proposing this concept and working with a landscape architect. Commissioner Kenyon said the Board is just being open minded to a concept being proposed by a group of residents. Commissioner Kenyon noted if the Park Board determines Field Turf is not appropriate, the Board will let it go.

Rachel Noel of 141 Kenilworth Avenue expressed her opinion she appreciates there are private investors, but is concerned with the 10-year maintenance issue which cost as much as \$500,000. Ms. Noel said residents would have to pay the maintenance and upkeep costs once the field has been installed. Ms. Noel said she had read a New York Times article about carcinogens in Field Turf. She said there is a lot of misinformation going around. Finally, she asked if residents can see the plans.

President Feeney said when the preliminary plans are complete, everyone will be given an opportunity to see them.

Kelly Chestnut of 133 Kenilworth Avenue said all of this is misinformation. She said Park Commissioner Chip Kenyon is a long time resident of Kenilworth. She said everyone should step back and look at the overall picture. Ms. Chestnut noted Commissioner Kenyon is just trying to improve Townley Field.

Commissioner Kenyon said there is a brochure on the table at the back of the room that residents may want to look at. He said the 10 year maintenance costs could be accumulated from the savings on daily maintenance should the field remain in its natural turf status.

Eileen Madigan of 353 Melrose Avenue asked what the maintenance costs are now. Commissioner Kenyon noted the Park District budgets about \$7,000 annually for grounds maintenance.

Matt Renaud of 415 Cumnor Road asked if it were the Board's intention to not do anything without a community-wide vote. He suggested no action without a vote.

Another resident asked what the plan is and what the costs and maintenance fees are. Commissioner Kenyon explained the maintenance for a synthetic turf field would be a lot less than the \$7,000 currently budgeted for grounds maintenance. Commissioner Kenyon noted the plans are currently being developed.

Commissioner Hanold said when the plan is ready it will be available for everyone to look at. He said the Board has just begun to receive information and consider the issue.

President Feeney made a motion to put the issue to vote if the Park Board determines a synthetic turf application for Townley Field feasible. President Feeney noted the intent of his motion would be to affirm for those in attendance that there would be no decision on installation of synthetic turf on Townley Field without a vote.

Commissioner Peterson asked when it would be put to a vote. Manager Burke said the earliest would be November.

President Feeney said the Board will not write language for a ballot tonight since by August the Park board may find the issue inappropriate to pursue and the entire issue may be a moot point.

Commissioner Higgins reiterated that the Park Board will not agree to anything without putting it to a vote of the residents.

Commissioner Kenyon said there will be more information available at the April meeting. He said he just wanted to improve the field. He suggested that members of the audience take a field trip to places that have put in Field Turf such as the Northbrook Park District. Commissioner Kenyon said the idea came to him from seeing it used in other towns. He said everyone should feel free to talk to him about the issue.

Kevin Flannery of 350 Melrose Avenue expressed his opinion the Park Board had not done a good job in keeping in touch with the residents on this topic. Commissioner Kenyon said he had just started gathering information, and he apologized for the lack of protocol or the perception that the Park District was not being open about its consideration of this issue.

Commissioner Hanold seconded the motion to put the issue to vote before the Park Board would make any decision to pursue a synthetic turf application for Townley Field. The motion was unanimously approved.

Marilyn Brooks of 428 Cumnor Road asked what the purpose of the April 2nd meeting is and what will the streetscape look like. Commissioner Kenyon said the April 2nd meeting will be to inform the community about Field Turf and there will be plans available for review then.

Carmen Martin of 330 Cumnor Road asked if health issues would be discussed at the April 2nd meeting. Commissioner Kenyon said there are two viewpoints on health issues. There will be a representative from the Field Turf company available to answer questions.

Commissioner Kenyon noted he wanted to strike his comment about the JSSPVA donation from the November 7, 2008 meeting minutes. Commissioner Kenyon noted he wanted to reverse the comment, and explained he got ahead of himself and thought the JSSPVA would be a part of this project, but it is not the case.

Kevin Flannery of 350 Melrose Avenue asked about Field Turf information. Commissioner Kenyon said he has seen both sides of the issue, but he wondered why 506 new installations were done last year if there was such an issue. Mr. Flannery said you could say the same thing about asbestos and lead, and urged the Park Board to have foresight.

Rachel Noel of 141 Kenilworth Avenue said proper drainage and a different species of living grass could get rid of the mud on Townley Field. Commissioner Kenyon said it is compacted mud. Ms. Noel agreed it is very muddy. Commissioner Kenyon said the current status of the field is not good for the intensive use of the field.

Elli Sutter of 333 Richmond Road asked what Field Turf is made of. Commissioner Kenyon said sand and rubber particles.

Maura O'Connor of 550 Melrose Avenue said she had told her daughters about Field Turf and the children were excited; however, she expressed her opinion she was discouraged by the loss of green space, since there is not much in Kenilworth. Ms. O'Connor suggested starting the drainage about 6 feet down in order to address the existing drainage problem.

Commissioner Higgins asked Superintendent Lou Maggi if any drainage improvements for Townley Field had been investigated. Superintendent Maggi said there is no drainage in Townley Field, and explained there is currently no down time to promote the health of the natural turf. Superintendent Maggi noted it was his understanding with Field Turf there could be a downpour and right after teams could play on it.

Commissioner Kenyon said Field Turf would allow more use, and expressed his opinion it is a great sight to see fields being used a lot.

Marti Niemann of 433 Cumnor Road asked if other parks could be used for games. Superintendent Maggi said Pee Wee Park District is used to host games for little kids. Ms. Niemann asked if AYSO had to play on Kenilworth fields. President Feeney said it is a reciprocal arrangement whereby the Park District has to host some games.

Commissioner Kenyon said AYSO told him only Kenilworth teams would play on Kenilworth fields and noted AYSO may donate funds for Field Turf.

Ed Chrabaszcz of 523 Cumnor Road reiterated that AYSO reciprocates.

Marti Niemann asked if the Park District could re-sod the field each year. Superintendent Maggi said it would not take long to re-sod but down time is needed for the grass to be established.

A resident asked about the cost of re-sodding. Superintendent Maggi said the cost to re-sod the field would be approximately \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Kevin Flannery asked what lighting studies had been done. Commissioner Kenyon said any new lights would be higher with better focus. President Feeney noted there have been no lighting studies completed to date. Mr. Flannery said all towns do studies before they change the lighting. Commissioner Higgins noted it was her understanding the lights would be higher and more to the south end of the field. Commissioner Kenyon said most likely it would only be two light poles. Mr. Flannery said he is in the lighting business and it would be more than two fixtures.

Matt Renaud of 415 Cumnor Road asked where the Board received their information. Commissioner Kenyon said the information provided to the Park Board had been provided by the group of donors.

President Feeney said there has been no Park Board endorsement of this project.

Commissioner Higgins explained Commissioner Kenyon approached the Park Board with the idea, and the Park Board asked him to gather information and report back.

Commissioner Kenyon said the Park Board has really had no involvement in pursuing this issue, and explained it was he and a group of investors who came up with the idea.

Debbie Killion of 515 Cumnor Road said, according to the Park Board minutes this issue was first talked about in May of last year. Ms. Killion expressed concern that in all meetings up until the vote on the referendum tonight, the Park Board could vote on its own to implement a project to bring synthetic turf to Townley Field.

Commissioner Kenyon said that is an integrity issue, and noted the Park District will need approval from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) and an approved permit before anything can move forward.

Commissioner Peterson asked where the incorrect information about this issue came from. Debbie Killion said she had sent out an email mentioning the potential vote at tonight's Park Board meeting.

Kelly Chestnut of 133 Kenilworth Avenue said shame on this community. Ms. Chestnut noted this entire discussion came about simply out of the need to explore an option for improving Townley Field.

Commissioner Hanold expressed his opinion Townley Field does need help, and this is one option. Commissioner Hanold noted Commissioner Kenyon is doing his due diligence and gathering information on the synthetic turf product. As for funding, Commissioner Hanold noted the Park Board has different options that could be explored as well.

Commissioner Higgins said Commissioner Kenyon had the best interest of the kids at heart in suggesting exploring this project.

Commissioner Hanold said the Board not doing something about Townley Field could be deemed by some to be irresponsible.

Marti Niemann asked about the extended play time with Field Turf. Commissioner Kenyon noted a new synthetic field would allow for maybe another hour and a half in the evening. He said the lights are not meant to offend anyone. Commissioner Kenyon also noted he did not support the Park District leasing the field out to other towns.

Kevin Flannery said it is stated in the minutes that the Park District could lease the field to Winnetka. Commissioner Kenyon said we could, but leasing out the fields is not intended.

Eileen Madigan noted this may be your intent, but what about future Park Boards. Ms. Madigan expressed concern future Park Boards could change this and noted any prohibition against leasing the fields should be done in writing.

Rachel Noel said public funds to improve Townley Field seem more above board than the private donation route.

Ed Chestnut of 133 Kenilworth Avenue said he thought it was incredibly generous and philanthropic of the group of donors. Mr. Chestnut noted it is a very generous gift to the Village and residents should be thankful.

Rachel Noel said she did appreciate the donation, but was concerned about the process and what may happen in 10, 20 or 30 years.

Katie Sutter of 333 Richmond Road said the Park Board should explore all options.

Brett McGinnis of 136 Tudor Place reiterated that there have been no decisions made on the pursuit of the redevelopment of Townley Field.

Eileen Madigan asked who entered into the contract with the landscape architect. Commissioner Higgins said the donor group did the contract. Ms. Madigan asked if the plans are completed. Commissioner Kenyon said not yet. Ms. Madigan said then they go to the MWRD. Commissioner Kenyon said first they go to Village engineers, then to the MWRD.

President Feeney said there will be a community meeting on April 2, 2008. Secretary Burke noted the location of the meeting would be determined at a later day, but the meeting may be held at the Village House. Commissioner Higgins suggested the Sears School Auditorium would be a better location.

Ed Chrabaszcz of 523 Cumnor Road asked if the landscape architect had looked at a number of products. Commissioner Kenyon said the landscape architect working on the project has only looked at Field Turf. Mr. Chrabaszcz asked for the name of the company that sells Field Turf. Commissioner Kenyon said the company's name is Field Turf.

Leslie Holling of 515 Essex Road asked if the architect would be coming to the April 2nd meeting and if he could explain drainage. Commissioner Kenyon said the landscape architect has hired an engineer to deal with the drainage. Ms. Holling asked if the drainage scheme being proposed for the synthetic turf could work with a natural grass field.

Kevin Flannery asked about a traffic study. Commissioner Kenyon asked Secretary Burke if the Park District had the capability to do a traffic study. Secretary Burke said the Park District would need to hire an outside firm to complete a traffic study.

President Feeney said this is a preliminary meeting and we are bringing out the information we have. President Feeney noted discussions of traffic studies may be putting the cart before the horse.

Kevin Flannery said a lighting and a traffic study need to be done.

A discussion regarding the traffic impact of the proposed synthetic turf installation followed.

Commissioner Peterson pointed out that there is limited access to this field.

The issue of the fence along Cumnor came up, and Brett McGinnis said a fence is not required. Commissioner Higgins noted she believe the fence was being proposed as a safety issue.

Commissioner Kenyon said the whole area will not be fenced, and explained the purpose of a fence surrounding the field was to protect the Park District's investment.

A resident asked if the investor group had only looked at Field Turf. Commissioner Kenyon said the group is open to other options.

Brett McGinnis asked if Board members had seen the emails.

Kevin Flannery said the Park Board should reach out to the residents and noted communication goes both ways. Brett McGinnis asked Mr. Flannery what would have changed had he known about this issue earlier.

Kristin Casas said Commissioner Kenyon and the donor group have good intentions. She said the group first wants to find out if this is even feasible, and expressed her opinion the misinformation going around is disappointing.

Commissioner Higgins said the Board does not even know if this is possible.

At this point, the Park Board moved on to other issues on the agenda.

Commissioner Higgins reported that she will have the basketball trophies next week.

Secretary Burke reported that applications for summer camp were distributed.

Commissioner Higgins said she was putting in a good word for Betsy Johnson (Mary Johnson's daughter) to work in the office for the summer camp.

Superintendent Maggi said it was a strange skating season although it ended up that there were 21 days of skating. He said he and his crew learned more about the rink liner as they used it and it should be better next year. He also reported that the school had only used the rink 1 or 2 days because it was so cold.

Secretary Burke asked if the Board wanted staff to send out a postcard announcing the community meeting about Field Turf.

Commissioner Peterson asked if the Board should discuss the verbiage for the County Clerk's office to get the matter on the ballot. It was the consensus of the Park Board that discussing the referendum language may be premature at this time. Secretary Burke noted the Board still has time to get a referendum question on a November ballot. Commissioner Peterson said the public does not understand the issue, and Secretary Burke noted the postcard communicating the upcoming public meetings will be an opportunity to explain the issue to residents.

Commissioner Higgins asked where the Board should hold the meeting. Secretary Burke said it would be more of an open house. Commissioner Kenyon said the guys from the Field Turf company would be on hand to answer questions.

Commissioner Higgins asked how the Board gets to referendum. Secretary Burke said the Board has to pass a resolution with the referendum questions verbiage and forward the resolution to the County Clerk. He said President Feeney is right in that there is plenty of time to pass the appropriate resolution for a referendum question. President Feeney, noted the

project may be determined to not be feasible, so the Board should wait on discussing the referendum question until more information is known.

There was general discussion of how to set up the community meeting and the location. The Board decided to hold their monthly meeting before the community meeting and call it a special meeting because it will be on a different day from their regular meetings.

President Feeney made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried, and the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cole