

DRAFT
MINUTES
AVON HIGH SCHOOL SYNTHETIC FIELD PROJECT SUBCOMMITTEE
AVON ROOM TOWN HALL BLDG. 1
August 16, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 AM by Chairman Peter Ponziani in the Avon Room, Town Hall Building 1. Subcommittee members present: Chairman Peter Ponziani, David Jadovich, Todd Donovan, David Magrini, Sara Roberson, Dan Neagle and alternate member Kelly Jackson. Staff members present: Town Manager Brandon Robertson, Assistant to the Town Manager Grace Tiezzi, High School Coordinator of Athletics and Student Activities Timothy Filon, Director of Operations Myles Altimus and Recreation & Parks Director Ruth Checko. BSC Group's representative present: Manager of Landscape Architecture Eric Roise.

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING – June 27, 2016

Chairman Ponziani began the meeting by stating that the first order of business is the minutes from the June 27, 2016 meeting which were not approved first time around. They've been transcribed virtually verbatim at considerable cost to the town. He asked if those had been reviewed and if there were any changes or exceptions to those minutes. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Neagle made the motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Roberson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Ponziani confirmed that the minutes from the June 27th meeting are now approved. He continued with the minutes from the July 18, 2016 meeting. He asked if there were any changes or modifications to those minutes. He asked for a motion to approve those minutes as recorded. Mr. Jadovich made the motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Magrini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Ponziani confirmed that the minutes from the July 18th meeting are now approved.

As we have been doing in the past, we're going to take the agenda out of order. Our primary purpose for today's meeting is to deal with programming and operations for the field. Ruth has prepared a presentation for the committee. At this point, I'm going to turn the meeting over to Ruth.

Ms. Checko started with the last thing for the subcommittee to do is to make a recommendation regarding programming and operations and then approve the statement of needs. In order to help the subcommittee fulfill these last two charges, Tim and Myles and Brandon and Grace and I have done a lot of research and a lot of brainstorming. Our recommendation is based on that research of existing facilities in town that are lighted and some comparisons from surrounding towns with synthetic turf fields. We included a table in your packet that outlined the other towns' policies. As you saw, they were pretty unique to each community. We also problem solved many scenarios in order to create a recommendation that would not be too restrictive, but that would also be reasonable and equitable based on the statement of needs. Tim and I have met and we've written

out every possible scenario – what might take place, what we want to take place, what we don't want to take place. We really wanted to create a baseline for you to approve or recommend that Tim could live with as well. This is not just something that was created in isolation. #5 of your charge is to approve the cost, the final proposal and the statement of needs per Town Council policy. That Statement of Needs was presented to this subcommittee at our very first meeting but there was no discussion about changing or amending. We haven't done a thing about it. It was drafted by BSC Group. It was also in your packet. We're recommending it gets approved as is. We think it functions the way that we need it to.

As far as lighted facility policies, as Grace outlined in her letter, in the Town of Avon, we have Sperry Park and Avon Middle School. Sperry Park lights were addressed by the Recreation and Parks Committee. The Director at the time, Glenn Marston, made a recommendation to the Committee and they approved a change to the regulations instead of changing an ordinance, which would have required a public hearing. The guidelines for the Avon Tennis Court lights were done at a staff level based on our history of Sperry Park and what we thought should happen over there. That was done in the form of a memo from me to Brandon Robertson. Our recommendation for Avon High School synthetic turf field with lights is significantly less than both of these sites currently are. I can honestly say having been here 2 years now and having some of the history from Glenn Marston, we have had no complaints from Sperry or the Avon Middle School. Both have residential areas. Both had some concerns in the beginning when the project was initially discussed.

Mr. Ponziani added that he was on the Little League Board at the time. Dave was also. We went through the same process. There were a number of complaints from residents. We took their complaints into consideration when the lighting system was developed as well as the usage system. I remained on the board another 2 years after the lights went in and I can't recall ever getting a single complaint from the neighbors. It was a successful project.

Ms. Checko continued from 2002 from when the Sperry lights were installed to 2016, the technology has changed dramatically. In Sperry or Avon, there were no additional buffers added to either facility to mitigate any of the concerns.

We started with Board of Ed's own policies – 1330 and 7020. That policy provides guidelines for public use of Board of Ed buildings and grounds. We looked at the language that was in place and we looked at what would work for this project and what might need to be amended. For Community use, most of it is booked through my department and we follow the Board of Ed Guidelines.

We looked at existing categories for Board of Ed use. School sports are not in any of the categories. It starts with Category I – Town of Avon Volunteer Organizations – Park and Rec is in there, and Category II – Religious and Not-for-profit Organizations. There are two additional categories. They are Non-Resident, Not-for-profit and Commercial and Business. We have decided that those two categories would not be in the categories that would be permitted to use the synthetic fields. The first two would be.

Mr. Ponziani asked what an example of Category II would be. Mr. Altimus replied that St. Ann's rents the Middle School for their education (CCD). Another not-for-profit would be Relay for Life.

Ms. Checko continued with what we're proposing is taking these two categories plus the Avon High School and creating three user groups with two sets of guidelines. The proposed user groups are User Group A which is Avon High School events. User B is everyone in Category I and User C is out of Category II. Avon High School events were looked at very closely. We didn't want to eliminate anything that could take place beyond sports – graduation or pep rallies. In User Group B and C, we felt everything fit and the language was in place.

Mr. Magrini asked where youth sports would be and Ms. Checko replied in Group B. It would be booked through Park and Rec for the most part like it is right now.

Ms. Checko continued for User Group A – High School events, games, Spirit Week practices, they would be allowed to use the synthetic field for lighted events until 5:00 PM. We are proposing that they are allowed to have up to 15 lighted events, Monday – Saturday, during the Academic Year. Events and use of the PA system would have to end by 9:30 PM. The lights would have to be off by 10:00 PM for safe exiting and clean up. We're also asking for you to consider providing an additional 4 lighted games a year in the event that more than one or two Varsity sports make the playoffs. If the Soccer Girls, Soccer Boys and Football teams make the playoffs, they will all want to have potentially one lighted home game. The chances of that happening are gonna be how well Tim does his job.

Ms. Roberson asked if Ms. Checko was saying 15 lighted events for the whole year (January 1 – December 31). Ms. Checko responded Academic Year – end of August to end of June.

Ms. Roberson asked what you're proposing is 15 lighted events. When the lights go on, that counts as a lighted event? If the lights go on for 15 minutes of practice that counts as one of the 15 lighted events? Mr. Neagle responded that he thinks it has to be a game.

Mr. Magrini added that we should talk about events vs. practice. My opinion is that practice shouldn't count as an event. To me it's more about a 1,000 people being there and it's an event. The only reason that we should talk about practices is because you have March and November, when the time changes. Those aren't times where you'd have lights on past 6:00, just 4:00 – 5:30.

Mr. Ponziani added that you wouldn't be using the PA system.

Ms. Checko added that her experience with athletic lighting in a very dark complex was that they needed them to start coming on for youth practices the last week of September. You were losing just enough daylight that when they were firing up just the way you needed them to, then they had the accurate lighting. Practicing would definitely be something that Tim would want you to consider.

Mr. Filon replied that at the High School level, you're pretty much talking November. If it's a state thing, you can't cram everybody in there. Most of the teams right now if they practice for

states, they practice right after school. The games, if they qualify, football has to be at night. Soccer and field hockey they're your choice. They're early in the first 2 rounds.

Ms. Checko continued that the detail for the high school would be up to 19 lighted events per academic year subject to the following: 4-5 lighted football games, 5 nights of Spirit Week, 4-5 varsity home games for the other sports. This would give us up to 4 extra games in the event we have multiple teams in the playoffs.

The 9:30 end time works for Tim for football with an earlier kickoff. It provides Spirit week games, which usually end at 8:30. It provides the other Varsity sports the opportunity to play lighted games. Tim, we're anticipating that JV and Freshman would still play on their current fields. Correct?

Mr. Filon responded that they would still play on the turf, but it would be 3:45 games.

Mr. Donovan asked if they had a PA system. They don't even use a scoreboard for their JV games.

Mr. Filon answered Spirit Week – 4 nights – 2 soccer, field hockey and football. One use for four of those nights.

Mr. Donovan asked Ruth, in your assessment of lights on, did you take into consideration residents using the track after work in those end of October/November time frames?

Ms. Checko answered no. Not with this lighting. Eric could probably address if the pedestrian lighting would be adequate for them.

Mr. Donovan said he didn't think we have pedestrian lighting on top of the poles. Ms. Roberson answered we do. I walk there at night.

Mr. Donovan asked if there's lighting there now to use the track. Ms. Roberson answered yes. It's nice. It's dim.

Mr. Donovan asked if we need blazing lights and Ms. Roberson answered we don't need blazing lights.

Mr. Roise added that they would mount a smaller light system halfway down the light pole. It's a lower light level for the track for walkers.

Mr. Magrini stated that he had a question. I was doing some math and I was coming up with 24 nights. If each had the opportunity to play four games at night – 4 football, boys and girls soccer is another 8, that's 12. Field hockey is another 4, that's 16. Boys and girls lacrosse, would be another 8. Ms. Checko stated that we thought lacrosse wouldn't need the lights. Mr. Filon added they would play on the turf. In talking with the coaches, they would play Senior night, one game, two tops.

Mr. Donovan asked if the lights would need to be on for them in the Spring. Mr. Filon responded in the Spring, we wouldn't need it. Unless they played later on.

Mr. Magrini added that we played half a dozen lacrosse games at night this year. They started at 6:00/7:00.

Mr. Filon added that soccer would probably use the facility. The majority of the games would be at 3:45. The way I discussed it in talking with other AD's and the way they've worked it is they've done senior days because everybody has their ordinances. In talking with the Coaches, they don't want to play every single game at night so we'll pick and choose. It will be very limited to the night games.

Mr. Magrini clarified that we're talking up to.

Ms. Checko asked if Tim was thinking of increasing the 4-5 home games? Mr. Filon's response was INAUDIBLE.

Mr. Magrini said that roughly you have 8 home games for all those sports, except Football which has 5. The opportunity to play half of those... I doubt they probably would, but we're talking about policy.

Ms. Checko added that we don't want to be too restrictive.

Mr. Ponziani asked if lacrosse, soccer and field hockey use the PA system. Mr. Filon answered yes. Field hockey in some schools don't. Lacrosse would. Soccer...it's up to what we decide. Usually the only time you would use the PA is the announcement of the starting lineups and the goals.

Mr. Magrini asked a question. If football plays 3 home night lighted games, do they lose the other games that you have in there? We're saying 4-5 lighted football games. If they play 3 lighted games, what happens to the other 2 that were accounted for? Do they disappear or do you assign them somewhere else?

Mr. Jadovich responded that he thinks the objective is the total number of lighted games at the end of the year. Not 4 football, 4...

Ms. Roberson added so you're answering his question this way if I may. You're saying Dan, those games will be used somehow, some way, by some team.

Mr. Jadovich responded could be. If falls under Ruth's suggested limits.

Mr. Neagle said so really the 19 that they're talking about is really distributed however they want to use them.

Mr. Jadovich added that he thinks that's fair.

Mr. Neagle responded it's open ended. It's 19. It's not 4 or 5 and then 5 and then 4.

Mr. Donovan replied that they're just breaking it out how they came up with that number.

Ms. Checko continued User Group B which is all of the Recreation groups and leagues who are generally permitted through the Recreation Department – lacrosse, flag football, youth soccer and Avon High School teams would be able to practice within this. We're recommending that the events and the use of the PA would end by 7:30. Lights must be off by 7:45 for safe exit and clean up. We anticipate a 4-6 week impact in the fall for community sports. Spring we anticipate a 4 week impact with the lights turning on progressively later because of Daylight Savings Time. I don't anticipate use of the PA with this type of use, but I didn't want to exclude it. The reason in part is because User Group C is going to follow the same guidelines as User Group B. They may want to hold an event where they may want to use the PA. That's one of the reasons we left it in there.

For User Group B, it's currently Avon Youth Lacrosse girls for practices. That wouldn't change. The biggest change that I see for community use would be flag football league and soccer practices if needed. Starting the last week of September there'd probably be 4 weeks of lights. In addition to the last week of September, October would be lit and probably the first week of November. The exception to that is Tim's football games and Thanksgiving traditional game if they go into the playoff.

Ms. Roberson asked what are your restrictions on this for lights? Ms. Checko responded for Community Use, 7:30. Ms. Roberson asked how many days? Ms. Checko responded Monday through Friday. Ms. Roberson asked 52 weeks? Ms. Checko responded Monday through Friday. Ms. Roberson asked 52 weeks? Ms. Checko responded Monday through Friday.

Mr. Ponziani added that it's not going to be 52 weeks. Ms. Checko confirmed. We don't have league practices.

Ms. Roberson added what I'm just saying is Monday through Saturday. It's what you have up here. There's no restriction on the number of weeks. Monday through Saturday. There's 52 weeks in a year. There's nothing that censors it. You're saying 19 lights, Monday through Saturday, 52 weeks. That's what you're proposing here.

Ms. Checko replied for community use it's different than Tim's use. Tim follows two very specific time frames that he has to get things in. Just by the nature of the sports that he and I both run, we're not there in the summer and we're not there in January, February or early March.

Ms. Roberson asked if she called Ruth up in the summer and wanted to use this I could, based on this criteria. Ms. Checko answered yes, but there's daylight savings time in the summer and the lights would have to be off by 7:30.

Ms. Roberson added, but if I wanted to I could. This is what you're proposing. If I called a volunteer organization, I could call you and say to you Ruth, I'd love to use the field...

Ms. Checko responded that she would say you could use the field, but we're not turning on the lights.

Ms. Roberson asked so you can't turn on the lights. Ms. Checko responded, after 7:30 no.

Mr. Ponziani added that it's no different than it works now without the lights.

Ms. Roberson asked and the PA system you're proposing here, they can use the PA system until 7:30.

Ms. Checko confirmed yes.

Mr. Magrini asked how many of those kind of events do you get now. Ms. Checko asked with PA or use? Mr. Magrini responded both. Ms. Checko answered 575 at the high school with lacrosse and Tim's teams on the main field. Our spreadsheet goes on and on. We get Soccer Club's schedule, Flag Football's schedule, lacrosse's schedule, baseball's schedule. It's got to be in the 1,000.

Mr. Donovan asked those are for in general use, not just the High School. Ms. Checko confirmed. Mr. Donovan asked about the high school and Ms. Checko answered that currently she does not book the high school. Lacrosse does that on their own. But I do know that they have about 25 girls that play. They're there two hours most nights during the week and part of Saturday if they need to make up a game.

Ms. Jackson asked if they use the small field, for the girls. She asked if the Avon Youth Lacrosse League, not the High School lacrosse, used the small field. Mr. Donovan responded that they use both. Ms. Checko said that a very small field hockey league plays on Sunday afternoons.

Mr. Donovan asked if the town usage of the high school fields right now...

Ms. Checko answered that it's minimal.

Mr. Donovan asked if we could see increased usage, more in the daytime, than the weekends. Ms. Checko answered yes, in the fall too. Mr. Donovan added with a surface that's conducive to additional use.

Ms. Checko added as far as usage in the fall for Community sports, what I anticipate is Flag Football and some soccer practices. But I can't put flag football games there because they need the little flag football grid. So they would stay, play their games at the Middle School for now on Sunday afternoons. But they could definitely use the main field for practicing in addition to the Middle School.

User Group C would be the Religious and not-for-profit. They would be able to schedule through Myles' office around A and B, as space allows. There will be charges assessed per the Board of Ed policies. Scheduling is handled by Myles. He would determine appropriate use and

availability. Events, lighting and PA guidelines would follow User Group B which is 7:30 for events and lights and 7:45 for hard shut off.

Mr. Donovan asked as an organization if they come to you and say we'd like to have Tuesday nights from 5:00 – 7:30, you really don't care how they break that up. It's just that Avon Soccer has between 5:00 – 7:30 on Tuesday nights on the turf field.

Ms. Checko answered that we would blanket apply to Board of Ed. We want your main field Monday – Friday, 5:00 – 7:30. From there, Usha and I say you can have this. Soccer you can have this. What you do with it in that time is up to you. There's some juggling that has to be done among the sports. If we extended the lights to 8:00 PM, that provides for 4 longer practices which is more practical for the older kids. An additional ½ hour of lights meaning the lights go off at 8:00 for practice and 8:15 for safe entry/safe exit. This way I could get 10 practices an evening and split the field in a slightly different way in the evening for the older kids.

Operations...so a lot of this already in place. We're just fine tuning it for the high school in case we do get the synthetic turf field. The regular users have a port-a-potty available to them. It's cleaned, ordered and managed by the Recreation Department. Trash barrels to be emptied by the custodian. There's probably one or two out there – not a lot. For larger events, the Board of Ed and the Recreation Department can require additional port-a-potties, dumpsters, traffic plan that Myles would have to look at and perhaps the Chief of Police. Custodial fees would be applicable, as per the policy.

We heard a lot about the scoreboard here. So, as with the other fields, my groups don't use the scoreboard. They're there for the high school students. So we're recommending that the high school student athletes have exclusive use of the scoreboards. Myles would hand out a policy on the do's and don'ts.

As far as the press box, which is not in the base bid, it's an option. The PA is in the base bid. That would require a custodian on duty. We really want these groups to use the PA. It will be spec'd. It is not a blasting system that will disrupt the neighbors. It only made sense to prohibit them from brining in their own systems.

These are your last two charges. To assess and make recommendations on the programming, operations, and utilization, hours of operation, and impact on the residents will be considered.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Ponziani asked if there were questions from the committee members. Ms. Roberson said I'll start. Ruth, when was the last time the Sperry neighbors were asked about the lights. Ms. Checko answered I have never asked them. Ms. Roberson asked so nobody has ever asked them directly from Parks and Rec how they feel. Ms. Checko answered I have not.

Ms. Roberson asked so nobody's asked the Avon Middle School neighbors, that you're aware of either? Ms. Checko confirmed.

Ms. Roberson asked am I correct that Farmington, Simsbury and Glastonbury only have 14 nights of lights per this information. Those schools only have 14 max for the whole year. Correct? So, looking at what other schools are doing. Was that taken into consideration at all? They don't consider practices at nights under the lights. We didn't think about that?

Mr. Filon answered that Farmington is going to be a little skewed. They use Tunxis for baseball and soccer. They only really use the football fields. Most of their night stuff is already done at Tunxis so they didn't include some of the things that we've included.

Ms. Roberson asked but at the High School, it's only 14, according to what Grace did. So it's 14 at our neighbor Farmington, it's 14 at our neighbor Simsbury and it's 14 at our neighbor Glastonbury.

Ms. Jackson added to Coach Filon's point. I know that both Simsbury and Farmington have lit soccer fields and other field usage. Avon does not. So, with Tunxis and Memorial, they have lit soccer. They have all their soccer games under the lights there. So, that would be four, or whatever.

Ms. Roberson added but we're talking about the High School. I'm basing this on what Grace, you did. At the high school, in our neighboring areas, there's only 14 games in a year. I just want to go on record with that.

Ms. Tiezzi added that is only games. They do practice under the lights. Ms. Roberson asked how many times do they practice. Ms. Tiezzi responded that I am not sure about. Based on their policies, I imagine during the week.

Ms. Roberson added, Ruth, I remember, earlier, I was looking back through my notes. You had said other groups, we would not charge them. But now it's looking like we're saying we would charge.

Ms. Checko replied under the policies for Board of Ed, there would be fees incurred for that 3rd group.

Mr. Altimus added that the fees for Category 2 are custodial fees and facility fees. There's no charge for a field. Unless there's a press box, or lights, once the final package is in. The only thing we'd charge category 2, would be if there had to be a custodian present. The same thing with category 1, its custodial overtime is the only thing that's charged to them. If they don't require a custodian, for whatever reason, then there really wouldn't be any charge. The way the policy is written there are some additional charges for category 2.

Ms. Roberson asked so you're not going to require a custodian to be on site for the events? The only events you would require a custodian is for the High School?

Mr. Altimus responded. No, it would depend if there's a press box and we have to open up. If they're just using the field, there really isn't a need for a custodian. If they have a big event, we

may have to look at it. But under normal use now, when everybody uses the fields, there's no charges for the facility or the field itself. Custodians are usually not there.

Ms. Roberson said ok. If someone brings in their own system....what's the consequence of that? Do they never get to play there again? You've got to make it pretty restrictive so they understand the consequence of their actions.

Mr. Altimus responded that our policy allows...if people don't follow our policy and policy allows us to...

Ms. Roberson finished restrict their play ever again.

We're just talking now operations. We haven't even gotten into consequences. Is that something we're going to address here as well? What's the consequence if the light doesn't go off? Is that under operations as well? Are we talking about that now.

Mr. Ponziani answered that I don't know that we're going to necessarily address that at this point. I think if there's a problem, you make a complaint and it gets dealt with. If it's not dealt with appropriately than we'll deal with it again.

Ms. Roberson said that I'd like to go on record that as with any policy and procedure, I think you have to have consequences in place. In my opinion, that's too broad. People will...

Ms. Checko answered that Myles just told you that he has the right to restrict their use in the future.

Ms. Roberson asked can we say their right will be restricted? We need something that to have a right or it could happen or this could happen is different than here's the consequence of the action.

Mr. Ponziani responded here's the problem. You can't legislate everything. We can talk about what's happened in town and prior experiences which I think is a good way to look at it. We haven't had those issues at the little league field. We haven't had those issues with the tennis courts. So, let's see what happens.

Ms. Checko added Sarah, just like the tennis courts, there will be a hard shut off time where they go off whether you're still on the field or not.

Ms. Roberson added, I guess I'm talking more about the PA systems. Ms. Checko responded the PA system, I thought we just addressed. They have to use ours, they cannot bring their own in. It is prohibited. Myles has the right to restrict their use the next time if they go against any of our rules.

Ms. Roberson asked so there'll be a clear policies and procedures all mapped out. Ms. Checko responded that was the handout that was outlined. Myles will have, what will you call it?

Mr. Altimus answered we'll incorporate the specifics for field into the board policy. I'll make that recommendation to the Board of Ed. I don't see why they wouldn't incorporate it. Then we'll

have...right now we post the rules on the basketball courts, we can't do that down there. We have a procedure when somebody applies, we do hand them a handout for emergencies. We'll hand them rules. Do not bring your own PA system. Everything that we're talking about here to enforce what the policy is that's agreed upon by the Council incorporating the Board policy. We would make it very clear to them as they come up. It would be on our website with rules and regulations when they applied to it. They would get a copy of them, a cheat sheet. Violations of it – again, that would be dealt with as we do now. How serious is it? That would have to be dealt with on a case by case basis. Things happen. For the most part, our citizens pretty much obey the rules that we've given them for Board of Ed use. I don't get the feedback from the custodians. Every once in a while somebody brings in something they're not supposed to. They pretty much follow the rules once you make it clear to them. That's been my experience.

Ms. Roberson added Peter to your point...the only thing I'd like to interject is that we're talking about things that aren't even in place yet. This is something new and exciting. This is something new that people are going to want to use. With the greatest deal of respect, I respect that we haven't had these issues, but we haven't a turf field. We haven't had lights. I'm saying we need to be looking ahead to what the potential benefits and consequences are of people not following the rules. We have to be thinking ahead.

Mr. Ponziani responded we didn't have lights at the little league field. We didn't have lights at the tennis courts. It's the same situation.

Mr. Roberson said this is a brand new turf. Everybody wants to play on it. This is totally different. This is new and exciting. It's a turf field. We've never had in the town. We don't have turf at Sperry. We don't have turf on the tennis courts. We don't have the PA. We, as neighbors, we have to be thinking about these things. Things will happen.

Mr. Neagle said you can't compare Avon High School to Sperry Park or the tennis courts at Avon Middle School. Not even close – the acreage, usage, PA systems, intended use, bands, bleachers, visitors. Not even remotely close to being the same. The football field at the high school has the opportunity to seat 750 – 1,000 people. How many people can you seat at the tennis courts at the middle school? Not the same. There were buffers added at the middle school. There's the line of trees along the tennis courts that separates it from the stores over there. This is déjà vu all over again. 6 or 8 years ago when they were debating this topic and people talked to the surrounding neighbors about the fields and the lights, there was a consensus of okay, let's do it. Let's be reasonable. As I've said before, it's not what's reasonable that people are worried about. It's the unreasonable. 6 or 8 years ago it went from we're going to light it 10 to 12 nights a year. It evolved into unlimited night usage. Guess what, we're right back to where we were 8 years ago. It's the same situation. It's the same kind of thing that's going to make the neighbors nervous about this. Things don't generally roll back, they roll forward.

Mr. Ponziani asked why do you say it's unlimited usage? Mr. Neagle responded because you have two categories that have access to the field 5 or 6 days a week with lights. The field usage aspect I don't think really bothers anybody. It's the usage with the lights and the PA system that are really the things that the neighbors are worried about. Even in this meeting, the meetings that we've had, I understand that there was no motion, it wasn't voted on, it was maybe a loose

conversation, we were talking 10/12 nights, cup games. Now we're unlimited and we're 19. I sit back and say was I not attending these same meetings? I find it...I feel like we're going back in time. I feel like it's too much to ask of the neighbors to have unlimited lighted access to the fields.

Ms. Roberson added we concur on Sudbury Way. To Dan's point, we talked about 4 football games, 1 lacrosse, 1 soccer. We talked about 5 for Spirit Week. I said, oh that's 11. You said, we're favorable to 12 nights in a year. You said...we all shook our heads. That was way back when. To Dan's point... I just said it's 52 weeks. You said Monday through Saturday. I said 52 weeks. To Dan's point, we're feeling the same. We were all talking 12 nights a year, plus 3 contingencies for cup games, up to 15 in a year, January – December. To Dan's point, we're trying to be reasonable too, but it's the unreasonable we keep seeing.

Mr. Donovan responded, so if I hear you correctly, your issue is between 15 and 19.

Ms. Roberson said it's between 12.

Mr. Donovan responded no you just said 12 plus 3. It's 15.

Ms. Roberson said 15 total.

Mr. Donovan answered now we're going 16 to 19. We're talking about 4 nights.

Ms. Roberson said I remember when I brought this up to you before, we asked for 3 to 5 years moratorium on it. So that we could work through the pros and cons. You had kindly.

Mr. Donovan said I agree with that. I'm going to take your word. We don't know. We don't know yet. Putting something in today without having any kind of history to draw back on. I think is shortsighted. I agree with that. But, I just don't understand...the field's going to be used. Right? If Ruth is saying at 7:30 the lights are going off, from October 1st to November 30th in the fall. It's 7:30. It's not unlimited usage. The lights will be on until 7:30, unless there's rain. I'm not sure where you're unlimited usage is coming from.

Mr. Neagle answered, well it's unlimited light usage until 7:30 at night. It gets dark at 5:00.

Mr. Donovan answered we're talking October 1st to November 30th.

Mr. Neagle asked where does it say October 1st to November 30th?

Mr. Donovan said you're not being reasonable.

Mr. Neagle said I'm not being reasonable?

Mr. Donovan answered you're saying 52 weeks. It's not going to be 52 weeks. We're talking about Daylight Savings Time and in the Spring when the kids and coaches want to get out on the field. We're only talking 7:30.

Mr. Neagle said I'm being unreasonable. I live across the street. I'm being unreasonable because whether or not I agree or don't agree. I have a whole contingent of neighbors and people in my neighborhood that are equally concerned about the lights and the PA system, because it's the lights and PA system.

Mr. Donovan said we're not talking about the PA system.

Mr. Neagle answered it says the PA system is unlimited use, Monday – Saturday.

Mr. Donovan answered no it's not. We're talking about events.

Ms. Checko said part of the reason that we came to our recommendation that we did is because this subcommittee passionately fought for extending that buffer to mitigate the negative impacts on the neighbors. With that said, we also mitigate light spill with new technology. We mitigated sound with a new PA system. From our perspective, that enabled us to program at this site in ways that is reasonable. The other thing is that we considered all along, this has to go to referendum. There's only 5% of Avon residents that are athletes at the high school. The Community is going to want to use this. They're going to have to support it at Referendum if it comes to fruition. A lot of things have got to be done at an administrative level. There are regulations and policies and procedures, and just common sense in place to run these. We are professionals. This is what we do for a living. There's got to be some degree of here's the policy, but this is how we're going to operate.

Mr. Neagle asked so the PA systems must end by 7:30 every night, correct?

Ms. Checko began I don't anticipate...

Mr. Neagle said I don't know what you anticipate Ruth. I know what your proposed use for category B is. By virtue of the fact that we were adamant about the buffering between Sudbury and West Avon Road, that in your mind means now we can use the PA system every night because we're going to put a buffer in. I don't read it that way. I think that's unreasonable. I'm not saying...I don't anticipate that would happen, but the opportunity for it to happen every night exists.

Mr. Magrini added that's also not going to be practical. When was the last time a PA system got used for a high school football practice?

Mr. Neagle responded, it's not football practice Dave. It's youth lacrosse. They will use it if they have access to it.

Mr. Magrini said we can argue about this all the time guys. I agree 100% with Ruth. There's policies that lay out parameters. Then there's the practical application of that. Write in a sentence into the policy. Draft the language Sara that says youth soccer cannot use the PA system. Don't restrict this thing. Let's not spend \$3.1 million and have this beautiful facility that no one can freakin' use.

Ms. Roberson asked how are you not going to be able to use it?

Mr. Magrini answered don't make it so restrictive that it doesn't get used. The whole point here is to improve the community. We all agree with.

Mr. Jadovich said, you mentioned our surrounding towns Sara. They looked at West Hartford. It looks to me that they have up to 52 night games during the year where they can use the field. But, they have a great layout of how they use their sounds and their lights. You should look into that as well. They mentioned no PA systems for practices.

Mr. Magrini said let's say that. They can't do that. That's fine. That's easy.

Mr. Jadovich said I think you should look at the West Hartford layout and how they use the PA system and their lights, and the amount of games they have at night. They have actually 52 games, they are allotted at night. I don't know if you've been to Conard or Hall. They're in residential areas. They wouldn't allow this many if it was a problem.

Mr. Neagle responded Hall and Conrad are...their fields are...our neighborhoods are a lot closer.

Mr. Jadovich responded not Conard.

Mr. Neagle said oh in the end zone. You're correct.

Mr. Jadovich said they're probably a lot worse than you. Go look at the fields. Look at the presentations. I think you'll see a big, big difference. It's something you can probably incorporate.

Ms. Roberson said I just want to go on record if you have a turf field, it's gonna get used. We're not restricting the use. We've all agreed with that, the neighbors, with the turf. That's never been an issue. Our neighbors, our community is going to be able to use the field. Once it gets turfed, it's going to be used. That field can be used with or without lights, correct? It's going to be used. We're not restricting the use by talking about having a reasonable plan of action without lights. We can use those fields without a PA system, correct? So I guess what we're asking on a reasonable sense...Ruth I know you've done a lot of work. We agree with Dan. Just because the buffering was put back in, where it was originally in, then it was taken out, then it was put back in. I don't believe anybody on the committee thought that meant all of a sudden that changed, maybe I'm wrong. None of us walked out of here going now we can add all these other nights and lights. We've been talking 12 nights plus the 3 for a total of 15 in a calendar year.

Mr. Neagle asked for events or practices?

Ms. Roberson answered the whole thing. You turn it on for a practice...that's what we said.

Mr. Donovan said practices were never...those are events. Reasonable usage, those are games. We're talking about games.

Ms. Roberson answered this is what we're saying. This is what we've said all along.

Mr. Donovan said we have to have some give and take with the neighbors and come up with a reasonable use policy. If you draw a line in the sand, that 12 is 12, there is no flexibility. You have to have some give and take here. Believe me, I only live a mile down the road. I understand your concerns, but we have to...we can't restrict ourselves. Tim is asking for 15 – 16 events. There's flexibility in that. He doesn't mean he's going to use all 16 events, with 3 additional. We're talking 19. 4 additional, that they're asking for flexibility.

Ms. Roberson added so when our neighbors do 14, 14, and 14 and we're asking for 15 total can that be flexibility for 3-5 years? Could we also ask for your flexibility back in saying we understand what you're saying but we're saying 12 nights of lights in a year and 3 contingencies. We're asking you. We hear you. Let's be reasonable. Let's start at 15. Farmington has 14. Simsbury has 14.

Ms. Jackson added Simsbury has 14 only in the fall.

Ms. Roberson said it said total.

Mr. Donovan said you're not listening to what Simsbury does. Simsbury also has Memorial Field that's lit. You have to look at both policies together to make Simsbury. You have to look at both policies together to make Farmington because they have Tunxis Mead. We only have one facility, they have two. You have to look at both of those combined to see where their use policy is for lights.

Ms. Roberson said I have to look at the Avon High School field. That's all I have to look at.

Mr. Donovan said if you're going to go apples to apples, you have to look at Hall and Conard because they only have one field, their use policies over Simsbury and Farmington. That's all I'm saying. That's where Dave was going with that. We've had conversations. We're taking your needs into consideration with our recommendations.

Mr. Ponziani asked which groups in Category B would be using the PA system?

Ms. Checko responded again I don't anticipate anyone.

Mr. Donovan said, then take it out.

Ms. Checko said then take it out.

Ms. Jackson said I just want to say that if one team in Avon Youth Lacrosse, especially with the boys, hears another team using the PA, every single one will use it. I would take out the use of the PA or by prior written consent. There's always contingencies. It could be a large charitable event like a Relay for Life, under this category. I would just take it out and leave by prior written approval only. It would be case by case only. It would be a unique event.

Ms. Roberson said I thought we said Group C, that would be not for profit, so they can use it.

Ms. Jackson said, then just take it out altogether.

Ms. Roberson confirmed that you said nonprofits were like Relay for Life.

Mr. Altimus answered that would be an example. The fact that we can't drive on the field, or put a lot of stuff on the field, in my opinion, would just restrict it. The fact that you're limited to what you can put on the field, vehicles, heavy stuff, it would restrict Category 1 and 2 to just sports events. I don't see anything else going on. They would have to use another facility.

Mr. Donovan said if you take away use of the PA system, then we take care of that whole thing.

Ms. Checko added same with the scoreboard.

Mr. Magrini asked graduation falls in category A.

Mr. Ponziani answered that's correct. Is everybody on the committee good with that? So we'll make that modification to the proposal?

Ms. Roberson said we're not comfortable with lighted events Monday – Saturday, 52 weeks out of the year.

Mr. Ponziani answered that's fine. We're just talking about that PA system. There will be a vote. Anybody else on the committee have questions or comments?

Mr. Jadovich said, if you're not going to have a PA, will you then allow people to bring in their own?

Mr. Ponziani responded no absolutely not. Nothing else from the committee, then let's open it up to the audience.

IV. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

Chairman Ponziani recognized John Carlson, 28 Sudbury Way. He had one suggestion for both A and B policies, intention not to have Sundays, I'd call it out. That's where you get into fuzziness. No Sunday.

Mr. Ponziani asked if there was anybody else from the audience. Another speaker from the back was recognized.

Mikail Merinov, 517 West Avon Road. He said he has no history with fields prior. He lives very much across from the fields. Both of my boys' bedroom windows look directly out onto the field. Saw something that the lights will be on until 9:30 and the event ending around 10:00. Maybe I'm asking for too much. Anyway that could be 9:00? I don't know how that works.

Mr. Donovan answered it's going to be tough.

Mr. Filon added if the game goes quickly, yes. But you have to clean up. You still need lighting. Usually, you don't start earlier than 6:30.

Ms. Jackson added that the lighting today is extremely concentrated. I think it's the noise that may be more bothersome to your boys. Once you leave the field, it's almost pitch black. It's really concentrated on the field. There's not as much spill as there used to be with the old lighting.

Mr. Merinov replied I guess I'll just have to see. I've attended football games with the lights on there.

Mr. Donovan said please don't look at those football games as your norm because those lights were portable lights that were a lot lower that projected more out, not down. That's not a good representation of what we're trying to propose here.

Mr. Merinov said the other thing I wanted to say was in terms of the number of games. I'll be attending every single one of them basically. To me 15 as a max would be more reasonable for the first few years. Then maybe, if we're all used to it, we could increase it. I heard you guys mention upwards of 24 possibly if every team makes it to the tournaments.

Mr. Magrini clarified the opportunity to have to up to 24.

Mr. Merinov said it's a fairly high number, that's all I'm going to say. Finally, I didn't see it anywhere. Is there any consideration about traffic? That's a one lane road with so many events as a possibility happening and a large number of people attending them. I'm still not sure if there's enough parking spaces or if people will start parking right on West Avon Road, which I've seen. I don't know if anyone's looked into that at all, if that was a consideration?

Mr. Jadovich answered that's one of those things that buffering's going to help. A lot of the time people stop on the side of the road and watch the game as it's going on. If you have buffering, you won't be able to see it.

Mr. Ponziani asked if there was anybody else from the audience. No response. He asked if there was anything else from the committee. No response.

V. ACTION: PROGRAMMING, OPERATIONS AND UTILIZATION OF SITE

What I'd like to do then at this point with the modification that's been made in regards to the PA system, I'd like to put this to a vote. The resolution would be that we would adopt the recommendation for use as presented by Ruth this morning. What we would like to do is adopt the recommendation made by Ruth for the use and operation of the fields as contained in her presentations this morning.

Mr. Magrini asked if the PA system would come off for Group B and C and we'll look at this for three years and have the opportunity to come back. Does that need to be written in? I think that's very reasonable.

Ms. Roberson concurred I think that needs to be written in. It needs to be in writing – a 3 to 5 year moratorium. That this does not increase. We're still saying we'd like to ask for 12 nights under the lights. If the no PA system is written in. We'd like to 3 to 5 year moratorium to be written in. Common sense, I agree with you Ruth, we hope people will follow it. But, we have to be prepared that people won't. Putting in a no Sunday at all, regardless of teams.

Mr. Ponziani said that's not changing the recommendation, that's just adding the language.

Ms. Roberson said on your motion, that would be great to put those things in writing.

Mr. Ponziani said I think we get a little too complicated with regards to the moratorium. My motion is to adopt the presentation as made by Ruth with the exceptions being that it be made explicit that Sundays are out and PA system is out for Groups B and C.

Ms. Roberson asked you don't want to include a 3 to 5 year moratorium? Mr. Ponziani responded, I don't.

Mr. Ponziani asked if there was a second to the motion, Mr. Magrini seconded the motion. All in favor? 4 committee members raised their hands. Opposed? 2 committee members raised their hands. Then the ayes have it.

Mr. Neagle requested that the record show that the adjoining property owners were the opposed votes.

VI. ACTION: STATEMENT OF NEEDS, DATED APRIL 29, 2016

Mr. Ponziani continued I think the last order of business would be to approve the statement of needs. I move that it be accepted as proposed. Could I have a second?

Ms. Roberson said Peter, for the sake of the committee, and since it's in the public domain in writing, I'd like the neighbors would like to make a motion, even though we anticipate that it's going to be voted down, we feel that it's important. Like Dan said, we wanted to go on record that the neighbors were opposing the vote. We'd like to make our own motion. Therefore, it'd be in public domain how we felt about it.

Mr. Ponziani responded I don't see where that's really necessary given your opposition to the motion. It's on the record. Let's finish what we're doing first. Is there a second to that motion – the statement of needs? Mr. Magrini seconded the motion. All in favor? 4 committee members raised their hands. Opposed? 2 committee members raised their hands. Let the record reflect that Dan and Sara have objected.

With regard to your point Sara, I don't think it's necessary. We had the vote. The motion's been passed. Your objection is noted on the record.

Ms. Roberson added, we just as neighbors. It's not Sara Roberson, 24 Sudbury Way. It's Sara Roberson, Sudbury Way neighborhood. You need to be very clear about that in the record. Want to be very clear about that we had proposed all along 12 nights of lights for the whole year, with 3 contingencies for a total of 15. We want to be very clear about that. Again, this is not Sara Roberson. This is Sudbury Way. I was asked by my neighbors and by the town to join this committee as a neighbor. We need to be very clear about the lighting. We're not in favor of the lighting issues – times. We agree with the gentleman from West Avon about a lot of things – the timings, etc. We appreciate the opportunity to have that on the record because nothing's changed from our perspective. We do feel like we're being reasonable. We do feel that the turf will allow for a lot of play. We've asked for some considerations and the fact that the 3 to 5 year moratorium was excluded from the motion when many of the committee members were in favor of it. We want to be on record that that is highly...that is a problem for us. We don't understand talk about reasonable why we couldn't have included a 3 to 5 year moratorium in the motion. That's a problem for us. That could have been easily resolved in this motion. As a neighborhood, we're on the record and we'll go from there.

Mr. Ponziani said thank you. I think that completes the charge of this committee absent any further direction from the Town Council. This committee's work is done at this point. I want to thank all of the committee members for their participation. I want to thank Ruth, Myles, Tim for all the work, Grace, for all the work that they've done. Brandon, for his help. Kurt, for your presentation. For all the members of the community who have attended these meetings. It's been very helpful.

Ms. Checko said, before you adjourn, Eric has a budget that he'd like to hand out that has been updated since the last meeting.

Mr. Roise said so basically since the last time that we met when I did my presentation, I had some prices up on the board. When the resolution went through, we moved some things around. For example we moved the PA system into the base project. We also moved the full buffer, all the buffers and added some buffers into the main project. These prices...the main prices are pretty much the same as you last saw except for the added items to the base bid. This is a lot more detailed than what you've seen previously. I'm sure you're going to need some time to go over it. That's the reason the base bid budget went up.

Mr. Ponziani asked how much did it go up?

Mr. Roise answered it went up by about \$300,000.

Mr. Ponziani asked that includes the PA system and what else?

Mr. Roise answered that includes a \$30,000 allowance for a PA system. That includes a planted buffer all along West Avon Road for the full frontage. That includes a fence, a wood cedar fence and a planted buffer along the Sudbury Road property line for the length of the athletic fields. All the way up to the corner of the soccer fields.

Ms. Roberson asked can you change it to say Sudbury Way instead of just extended South. Since you say West Avon Road, can you say Sudbury Way? Just so it's very clear in case none of us is here. People don't just think it's south. If all of the south buffer could say Sudbury Way.

Mr. Roise said one of the questions from the public was how much was the total. The total base bid budget including contingency and escalation. The total budget is \$3,483,000 for the base project. That does not include the home bleachers, the storage building, game day equipment for the site.

Mr. Neagle asked was the PA system just with the bleachers, or the base bid.

Mr. Donovan answered it's with the base bid. It's under equipment.

Mr. Neagle said if the bleachers go in it's another additional \$30,000.

Mr. Roise said that would come out.

Ms. Jackson said the price would be less with the PA if we get the bleachers approved because they have stations to be on. They wouldn't be separate.

Mr. Roise said it would be about the same because of all the conduit we have to run through the press box.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

VOTE: Mr. Ponziani asked if there was anything else. He asked for a motion to adjourn, Dave Magrini motioned, Todd Donovan seconded. All in favor? Aye. Meeting is adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 AM.

Peter Ponziani, *Chairman*

Usha Srivel, *Clerk*