

DRAFT

MINUTES

AVON HIGH SCHOOL SYNTHETIC FIELD PROJECT SUBCOMMITTEE

AVON ROOM TOWN HALL BLDG. 1

June 27, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 AM by Chairman Peter Ponziani in the Avon Room, Town Hall Building 1. Subcommittee members present: Chairman Peter Ponziani, Todd Donovan, Sara Roberson, Dan Neagle, David Magrini and alternate member Kelly Jackson. Members absent: David Jadovich and Donald Droppo. Staff members present: Assistant to the Town Manager Grace Tiezzi, Director of Operations Myles Altimus and Recreation & Parks Director Ruth Checko. BSC Group's representatives present: Vice President Kurt Prochorena and Landscape Architect Jesse Harris.

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING – June 13, 2016

VOTE: Mr. Donovan motioned, Mr. Neagle seconded and all agreed to accept the June 13th minutes as presented. None opposed.

III. FIELD RENOVATIONS PROGRAMMING DISCUSSION

Mr. Ponziani turned the meeting over to the presenters from BSC Group. Mr. Prochorena noted to use the updated cost estimates contained in the member's meeting packets. He continued that he would talk about the base and alternate costs of the project. He reminded that the purpose of the meeting was to vote on the concept and the next meeting would focus on the detail design phase (design development) of the project, which will also include a set of plans.

Mr. Prochorena referred to the modified rendition of concept A which included two fields. The larger southern field contained 8 lanes with a 10' runout which is great for soccer and gives more flexibility. There are two concrete segmented retaining walls and a new stair system. The design shows a fence along the southeast side which is not included in the project but could be. Mr. Prochorena noted a new vehicle accessible entrance to the field and a roadway which would serve to allow maintenance vehicles to the field or ambulances or portalets. The southern end shows buffering which could be a combination of cedar fencing or plantings. Mr. Neagle noted the absence of buffering on West Avon Road. Mr. Prochorena responded that it was his understanding that the existing vegetation would suffice and did not include it in with the cost estimates. Mr. Neagle noted that it was 100% required. Mr. Prochorena made note of the request and would get into the details in the next phase of the project. He continued with the locations of the field events: shot put to the north, pole vault to the south, long, triple and high jumps to the north, and discus in the main field with javelin off-site. Mr. Harris noted the lacrosse safety netting around the entire perimeter of the field. Mr. Neagle asked if it would impede the view from the bleachers. Mr. Prochorena said no.

Ms. Roberson questioned the new walkway along the south neighborhood side when there wasn't one there now. Mr. Donovan added that it was not needed to provide access to the baseball fields

and that there was access already and handicap access from the top. Mr. Prochorena noted that these were things that could be discussed in the design phase and walkways are fairly inexpensive and not a big ticket item.

Ms. Roberson questioned the 5' fence and could we go higher. Mr. Prochorena said yes and that it could also be placed on top of a berm and there were many options.

Mr. Prochorena continued with the secondary field hockey field which is also available for men's and women's lacrosse. It would use the same turf as the larger field. Ms. Jackson noted that they had discussed using the shorter pile turf for the smaller field which was less expensive and provided better play for field hockey and was also fine for lacrosse. Mr. Prochorena noted that in response to potential issues with rubber from SBR, the shorter pile turf with a resilient pad on both fields was chosen as a better option in case fields would have to be modified. He clarified that the pad would still give the performance. He added that he has been using a coated acrylic rubber which seems to be working well. Mr. Donovan noted that this was going to be used as a practice field and for youth sports. Mr. Neagle offered that it should be striped for the girl's lacrosse for the spring as well and needed netting or a higher fence.

Mr. Prochorena continued with alternates. On the main field are 1) lighting and 2) bleachers. The third alternate is the second north field and 4) lighting there. He continued that the base estimate will include all the conduits and handholes even if the lighting is omitted and done at a later time. The PA system is not included in the base bid. Mr. Prochorena mentioned that the new PA systems are smaller, lower intensity speakers and more numerous. Ms. Jackson asked if he could provide some costs for the systems. Mr. Neagle thinks it should be included in the base bid with the existing bleachers.

Mr. Altimus questioned if there would be an alternate for storage for the new equipment. Mr. Ponziani clarified that storage would be considered with the bleacher discussion where some designs could include room for storage below. Mr. Altimus countered that we were maxed out with storage now. Mr. Prochorena offered that he could work up some numbers and suggested some bring in pre-fab types of storage. Mr. Magrini remarked that it was not an option to omit storage if you're going to add this equipment with no place to store it. Mr. Ponziani asked to check the storage space we have currently. Ms. Roberson noted its location would also be an issue with Planning and Zoning.

Mr. Harris referred to the base cost estimate. Ms. Roberson noted that the fencing cost did not include any for West Avon Road and fencing was very important to all the neighbors. Mr. Harris showed the figure with contingency to be \$2,666,000.00. Mr. Prochorena interjected that the figure did not include the additional buffering, the PA system and the storage. Mr. Ponziani asked if he could guess a figure for the additional requests. Mr. Prochorena estimated the additional buffering to be north of \$89,000.00, the PA system \$40,000.00 - \$50,000.00 and the pre-fab storage to run \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00. Ms. Roberson asked if he included monies for the drainage issues that have come up. Mr. Prochorena said yes. Mr. Neagle questioned \$94,000.00 for geotextile fabric. Mr. Harris said it was used underneath the turf to keep the infill from draining through. Mr. Prochorena said they were using this system as a way to address potential SBR crumb rubber issues. Mr. Donovan commented that the geotextile fabric should be included with the turf pad

figure to avoid confusion. Mr. Prochorena said that with this system savings is made because you are not using as much stone which is very specific and expensive. Mr. Neagle noted that Mr. Roise had mentioned that if the turf had to be removed that the pad would remain, omitting the cost of regrading.

Mr. Harris continued with the costs for the second field hockey/multipurpose field. The total with contingency would be \$1,124,000.00. Ms. Roberson asked about the alternate lighting figure of \$272,000.00. Mr. Harris guessed that it was based on standard pole height of 30'. Ms. Jackson offered that the lighting on that field was overkill and really not necessary. Mr. Neagle suggested omitting the alternates of lighting and buffering for that field in order to make it more palatable for approval. Mr. Magrini would still like the higher fencing there. Mr. Donovan would like to have the conduits included for this field so it wouldn't have to be torn up for adding lighting in the future. Ms. Roberson questioned the pedestrian lighting. Mr. Prochorena said that was included for the alternate bleachers.

Mr. Ponziani asked if there were any questions for the north field. Mr. Neagle requested the field be striped for girl's lacrosse. Mr. Magrini suggested it be striped for both boys and girls.

Mr. Ponziani asked if you could put in a press box without new bleachers. Mr. Prochorena said yes but that it would be fairly involved because of the structural requirements. Mr. Donovan offered that if we didn't do the bleachers that we'd like to put a press box in. Ms. Jackson questioned the cost of relocating the existing bleachers as being expensive. Mr. Prochorena offered to meet on site with the building official to check for code compliance. Mr. Altimus noted that the bleachers are being safety inspected this summer and the potential cost of bringing them up to code would be a cost to consider.

Mr. Magrini questioned the contingencies. Mr. Prochorena responded that the figures were estimates at this point of the design process and will get more defined the later we get into the project.

V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

None.

IV. COMMUNICATION FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Ponziani addressed the members for their thoughts. Mr. Neagle said the most important alternate should be the second field because it would offer more opportunities for more kids. Mr. Magrini agreed and feels we should build the best for the community and that would include everything that has been presented. Ms. Jackson said she agreed too but would omit the lighting on the second field but would want the field to stay. She continued that she'd like to see bleachers with the ability for storage underneath but definitely the north field. Mr. Donovan would like to have the south field with lighting, bleachers and press box and the north field as a package with options to take out items. Ms. Roberson reminded that the walkway along the south field would have to go. She continued that she'd like to include the buffering along West Avon Road and Sudbury Way. She noted the drainage issues with the south field knowing of no issues with the north field. Ms. Roberson continued with the PA system needing to be a part of the base project and not an alternate and shared concerns with the lighting. She agreed for the need of the second

field as an enhancement for the community. Mr. Ponziani reminded that the project started because of the need for more fields and lights give us additional capacity that we don't have and should be included in the base project recommendation.

Mr. Neagle's motion to vote on the base package recommendation to the Town Council would include turfing both fields with alternates for lighting and bleachers for the south field. He added that by having turf it would extend the field play times. Mr. Magrini would like the base package to include both fields with the minimum lighting. Ms. Jackson clarified that the lighting should be included in the recommendation and then wait for their feedback. Mr. Donovan suggested two fields with lights and bleachers and press box as options. Mr. Ponziani suggested adding the costs with the recommendation. Mr. Altimus felt the bleachers were more important than the lights. He conveyed that Mr. Filon would like to have the lights. Mr. Ponziani referred to an email from Mr. Filon requesting the press box as being important for the high school. Ms. Jackson noted that the bleachers would include a press box. Mr. Prochorena concurred that the bleachers with press box was an alternate and could give a price on a separate press box. Ms. Roberson questioned if we recommend the whole package then there are no alternates. Ms. Jackson noted that if we build the field we will lose some bleachers on the other side that would bring down the number of seats to 750. Mr. Ponziani suggested simply main field lights and secondary field.

Mr. Ponziani suggested as a committee recommending everything. Ms. Checko offered to include everything we see with Concept A and make everything we don't see the alternates. Mr. Prochorena offered that costs could be moved around say from alternates to base.

Mr. Ponziani suggested voting on Concept A with both fields and the lights and alternates bleachers and the press box. Mr. Donovan, Mr. Ponziani and Mr. Magrini voted in favor. Ms. Jackson, Mr. Neagle and Ms. Roberson voted no which resulted in a tie vote.

Mr. Neagle motioned to turf the south and north fields without the lights and include bleachers and the press box. The vote resulted in a tie. Ms. Jackson said it comes down to \$350,000.00 for the bleachers or the lighting either way.

Mr. Magrini motioned for the north and south fields, the buffering as the base and alternates being lighting on the south field and bleachers with press box and PA system. Mr. Donovan seconded the motion. Mr. Ponziani interrupted that there were obviously some issues that needed to be addressed before a vote could be taken. He noted that there is an additional meeting July 18th to continue the discussion and hopefully we'll have all the members present for a vote.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

VOTE: Mr. Magrini motioned, Ms. Jackson seconded and all agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:30AM. None opposed.

Peter Ponziani, *Chairman*

Susan Gatcomb, *Clerk*