

Wolter's Field Lights Advisory Committee Annual Report to City Council 2006-2007

The Wolter's Field Light Advisory Committee met four times during the 2006-2007 school year on the following dates; August 23, November 9th, February 8th, and May 10th. The committee members include:

Brigid Ohlwein – Community member
Kevin Fasset - Community member
Ross Deutsch - Community member
Scott Chukerman - Community member
Judy Schmeuser - Community member
Marjie Sandlow – District 113 Board Member
Mary Anderson – City of Highland Park Director of Public Works
Jim Kirsch – City of Highland Park Council Member
Barry Bolek – District 113 Assistant Superintendent of Finance
Paul Shafer – City of Highland Park Police Chief
Bobbie Monroe – Highland Park High School Athletic Director

This years topics of discussion included the addition of an advertising sign to the Wolters Field scoreboard, traffic and parking, renovation of the locker room facility at Wolters Field, and various other small topics.

At the August meeting, the light schedule for 2006-07 was reviewed and the parking plan was discussed. The proposal for the advertising sign on the scoreboard was outlined. The plan is for the scrolling message board to be added to the scoreboard by the end of the football season, upon approval by the City Council. Plans for renovation of the locker room facility were introduced, with a brief discussion.

At the November meeting, fall season feedback was the main topic of discussion. The one major complaint from the fall lighted events was the level of sound coming from the PA system. Before spring events begin, the sound system will be checked. The advertising sign was installed for the last home football game of the season. When the scoreboard is not on, a plain white panel with no advertising will be visible. Supervision of the neighborhood during home games was also an issue, as stations were left unmanned before the end of the games. Next year, the district will pay staff to man the barricades in the neighborhood surrounding Wolters Field. Parking permits will also be reviewed before next fall, especially for the Deerfield/HPHS football game. There is neighborhood concern over two neighbors who declined fencing bordering our property.

In February, the updated spring light schedule was reviewed. Barry Bolek presented a preliminary renovation plan for Wolters Field, including new practice fields, concession stand and new locker rooms facility. Mr. Bolek discussed drainage issues also. He also discussed plans to alter the fields on Vine Avenue and the area north of our tennis courts on campus.

The May meeting was hosted at the Administration Building and the whole neighborhood was invited. An updated renovation plan for Wolters Field was unveiled for the neighbors, including drawings. The consensus of the group was that this is a much needed project. If all approvals are granted, then construction will begin at the end of the 2007 football season. Also, the tentative light schedule for 2007-08 was reviewed. A major concern will be the Deerfield/HPHS home football game in September, 2007. A meeting between the police department and school officials will take place before the game to ensure an efficient plan is in place.

This year the school hosted eighteen regular lighted events and four special events where lights had to be turned on in order to finish a contest. One event went over the time limit of 10:00PM. Adjustments will be made next year to prevent this from happening again.