

WOLTERS FIELD ADVISORY GROUP

MEETING – AUGUST 20, 2009

The members of the Advisory Group present at this meeting were:

Paul Shafer – HP Chief of Police
Barry Bolek – District 113 Administration
Marjie Sandlow – District 113 Board of Education
Bobbie Monroe – Athletic Director, HPHS
Kevin Fassett – Wolters Field neighbor
Scott Chukerman – Wolters Field neighbor

Also present were neighbors Nanette Goltz, David Goltz, Mr. and Mrs. David Greenberg and Joni Shulman.

The lighted event schedule for 2009-10 was reviewed. More spring dates will be added as schedules are completed.

The parking and drop-off plan for the fall season was reviewed. The school district will be moving the busses from site this year but will be assessing the inner parking lot at Wolters Field to the high school for each home football game to reduce the cost and support a green initiative. Also, the district will not provide a shuttle bus from the high school to Wolters Field until necessary. This future plan may change the parking spaces available to the public to different locations due to the renovations. The lot south of the baseball field will be used for VIP parking. The grassy area north of the baseball field will be used for general parking, as well as the east driveway. Overflow parking will be located at the Highland Park Country Club. The direction of traffic for dropping off students will be to enter the Administration Building parking lot and travel east on the driveway by the fuel pumps and exit through the center gate at Wolters Field. There will be no traffic entering the center gate. Signage will be provided directing the traffic on Park Avenue and the police department will monitor car and pedestrian traffic. The neighbors raised their concerns about the traffic in the neighboring streets and they requested signage for cars entering the side streets. They also raised concerns about security persons sitting at the barricades leaving their posts during the evening. The school will address this issue.

Bobbie Monroe reviewed the field renovations in the area south of the stadium field. Work began three weeks ago. The neighbors expressed their concern that they received no notification of the start of the project. They also expressed concerns that the heavy equipment is noisy and causes shaking in their homes. Because two softball fields and one freshmen baseball field will be built along the east side of the backfield area, there is a concern that balls will be hit into the neighbors' yards and hit windows and vehicles. The neighbors requested that the school district state that their insurance would cover any damage to their property. The district insurance would cover any damage caused by a school sponsored

event. Another concern was that the gates on the east side of the field were locked, prohibiting neighbors to access the track from the east side. The District has removed those locks. There will be a fifteen foot easement between the fields and the fence on the east side. The neighbors requested that no throwing or hitting take place in this area. They also questioned the color and type of outfield fence on the varsity softball field. With the added fields, there is a concern about additional traffic and parking in the neighboring streets east of Wolters Field. The District has no current plan for additional lighting on the fields. No extra supervision will be provided for the additional spring contests.

Additional questions/concerns from the neighbors included:

- Concern was expressed that the excavation and laying of new drainage tile created a back-up of water in their neighborhood. The district shared that the new system drains all water to the west so that this could not be the cause of this concern.
- Unsafe holes in the ground in the construction zone. The district shared that no one should be in the construction zone.
- One neighbor stated that the lights on the field are a negative when considering property value in the neighborhood. This would be done by an appraiser. It is a much easier thing to claim than to prove and would need a lot more data collection to support it as comment.
- Concern about make-up of the crowd on Friday nights – and to assure the residents that police are on duty during the football games.
- Need for better communication between District 113 and the neighbors were discussed. The email system will add those in attendance.
- Better trash pick-up on daily basis was discussed.
- Lights on past 10:00pm (ordinance does read 10:30pm as curfew for lights out) the district practice it to try for 10 with the understanding that the official requirement is 10:30.

Barry Bolek stated that the school district want to continue their effort to be a good neighbor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.