

**Wolters Field Advisory Group Meeting  
Thursday, June 5, 2014  
Minutes - Draft**

**I. Call to Order: By Councilman Tony Blumberg. Tony welcomes new group members: Maria Barraza, Jeff Gilbert, Matt Erickson, Bridgit Ohlwein**

**II. Roll Call:**

**Present: Maria Barraza, Jeff Gilbert, Matt Erickson, Paul Schaeffer, Joel Fontane, Debbie Hymen, Bridget Ohlwein, Matt Castle, Tony Blumberg**

**District 113: Dan Mortenson**

**Community Members (that commented): Scott Liberman, John Helander, Anne Helander**

**III. Approval of 11/7/13 Minutes:**

**--Group reviews the minutes. One change, Tony Blumberg's name was spelled Blomberg. Correct spelling noted.**

**--Paul makes a motion to accept the minutes, Debbie seconds the motion. Unanimous vote by the group to accept the minutes.**

**IV. Scheduled Business:**

**A. Noise**

- 1. Thorguard – Jeff commented that the stands at Wolters came down this spring, and the thorguard that was located on top of the press box was relocated to on top of the building. The siren has also been pointed away from the neighbors to the East of Wolters, but you can still hear it on the field. Scott said it was a significant improvement and reiterated that siren could still be heard on the field. Tony asked if it could be regulated, to which Dan M. responded that it needs to be on 24/7/365. Tony still believes that there is more that could be done, and would like to talk to District 113 attorneys about regulating it.**
- 2. Music – Jeff wanted to thank everyone for being giving the opportunity to be on the group. With that said, he stated that the sound at Wolters is dangerous, peaking at 105 decibels.**

Jeff stated that there were no issues with the Firecracker 500 last summer, and wondered why the District can't put on events like that. Someone said that each speaker should have a box built around it, keeping the sound contained. John H. said that District 113 believes that they are "above the law" and when he contacts Dr. Fornero, he is told, "If you have a problem, call the police." Debbie stated that the district doesn't think it's "above the law" and sound tests have been performed, and the district is in compliance. She also stated that all schools have pre-game music, and students are addressed in several ways to be aware of the neighbors. Jeff stated, "All I know is, music can be played as loud as they want." Scott made the statement that boys' events seemed louder with music than girls' events. Jeff added that the master switch can be compromised. Paul stated that there should be a box over the master volume, this was decided 4 years ago. He also shared that there should be a master volume with a crowd, and a lower master volume for events with a smaller crowd. Bridget added that she has 6 kids, ranging from 13 to 5. When she moved in, her oldest kids were very little, and the music in her house has changed over the years. She does think that some music played at pre-games is inappropriate. Matt E. asked if the school could have a set playlist. Maria questioned if the music was filtered by someone. Matt C. said that is the responsibility of the head coach. John added that he thought every time the police had to come to Wolters, District 113 should donate \$500 to the National Deafness Foundation. Matt C. questioned the noise complaints as the sound system on the stadium field was down this spring. Paul stated that it was a couple baseball games, but one ended up being a function at the country club.

3. Busses – complaints in the past about busses idling early in the morning and the beep that goes off when they back out. John H. said that he spoke with some residents at Brook Estates and the busses idle for 15 minutes in the morning. The group did understand that the busses do need time to warm up, especially in the winter. Matt E. said he can hear the busses in the morning from Andean Place. Scott L. said the busses make more noise at 10 PM when they are coming back from events. Jeff G. said he could hear the busses when he is outside his house, but they weren't bothersome. Jeff posed the question of if the busses could back in at night, so they could pull straight out in the morning. Dan M. said that the busses pull in so they can be plugged in and charged

overnight. Tony asked if the district could run long cords, so they could be backed in at night. Tony asked if the busses could be parked at Deerfield HS, since it's not in a residential area. Bridget asked if all District 113 busses were parked at Wolters, or if DHS shared the burden. Debbie said that there are residence around DHS, and all District 113 busses are at Wolters because that is where the transportation office and maintenance/service is located for the busses. Tony wondered if there was any room to house busses with the HP Park District. Paul was asked about the police cars and he stated that the police cars were serviced at the station, and he was not sure about Public Works.

**B. Athletic Drive:**

--Group commented that a couple times this spring the gate was down, and there would be a flood of cars.

--Scott sent an e-mail once to Dr. Fornero and the issue was addressed.

**C. Purpose/Mission of the Wolters Field Advisory Group:**

--Tony reads the agreement for the group, which states that the focus is lights, sound and traffic.

--District 113 continues to make being a "good neighbor" a top priority.

--John H. said the district wants less meetings, and to abolish the group and he wants more meetings with subcommittees.

--Matt E. said that when the district addresses issues, they should communicate that with the neighbors.

--Tony would like to get together in late August and look at the sound system at Wolters. He said the meeting should consist of: District 113 Board member, member of City Council, member of Wolters Advisory Group, and a District 113 staff member. Dan M. and Matt C. said that they would get of date of completion for the sound system at Wolters to the group by Friday, June 13.

**V. Other Business:**

**A. Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, November 6, 2014 – at Highland Park High School; Time TBD**

**VI. Business from the Public:**

**Group discussed the retention pond and the smell that was coming off of it. Dan M. said that a pump was broke and he appreciated Scott bringing it to the District's attention. Scott stated that the scoreboard buzzer was still inconsistent. John wanted to make sure coaches were blowing whistles early in the morning for camps. Matt C. stated that coaches have been told no whistles before 8 AM. Tony asked if Band Camp could be placed on the "Lighted Events Schedule."**

**VII. Adjournment:**

**Paul made a motion to adjourn at 8:23 PM, Debbie seconded and the group voted unanimously to adjourn.**