

**Wolters Field Advisory Group Meeting
Thursday, June 4, 2015
Minutes**

(The meeting was taped and a full audio recording is available through the City Council.)

- I. Call to Order – The Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm and a welcome was given by Co-Chair Tony Blumberg. Tony introduced the other Co-Chair, Julie Gordon, new Advisory Group member, representing the District 113 Board of Education. Julie has been a Board member for the past two years and served in various positions at Hewitt Associates in Lincolnshire for 32 years. She reported several changes in personnel in the District. Dr. George Fornero, Superintendent of District 113 Schools, is retiring at the end of June and will be replaced by Interim Superintendent, Dr. Daryl Herrick, who has been Superintendent for the past 12 years in the Cedarburg School District. Dr. Tom Kouletes, who served as interim Principal at HPHS this past year, was appointed as Principal for the 2015-16 school year. Jon Rowley, new Athletic Director for 2015-16 at HPHS, and Eileen McMahon, assistant principal at HPHS, will be the two school representatives on the Advisory Committee, along with Ron Kasbohm, head of Technology in the District and Bill Tellone, head of security at HPHS. Bobbie Monroe attended the meeting as Interim Athletic Director for this past year.**

Present: Eileen McMahon, Bobbie Monroe, Jon Rowley, Paul Shafer, Joel Fontane, Jeff Gilbert, Tony Blumberg, Julie Gordon, Brigid Ohlwein

Absent: Maria Barraza, Matt Ericksen, Gary Kirshenbaum

Community Members: John Helander, Anne Helander, Scott Liberman, Clara Sorrentino, Marty Blumenthal, and others

- II. Scheduled Business**
- **Tony Blumberg reviewed the mission statement and purpose of the Advisory Group. The District is willing to try to accommodate the neighbors, as long as we can still meet the needs of our students and coaches. Julie Gordon expressed the importance of talking and listening between both sides. Brigid commented that she appreciates the idea of a partnership. Jeff Gilbert expressed that he sees the situation as being bi-directional: both the district and city are represented with co-chairs, but the individual rights of the neighbors need to be considered; there is no co-chair from neighborhood. Tony replied**

that this is not how the group is specified in the ordinance. Tony expressed that the group needs to find solutions, and that this group provides an opportunity to do that, instead of just talking about the issues.

- A question was asked about the approval of last November's meeting minutes and Tony explained that notes were not available but that there is a recording of that meeting. Julie offered that the District would transcribe those notes from the recording. A suggestion was made to upload the recording of the November meeting on the District website, but Tony and Julie want to first check with the appropriate persons to see if this is possible. A motion to continue approval of the November minutes was made, seconded and unanimously approved.
- The use of Athletic Lane or Drive was discussed. Tony read from the Special Use Permit that states that the use of Athletic Drive is allowed only for football games and any overflow parking needed by the Administration Building. Julie stated that Athletic Drive was also used for a limited number of HPHS spring events. Bobbie reported that the Athletic Drive was used only twice this spring for overflow parking, due to multiple events being hosted at Wolters Field. She also reported that when the construction project of redoing the Center Drive with pavers, there might be less of a need to use Athletic Drive for overflow parking for non-football events. Scott Liberman brought up the concern of cars barreling down the lane to the south end and also the dust that is kicked up from the cars. He asked if it would be possible to direct the cars to park at the north end first, working their way down the lane. The District will look into the situation. Paul Shafer suggested a contact be made to the company that supplies a special treatment to the gravel in the Ravinia old bus lane. Anne Helander reported that the gate to Athletic Drive was left open this past week. No one was on the field. John Helander suggested that the Police Department and the District work on an agreement so that the Police would be able to ticket parked cars in that area at times when they are not approved to park there. It was suggested that the District post an "Athletic Lane in Use Tonight" sign at the neighbors opening onto Wolters Field to warn them on multiple event nights. Tony summarized the conversations regarding this issue and stated that the two main concerns of the neighbors are 1) adequate notice when using Athletic Drive and 2) locking the gate when the drive is not being used. Julie committed to getting the name of the District 113 personnel to contact if the gate is unlocked.
- Bus warm-ups and Back-up Signal Noises was the next concern addressed by the Group. It was reported that the noise is a problem during all months of use. The issue is with the winter

months when the busses need to be plugged into block heaters during cold to keep the engines charged. Julie expressed that there is no easy solution to this problem. The District will continue to look into this issue. Jeff wondered about how many months that block heaters were needed. Julie said about six months. John expressed that extension cords could be used and Jeff expressed that there is adequate space for busses to turn around in the middle of the lane if they backed in the night before.

- Next, the sound system was discussed. Julie asked the group if anyone could explain how the current new system could be overrode to change the volume levels, when the District has verified with Lewis Sound Systems, the installer of the system, that the only way is for them to come out and use their software. Tony explained the past history with the old system, which was possible to manipulate and change volume levels. There was agreement that the new sound system eliminates the override ability. Tony proposed that a small committee be formed to look into the issues of acceptable levels of sound. Jeff Gilbert expressed that yes, he agreed that the old system was possible to manually change the volume but that this new system does not have that capability. He said that the demo last August was successful because the speakers, mounted on the back of the moveable bleachers, were pointed in the right direction. He suggested that the sound levels have changed since that demo because the bleachers move and that has changed the direction that the speakers are pointed just enough to cause the sound to be as loud on his patio as on the field. His simple solution to the problem is to mount the speakers on the east side of the field, pointing west, admitting that he did not know the cost involved. Julie agreed that the District should look into possible other options in redirecting the sound. John reported that this has been a conversation for a long while and that he wants a commitment of a date for a follow-up meeting. Jeff volunteered to work with Tony, Julie and Ron Kasbohm in a small committee. They committed to agreeing to a deadline of July 10 to have a process and timeline developed for determining options for the sound system. Tony will communicate with the neighbors, once those plans have been made. Jeff also expressed a concern regarding the language put forth by the District to respect the rights of the neighbors. He has been shown disrespect by members of the community. Julie apologized and pledged that it is her desire to change the dynamics and improve the relationships between the District and the neighbors. Marty Blumenthal, neighbor, comes to every Advisory meeting and is frustrated because the same things get talked about every time. He wants to see action now

and volunteered to help remedy the sound issue in any way possible. Tony asked for time to get this accomplished. Jeff asked for a goal of having a solution on fixing the sound issue by the first athletic event in the fall of 2015 at Wolters Field. Julie restated that by July 10, the committee would be able to have a process and timeline developed for determining options for the sound issue, who will participate in the solution and have a series of options in place by a chosen date. She stressed that the committee will NOT have the options determined by July 10. Julie stated that we are committed to good faith efforts to explore options that could improve the situation for both the District and the neighbors, but she also stressed that we need to recognize that there may end up not being an option that can be implemented. Scott is pleased with the progress demonstrated in tonight's meeting. He suggested to Jon Rowley that coaches not be allowed to use whistles early in the morning and move summer early morning football practices to the backfields to help with the noise factor.

- **Damage/Vandalism to facilities/equipment at Wolters Field.** Julie explained that there have been two incidents reported this spring where damage or potential damage has been done at WF. The softball dugouts were covered with mud and the pole vault cover was removed, leaving the padding exposed to the elements. She asked the neighbors to be vigilant and let the District know if they see anything not right over at our fields. Chief Shafer wants to know also through a report so he can assign extra patrolling of the area. Brigid reported that the pole vault bars were left up one day within the past two weeks and other neighbors reported a congregation of kids by the scoreboard. Brigid also reported that the chains on the east side that get locked for track events are never unlocked afterwards and neighbors don't have access to the track.
- **Business from the public.** There were comments regarding the locker room lights being left on. Bobbie explained that there are emergency lights that never turn off but that all other lights are turned each evening after the last practice. Anne questioned Tony as to why this meeting is not part of the Open Meetings Act. He explained that in order for this to happen, the Special Use Permit would have to be revoked. Anne brought up that it is necessary to change Advisory Group members, because a few members are continually missing meetings. She asked that Julie and Tony appoint some new members to the Group.

III. Tony asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:35pm, it was seconded and passed unanimously. The next scheduled meeting will take place at

7:00pm at the District office in the Board room on Thursday, November 5, 2015.