

**Wolters Field Advisory Group Meeting
Thursday, May 9, 2013
Minutes**

I. Welcome and Introductions – 6:00 PM

Present: Brad Swanson, David Greenberg, Paul Schaeffer, Anne Helander, Debbie Hymen, Kelly Schuler, Mike Muldrow, David Knapp, Nancy Rotering, Nanette Goltz

Absent: None

Community Members: John Helander, Margie Sandlow (School Board), David Goltz, Scott Lieberman, Margarite Radke, Kevin Fassett

Community Address:

John – very upset about the sun setting of group. He has been FOIAing information for 6 or 7 years with about 100 FOIAs. John states that District 113 has not been a good neighbor and Anne throws a bag of garbage on the table.

Margarita – wants to know why the fence is closed at Ardean Place.

Scott – worried about the appropriateness of the music during games, the level of noise the horn produces on the scoreboard, the thor guard (lightning detector) going off at all hours of the night and the kids in the neighborhood.

II. Approval of 11/1/12 Minutes -

Two names were misspelled in the minutes: Debbie Hymen and Nanette Goltz. Paul made a motion to approve the minutes and Anne seconded the motion.

III. 2013 Spring Event Schedule – Review

Matt Castle reports out to the group that of the 26 events listed on the light schedule for the year, only 24 events utilized lights. He reinforced that earlier game times are better for our student/athletes.

IV. Old Business

A. Andean Place – Lack of gate

--Mike feels like the neighbors on the street are being alienated. It's an uncomfortable feeling like the District is saying we are "shutting you off." Debbie reads a statement from the District about an assessment of the area and the liabilities from legal counsel. The committee is asking for the District to re-evaluate the area now that there is a cut-out in the curb. Debbie states that safety regulations have changed over the past 30 years. Nan, Debbie and Margie are going to meet at a later date to look at the area.

From the meeting between Nan, Debbie, and Margie:

At the request of Nan Goltz, Board President Marjie Sandlow asked the district's civil engineer to review his findings regarding the gate at Andean Place. He went out to the site & also took pictures. His findings are the same:

Andean Place.

This site is not ADA accessible in terms of width, slope, etc. As previously discussed, to modify this location to be "Accessible" would require regrading on the district property to reduce the slope to meet ADA requirements. Modifying the slope/topology (regrading the area) would alter drainage and cause flooding/water retention problems on the fields.

Without making the modifications, we would have liability issues; with the modifications to the slope/topology, we would have drainage issues.

The recommendation remains that a gate/entrance not be installed at this location.

B. Side-street parking

--Committee wants to know what the District is going to do about Park District events at Wolters. Nan wants to know if the District will still have staff watching the end of the streets during football games and Brad assures her that this will still take place. Anne made it a point to say "thank you" to Matt for putting a parking blurb on the athletic website.

--Nancy R. has to run to another meeting. She informs the group that the city is in the process of putting together "neighborhood groups" and David K. will speak more about that. She also states that she is a resident of Ravinia, and they have issues similar to the Wolters neighbors.

C. Review of the sound checks

--David G. wants more sound checks. Brad states that we just did them this year, and sound checks were also done in 2004...and this committee can't mandate something that the District will have to pay money to execute. David G. asks if bushes can be planted for a sound barrier. Nan comments that the District has always said, "fence or landscape, but not both." Nan also states that the horn on the scoreboard is too loud and too long. David G. agrees that the horn is loud and the Thor Guard goes off at all hours of the night. Mike agrees with the loud horn, the Thor Guard, the music is not always appropriate and has seen kids drinking beer in the neighborhood.

V. New Business

A. Revisions to the Ordinance

--Brad states that District 113 will be attending the City Council Meeting on June 4, 2013, at 7:30 PM.

1) Amendments to Section D.1.a. regarding parking on the grass & bus parking

--Anne states that cars are currently parking down Athletic Lane. Anne asks about future plans for parking lots. Nan asks for clarification of the parking issues.

2) Amendments to Section B.2. regarding lighted events

--David G. comments that it should state on P. 5 and 6 "whichever is earlier."

3) Amendment to Section 5.G regarding the sun-setting of the Wolters' Field Advisory Group.

--David Knapp says that many neighborhoods experience similar issues (traffic, noise, over flow of crowds). The city is beginning "neighborhood groups." Positives to these groups are: trading information, first responders are usually neighbors, police can be reactive, there aren't enough police on the force to be on every street – but neighbors can be proactive. Debbie adds that the committee was formed as a result of the ordinance, and it has served its purpose.

VI. Round Table

--Scott is concerned about the Thor Guard going off at all hours of the night, the horn on the scoreboard. He states that he loves football and likes the committee so the neighbors have a means to communicate concerns.

--John said Andean needs to be opened up so no one gets hurt. All that would need to happen is some new soil being put down.

--Margie said the District will look at Andean Place and that she is happy the mayor has given a nice outlet for neighborhood groups.

--Margarite said that she has called the District and the high school several times and no one ever calls her back. She feels like she is being punished for something with the closing at Andean Place.

--Kevin stated that Jack Lorenz promised that Athletic Lane would never be open for parking and that it states in the ordinance on P. 7 that it will be locked.

Information to be shared as a result of the meeting:

Warning Siren (Why it sometimes sounds at 11:00 p.m. when no one is on the field):

- Our system, much more reliable and accurate than **lightning detectors**, emits a warning based on atmospheric pressure conditions. It is considered a more effective advance warning system, i.e. safer, than one that needs to detect an actual lightning strike. The system emits one long signal to warn of dangerous conditions, the strobe light flashes the duration of the conditions and then emits three short signals when conditions clear. Systems at both schools have been active since October 2000.

Thor Guard, the manufacturer adamantly advises against any time restrictions on the lightning predictor due to liability issues. In the event that a party on the property- for whatever reason, at any time of day or night- is injured by a lightning caused incident, a disabled predictor makes the owner vulnerable for possible negligence.

As an aside, Exmoor Country Club also uses the Thor Guard. While I am not sure where their units are located, the signal does carry across the entire golf course.

Athletic Drive Gate:

- The gate will be closed unless there is either a football game or a meeting at the AD Building.

Brad made a motion to adjourn...Mike seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.