

**Wolters Field Advisory Group Meeting
Wednesday, February 18, 2009 – 4:30pm**

- I. Welcome and Introduction – The following Advisory members were present: Bobbie Monroe, Police Chief Paul Shafer, Councilman Jim Kirsch (on speaker phone), Paul Mocogni, Marjie Sandlow, School Board member, and community representatives Scott Chukerman and Brigid Ohlwein. Also present were community members David Greenberg and Jeff Goltz.**

- II. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a resolution that will be presented to the City Council from District 113 to authorize the use of lights at Wolters Field for post regular season football practices. In addition, the resolution will allow HPHS to hold lighted practices if a team that uses Wolters Field qualifies for the IHSA playoffs. These lighted practices would not count toward the lighted events limit. The resolution would also allow HPHS to notify the neighbors by placing practice announcements on our website instead of posting them on the schedule two weeks prior to the first event of each school year.**

- III. Mr. Jeff Goltz brought concerns to the Advisory Committee as follows: He feels that the modification of the ordinance should come with some concessions from the School District to compensate the neighbors surrounding Wolters Field. He expressed a concern about his neighbor's home being appraised by a realtor at \$10,000 lower due to the presence of lights at Wolters Field. Mr. Goltz referred to the promises from the District to provide landscaping or fencing in the yards of neighbors directly bordering Wolters Field. He mentioned that two trees were removed with the promise of replacing those trees. Paul Mocogni will look into those concerns and address as necessary. Mr. Goltz also had a concern regarding two different times that cars were parked in front of his house on the cul-de-sac, whose occupants he assumed were watching the post-season practices. He did not notify the police. He addressed the fact that the district has been negligent in following the ordinance as it pertains to the communication with neighbors prior to the season. A letter must be mailed consisting of the lighted events schedule for the school year and also the meeting dates of the Advisory Committee. This letter was not sent in the past two years. Rather, the information appeared only on the website. Bobbie Monroe made apologies for this and assured Mr. Goltz that, in the future, the letter will be sent two weeks prior to the first lighted event. Another concern of Mr. Goltz was the fact that the schedule was delayed in appearing on the website before the first post-season game. It was explained that it goes up as soon as possible after the school obtains the information on scheduling. Mr. Goltz made reference to an incident involving a police car with flashing lights in front of his house during one of the home football games. He expressed**

concern over the possibility that the use of alcohol and violence was going up with the youth of the high school. It was explained that the police are present at all times and are very vigilant and that the District has noticed no increase in violence during our home games. Chief Shafer stated that was the only reported incident to date at any lighted event. Regarding the noise level of the PA system, it was suggested that during lower attendance events that the visitors' side speakers be turned down. Also, the school will look into the location of the band during events. Mr. Goltz also brought attention to the meeting time of the Advisory Committee and expressed that several neighbors could not arrive in time for a 4:30pm meeting. Mr. Chukerman expressed that, on the other hand, many neighbors had issues with a 7:00pm meeting time.

- IV. Mr. Chukerman expressed support for the school and indicated that he did not believe that the two requests in the resolution were a concern for him.
- V. Mr. Greenberg also expressed concerns over the earlier meeting time and the volume of the band, but he had no concerns over the two resolutions. If the practices are ending by 6:00pm, he stated that it was "no big deal". Mr. Greenberg also talked about the possibility of the neighbors with computers being able to get an alert on their computers every time the School updates the website with announcements regarding Wolters Field. Marjie Sandlow explained that the school will be upgrading their computer system in the next few months and would explore that option.
- VI. Chief Shafer indicated that a tentative date of March 23, 2009, has been set for the presentation of the resolution to the Ordinance by the School District to the City Council at their meeting. He will give personal confirmation to Mr. Goltz upon the finalization of that date.
- VII. Mr. Kirsch recommended that our committee vote to either give approval to or object to the resolutions that will go before the City Council.
- VIII. Mr. Chukerman made a motion to approve sending the resolution on to the City Council. Brigid Ohlwein seconded the motion. The vote was 8-0 in favor of sending the resolution to the City Council.
- IX. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.