

Wolters Field Advisory Group Meeting
Thursday, November 10, 2005
Minutes

- I. The following people were present at the meeting: Police Chief Paul Shafer, HP Athletic Director Andy Butler, District 113 Assistant Superintendent Barry Bolek, Community Advisory Members; Jim Gaylord, Brigid Olwein, and Community Members David Greenberg, and Jeff Goldtz.
- II. Highland Park High School hosted two Playoff football games during the 2005 season. The Highland Park City Council had a special meeting to approve the additional night playoff game. For the state quarter final games 3 additional Police Officers were present. Also, the Public Works department provided additional barricades and workers to cover Andean, Sandwick, Cherry, and Centerfield roads. In addition, Jim Gaylord stated that Brooke Estates would hire their guard to work the gate to the condominium association.
- III. The 2005-2006 Event Schedule was dispersed. The lights were turned on for 11 events in the fall 2005 athletic season.
- IV. It is the desire of Highland Park High School to ask for an amendment to the approved special use permit for Wolters Field regarding Bus Parking, Spectator Parking, and Landscaping. The request for these changes stemmed from suggestions presented to the Wolters Field Lights Advisory Committee from neighbors of Wolters Field.
 - A. Bus Parking:

For home football games all the busses are moved from Wolters Field to Highland Park High School. This creates more parking at Wolters Field for spectators. The problem with this system for bus parking is that the busses must be returned to Wolters late at night after the football game to be ready for Saturday morning routes. The neighbors complained because of the noise of the busses coming back at a late hour. Also, the school district had to spend a significant amount of money in overtime pay for the drivers to bring the busses back and forth. The advisory committee would like to propose that the busses be allowed to park on the gravel/grass area west of the District 113 Administration building and north of the football field. In this area there is ample space to park the busses and the neighbors would not be disturbed. If there is too much moisture in this area on a game day due to weather conditions the busses would have to be moved to Highland Park High School.
 - B. Spectator Parking:

For home football games we would like to request permission to use the south practice fields for spectator parking weather permitting. This change would alleviate illegal parking in the Sunset neighborhood, improve traffic flow on Park Ave West, and would allow an alternative to using the Highland Park Country Club for overflow parking. Prior to the light installation HPHS parked cars on the south fields for football games. Also, Ravina Festival has modeled successful grass parking.
 - C. Landscaping:

It was brought to the attention of the advisory group that the neighbors to Wolters field along Athletic Drive want the existing fence replaced with a new fence instead of the proposed landscaping. The homes bordering Athletic Drive that are included on the original landscape plan were contacted and given a choice of fence,

landscaping, or nothing along their property. All property owners chose replacing the existing chain link fence with a new chain link fence instead of landscaping.

- V. It is the desire of Highland Park High School to ask for a resolution to an approved special use permit for Wolters Field regarding the number of lighted events. The request for these changes stemmed from suggestions presented to the Wolters Field Lights Advisory Committee from neighbors of Wolters Field.
 - A. Number of Lighted Athletic Contests:
For the 2004-2005 school year there were twenty-two lighted events. The high school would like to request increasing the number of lighted athletic contests from 25 to 35 events. The advisory group proposed the following guidelines on the additional 10 events; the contest is during the months of October, March, and April, the contest started in daylight, the lights are needed to finish the contest safely, and the lights would be turned off by 7PM. The school can work with these guidelines. In addition, we would like to request any and all post season games could be accommodated within the 35 game limit.

- VI. Fall 2005 Feedback
 - a. There were some complaints about the volume of sound system during football games. Andy Butler will reassess the sound system.
 - b. Light Spill – The lights were tested on September 14th, 2005 by Musco lighting and were within the limits of the special use permit.
 - c. Traffic – The group discussed possible solutions to traffic back ups before and after games.
 - d. Illegal Parking – Chief Shafer reported over 50 parking citations were written during the Deerfield vs. Highland Park playoff game.
 - e. Student Drop off – There is concern with parents dropping off and picking up students on Beverly on the corresponding dead end streets.
 - f. Communication to Advisory Group – Advisory Group Members will be contacted by phone and e-mail in the future with pressing issues.

- VII. The two remaining 2005 Wolters Field Advisory Group meetings are:
 - a. Thursday, February 9 – 7PM
 - b. Thursday, May 11 – 7PM

- VIII. Citizen's Comments –
 - a. David Greenberg voiced concerns with the noise level during the second half of the fall season and with spectator parking.
 - b. Jeff Goldtz voiced concerns with activity in the back fields during games.