

WOLTERS FIELD ADVISORY GROUP MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 18, 2018

City of Highland Park

Pre-Session Conference Room

1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, IL

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 6:59 p.m., Co-Chair Stolberg called the meeting to order and called the Roll.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Co-Chairs Stacey Meyer & Adam Stolberg

Advisory Group Members: Judith Magel Cohen, Joel Fontane, Lou Jogmen, Michele Goldstein, John Helander, James Levy, Scott Lieberman, & Jon Rowley

Member Absent: Mindy Deutsch

It was declared a quorum was present.

Also Present: John Fuhrer, Christine Gonzales, Steve Tucker, & Bill Tellone
Township High School District 113
Mr. & Mrs. Feder, Jeff Gilbert, & other neighborhood residents
Gale Cerabona, Recorder

Co-Chair Meyer welcomed the Advisory Group, neighborhood residents, and thanked everyone for attending. Introductions took place.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Helander moved to approve the November 2, 2017, (public notice) meeting minutes. Member Lieberman seconded the motion.

Voting Yea: Co-Chairs Meyer & Stolberg; Members Cohen, Fontane, Goldstein, Helander, Jogmen, Lieberman, & Rowley

Voting Nay: None

Co-Chair Meyer declared that the motion passed unanimously.

IV. SCHEDULED BUSINESS

a. Introductions

Co-Chairs are Stacey Meyer, District 113 Board of Education & Adam Stolberg, Highland Park City Council.

b. Brief Overview of the Responsibilities of the Wolters Field Advisory Group & Ordinance 81-13; Special Use Permit Details

Co-Chair Stolberg turned the meeting over to Member Fontane for highlights of the Ordinance.

Member Fontane highlighted Ordinance 81-3 (lighting controls, traffic, security, etc.). He noted a summary/copies are available.

c. New Signage Update

New sign renderings were distributed. A 2x2 sign will be posted to remind patrons of the Ordinance. Member Rowley suggested adding *holidays* to the sign. These 5-6 signs will be installed in June/July.

Member Cohen advised kids are at the field at night.

Member Helander suggested posting the sign in the Band Room. Co-Chair Stolberg asked neighbors if other sign locations are needed. Member Lieberman suggested on the gate from center field, ticket booth, fence facing east on bleacher side, on the bleachers, etc. Member Goldstein stated most signs are on the outside of the track. She suggested placing signs on the inside facing the turf. Member Rowley stated these signs are for employees; the public could also be aware.

Member Helander asked what the fine is. Co-Chair Stolberg stated the police would not issue a violation the first time. Member Helander suggested the fine be stated on the sign. Co-Chair Stolberg recommended a line be added.....*violators will be subject to a minimum fine (of x amount)*.

d. Athletic Drive Update

Co-Chair Stolberg stated the primary concern is.....cars speeding during events (as the district allows access). Ways to deter this are:

- park cars north to south
- place cones/horses at the gate

It was noted a fence could be erected at a future point.

Member Lieberman stated, if the above is enforced, it would be great. It was stated a section would be used for accessible spaces. Heavy (lighted) events are noted in the Ordinance. Member Rowley stated contests promote no parking availability. He asked if parking is wanted on Cherry Street. Member Cohen advised – no, but sometimes it's necessary. Co-Chair Stolberg stated discretion could be used for additional 15 spaces (remove a horse to accommodate a handicapped person, etc.). Member Rowley stated Staff is being very mindful to accommodate these new remedies.

Mr. Gilbert read the Ordinance and noted parking outside of football games and meeting/ overflow parking are prohibited. Co-Chair Stolberg stated a Track Meet is the only event in question (potentially). An audience member stated more events could be accommodated. Mr. Gilbert reminded the field gets busier every year; cars create hazards.

Member Fontane will share the Ordinance with Co-Chairs & Member Rowley. He stated the earlier comments refer to *Accommodations*. Mr. Gilbert advised this was agreed to by Wolters Field Staff. Member Fontane distributed same.

e. Spring Activities Update

Member Rowley noted there were 12 events in the spring (6 twilight events, etc.). He advised vandalism was noticed in January (locks were cut, students were on the field). There were 4 complaints (which were followed up on). Reminders are explicitly given to coaches (they use whistles, only select staff can operate the loudspeaker, parking, etc.). District Staff stated they are diligent on safety.

f. Issues Log Update

Police Chief Jogmen advised there were no noise complaints. It has been very quiet. Co-Chair Stolberg recalled a complaint on cleaning up and banging on bleachers.

g. Discussion on Neighbor Communications

Co-Chair Stolberg stated they want to make progress. Member Lieberman advised cars are not parking in incorrect areas; traffic has slowed down a bit. Co-Chair Stolberg shared the goal is to reduce complaints.

Member Lieberman advised the pole-vault pits collect water; perhaps a water drain is necessary. Member Rowley stated the structure shouldn't be tampered with. He will review some options.

Mr. Feder advised the bus noise this morning occurred at 4 a.m. He identified three issues violating the Ordinance (noise, time of noise, and number of busses). District Staff stated their buses start up at 6 a.m. during the school year. It was stated the noise could possibly be a refuse truck at the doctor's office (that arrives early).

Member Fontane referred to a 1970 Ordinance (limited to three school busses inside the field house, not the site as a whole). Member Cohen recalled the housing of buses were supposed to be shared between Highland Park & Deerfield. Member Lieberman stated it depends on the (climate of the) day. It was noted buses are kept away (over 400 ft.) from the neighbor's house. Member Fontane further clarified the 1970 Ordinance's limitation pertained to the addition that was being allowed on site: [...] "said addition to be used solely for the parking of three (3) school buses, and as office space for the director of transportation. Mr Fontane indicated that according to the City's aerial photography there have been more than three buses since 1974 (8) and, more frequently, the number has been in the 20s since at least 1998. A discussion regarding the same including whether backing up buses needed to occur in the morning instead of the afternoon. School District representatives explained that the parking arrangement is due to the size of the lot and the turning motions needed to park the buses. Moreover, the buses need to be front-in so that they can be plugged into the electric engine block heaters during the winter. Member Helander advised waste service (at the doctor's office) begins at 7 a.m.

Member Goldstein departed the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Mrs. Feder advised the revving of the motor is what is loud. Co-Chair Meyer reminded as buses get recycled, they are purchasing quieter ones.

V. **Other Business**

- Meeting Frequency

Member Helander suggested meetings be held more often (than twice per year); four times per year was in the Ordinance, and then later it was reduced to two. Co-Chair Meyer stated certain

members could meet when issues arise and resolve them instead of having additional meetings.

It was stated the police enforce neighbor complaints.

Current Co-Chairs were complimented on their pro-active approach. The neighbors appreciate being heard. Co-Chair Meyer gave credit to all members of the District. Member Helander reminded of the past negative approach by the School Board.

Mr. Feder stated they were told at a School Board meeting they could not bring up a subject unless the Superintendent was aware of it.

- Fines

Member Fontane stated fines range from \$50-500. Language will be added to the sign. Warnings are given first. The Ordinance was last change in March, 2010.

VI. Business from the Public

Mr. Gilbert commended the School District for the abatement of the noise. He believes stronger relationships can occur. This is an Advisory Board (not one of complaints). The parking issue now has a positive outcome. Mr. Gilbert cited an incident of airing grievances that turned into an accusation. He advised complaints are easily verifiable. He doesn't see a win-win attitude.

Co-Chair Stolberg stated he hopes everyone sees progress (and not refer to the past). He does not treat comments as such. If follow-up is needed, he agrees with that.

Member Helander suggested if neighbors are awakened before 7 a.m., the police should be called (so violator can be dealt with).

It was stated Staff could review camera footage (as it stores 30 days of recordings).

VII. Adjournment

Member Cohen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Member Rowley seconded the motion.

Voting Yea: Co-Chairs Meyer & Stolberg; Members Cohen, Fontane, Helander, Jogmen, Lieberman,
Rowley

Voting Nay: None

Co-Chair Meyer declared that the motion passed unanimously.