

## IPM Meeting Minutes April 1, 2021

In Attendance: Margaret Doris, Jonathan Yeo, Kyle Simpson, Bruce Wenning (as guest via phone – audio was not working), Commissioner Nicole Banks, Ian Lacey, Brian Luccini, Justin Traxler, Robert McClary and Derek Mannion

- Minutes –

Minutes for 1/7/2021, 2/18/2021, 3/4/2021 and 3/18/2021 were not initially accepted due to no quorum. JT no feedback on minutes.

- Review next steps for IPM – TIA

- Review Proposal to Use Pesticides on Public Property – Ian Lacey of TIA presented proposal

- IL discussed continuing an herbicide application at Weeks Field, to build on momentum from last year's positive results from the pilot, importance of herbicide application to assist in maintaining fields with proper nutrition. Spoke to applying pylex this year to control grassy weeds. Applying to 45% of playing surface. Opened up to questions from the committee.
- JT discussed resting fields and dramatically increasing cultural practices, the need for pesticide application because of years lack of maintenance and funding This application will help achieve the goal for weeks field.

- Review Field Assessment Report – Ian Lacey of TIA presented report

- DM asked Ian to explain the TIA assessment of the field, PQS
- IL discussed playability - surface of the field/good footing, weed content performance turfgrass, undesirable grassy weeds diseases and pest explained the quadrant and areas that are tested high use-low use. Soils compaction type of soil root development consistent soil.
- Scott Vose performed the test in October of 2020 - ability to quantify

Grade the field A, B,C,D

- A High end professional
  - B College
  - C Municipal fields
  - D Failing field
- The desire for at least a C grade for playability and safety. By inspecting the fields, you can focus the maintenance needs. Decide on how to improve the field, long term goal. Herbicide will speed the results Cost of additional grass seed and saturation point.
  - BL - There is a seed saturation point and economic issue. Cost is very high to continue seeding at these rates.
  - DM asked Brian and Ian what the biggest single factor that could be used to bring fields up a whole letter grade. BL stated primary factor for field failure is economic resource and lack ability to use herbicide, City operating budget is 10x lower than Youth soccer pilot. High use municipal fields need continual maintenance.
  - IL stated weeds are so prominent and affect the playability, weeds are biggest single factor for the field failure. Important of curing and preventing.
  - DM asked IL about his time at FIFA. Is there a study for weeds and safety of players? IL - fields with weeds add to injury, injuries mostly caused by bad footing because of

weeds. BL said not enough studies are done on injuries. In 1997 50 billion on sports injuries more participation 10-20 percent condition of playing surface.

- MD spoke to the study and it's results not being accurate.
- IL stated minor injuries are not reported. Asking athletic director to track more injuries. BL stated synthetic surface are not more consistent compared to Kentucky Bluegrass.
- NB asked DM and RM to speak to how adding weeks field to the rotation affect program. DM stated it should not negatively affect what PRC will do. Weeks Field exceeds the threshold and will not affect out department plan. Maintenance will install snow fencing, post signage and be on site during application. DM spoke to the partnership between TIA and PRC. DM stated it will be an additional site, the cost is to be paid by NGS/NYS.
- NB is supportive of adding this fields on to this year
- A quorum is now present at the meeting. DM is looking to accept the minutes. Meeting minutes were accepted (4 meetings)
- DM stated in April will begin looking at fields and documenting, moving the pesticide program from a pilot to a multiyear program. Open to questions.
- NB spoke to how appreciated the hard work from everyone.
- DM spoke to how JT has spear headed this program.
- JT discussed Sheila Butts should get employee of year and thankful for her. NB will pass this on.

**Next Meeting April 15, 2021**

Respectfully Submitted by, Rob McClary