

## Newton South High School/Brandeis Road Field Lighting Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2021 at 5 PM

- Commissioner Banks performs introduction of meeting intent and passes around a sign in sheet for meeting attendees to sign and add their email if they are not yet receiving correspondences.
- Sheila Butts from PRC sets up stadium lights for display on medium and low levels. Low level was explained as being for safe egress from the field/stadium.
- Randy Johnson from Parks and Recreation Commission, City Councilors Lipof, Ryan, and Oliver arrive at meeting.
- Mike Berry from Musco Lighting was introduced. He demonstrated the lighting on the high setting, then low setting, and finally medium setting for all to see. Mike states that the high setting means the light fixtures are at 100% of footcandle power, medium is about 50%, and low is at 25%.
- Sheila Butts states the lights are set to low fifteen minutes after scheduled field use and then are turned off.
- Mike Berry summarizes the proposed lighting design on the Brandeis Road synthetic field to include 6 poles at either 60 or 70 foot tall. Light poles will be shorter and smaller pole diameter than the nearby poles at the stadium where the meeting was held.
- Neighbor Stephen Farrell asks about the back spill of these lights. Will the lights have the same back spill as these lights? Mike Berry explains the shorter poles will have less back spill than the stadium lights.
- Stephen makes comment that some neighbors may not have been able to attend, that the meeting should occur again.
- Commissioner Banks explained that this meeting date was discussed at the previous meeting and the notes from this meeting would be posted on the athletic field website. She stated that the light intensity levels can be demonstrated if someone reached out.
- Neighbor Barry Greenstein states that the meeting time was not convenient for him and likely others.
- Stephen Farrell raises concern that a comprehensive fields plan has not been shared with neighbors.
- Director Perez- Demorizi states that the City has a field plan for multiple parks.
- Stephen asks how many fields are being looked at for improvement.
- Director Perez- Demorizi stated that we are reviewing fields at 6 different parks as well as light projects at both NSHS and NNHS.
- Stephen Farrell states that he and others have not seen the plan.
- Commissioner Banks explains that the City's Field Strategic Plan is posted on the webpage, PRC has posted all community meetings and the light data for this project.
- Neighbor Barry Greenstein requests that an independent light data analysis be conducted.
- Mike Berry from Musco share that the International Dark Sky (IDS) society is an independent organization that can review light data.

- Commissioner Banks states that the City is open to pursuing such a review.
- Stephen Farrell asks why this field the most important?
- Commissioner Banks states that it is important due to its being located on the school campus and having a turf surface. The school district has communicated their need for additional evening field availability to facilitate their programming needs. She explained the impact of the later school dismissal time on school and youth sports being able to access fields.
- Neighbor Susan Allen asks how neighbor concerns will be addressed.
- Director Perez- Demorizi states that planting evergreens near the field will reduce impact to neighbors.
- Commissioner Banks states that we are open to hearing from neighbors to address concerns.
- Councilman Lipoff asked if the lights be less intense than the stadium lights.
- Mike Berry states that the overall lighting design is different. We are below the city ordinance requirements and describes the spill of the proposed lighting as being less than what is observed at the stadium.
- Neighbor Susan Allen asks what the spill is over by the baseball field.
- Mike Berry states that the spill there is about .6 footcandles.
- Neighbor Barry Greenstein asks if there are any similar lighting designs in the area.
- Mike Berry states that the closest similar design is probably in Connecticut, and he can look into this further.
- Neighbor Barry Greenstein states that a comprehensive plan is needed and conveys his willingness to travel to visit a similar light system location.
- Unknown Attendee asks if the field will be permitted to groups other than the high school teams and if they will be permitted in the summer months.
- Commissioner Banks explains that the field is already permitted to groups throughout the year including summer; that PRC currently permits this field to youth and adult groups and is not planning on changing this but are open to discuss further with the neighbors.
- Commissioner Banks states that she envisions an agreement similar to what is in place for the stadium field.
- COO Jonathan Yeo asks if the field projects will be discussed at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting tonight.
- Commissioner Banks answers that we will be talking about the field projects as well as how the Albemarle fields may be impacted by the pool project. She shared that a proposal to light Murphy Field will be presented to the Commission.
- Commissioner Banks suggests that 1 or 2 neighbors act as liaisons to discuss the light policy, like when the stadium lights were planned.
- Stephen Farrell expresses interest in being involved in field project discussions.
- Councilor Lipoff states that the Brown Oak Hill field work is likely several years out and that the turf field will need to be lighted now. He indicated that both turf and lights are up for consideration for Brown Oak Hill fields.
- Director Perez- Demorizi share that a community meeting was held, that we are in the preliminary design phase.
- Commissioner Banks states that neighborhood groups are involved in these meetings. Design and engineering is starting soon. These fields are addressing school programs.

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*Nicole Banks, Commissioner*



- Neighbor Susan Allen asks what other groups will be on the field?
  - Commissioner Banks answers that the Brandeis field can have a similar agreement to the stadium field.
  - Neighbor Susan Allen states that the field lights are sometimes left on without field use.
  - Commissioner Banks explains that groups sometimes leave practice early or cancel at the last moment and may not contact us to power them down. The groups do not have access to control the lights. The lights always have a scheduled off time. She asks that neighbors reach out if they see this happen and Parks staff may be able to intervene.
  - COO Jonathan Yeo states that more neighbors are impacted at Newton North HS than here at Newton South HS. Lights are very important to have at our high school turf field and that these systems will be a great improvement over the temporary light systems that will continue to be needed.
  - Commissioner Banks responds to question about light usage over the 4 seasons, she states that there is some use in winter, though January and February use is minimal. She also stated that the lights aren't really needed in summer due to evening sun.
- Meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:05pm