

Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Department

Meeting Minutes

02-10-22

Site Visit- Murphy Field Lighting Project

5:00 pm- Albemarle Rd-Murphy Field

P & R Commission members in attendance: Chairman Magni, Byron Dunker, Randy Johnson, Beth Wilkinson, Gloria Gavis, Jack Neville, John Rice, Mark Feldhusen

PRC Staff in attendance: Commissioner Banks, Luis Perez Demorizi, Director of Parks & Open Space, Greg Mellett, Assistant Director of Parks & Open Space, Robin McLaughlin, Admin

City Council members in attendance: President Susan Albright, John Oliver, Emily Norton, Pamela Wright, Julia Malakie, Andrea Kelley, Tarik Lucas

Also in attendance: Mike Berry, Musco Lighting Representative, Rick Dinjian, NLL, Devin Angelino, NLL, several abutters/residents

[printed copies of the proposal were passed around for review]

Meeting began 5:00pm

- Commissioner Banks welcomed all in attendance and introduced PRC staff.
- Chairman Magni introduced the commission members in attendance and stated this site visit was scheduled as requested at the NLL Murphy Field light proposal public hearing, during the January 24 P & R Commission meeting
- Commissioner Banks commented currently the department is working on a master plan for Gath Pool and the field area (the opposite end from Murphy Field). This project for lights on Murphy field will tie in with the overall masterplan. The master plan would go through the approval process. Approval of this project would allow NLL to begin fundraising, with the understanding if there are changes to Murphy Field due to the master plan, the money would be returned to the donors. Currently there are no plans to change or remove Murphy Field.
- Margaret Albright asked where the light spillage would be. Mr. Berry commented, the photo in the proposal shows the areas marked with zeros – indicates no spillage, the light would not spill over the street.
- Councilor Norton asked Mr. Berry what he would say to neighbors that do not want the lights installed. Mr. Berry replied, the light technology has drastically changed compared to the existing lights installed on the field.
- Councilor Norton asked if the field is used by NLL only. Commissioner Banks responded no; other users have access to the field.
- A resident asked if the other end of the field will be upgraded. Mr. Perez Demorizi replied yes, the master plan will reconfigure the lights.
- Councilor Norton commented she has been in contact with a national lighting and electrical organization and received the national guidelines and asked Mr. Berry if Musco Lighting follows these guidelines. Mr. Berry replied yes, Musco Lighting works within the guidelines and is very familiar with this organization.
- Councilor Oliver asked why this field and not another field? Commissioner Banks replied the department is working on several other light projects around the city.
- Ms. Gavis asked the P & R Commissions process for accepting the gift/monetary donations for this project. The Commission would vote to accept the gift of light equipment/monetary donations. The City Council would also have to vote to accept the gift of light equipment/monetary donations. Mr. Perez Demorizi stated

his preference would be for the acceptance of the monetary donations. Once the donations are received the procurement process for equipment and installation would begin. At NSHS the light equipment was donated and approved, procuring for the installation only, created difficulties, the contractor had to be familiar and certified to install the equipment.

{Some members of the group walked the field with Mike Berry, Musco Lighting, Luis Perez Demorizi, Director of Parks & Open Space, and NLL representatives to see the locations of where the poles would be installed.}

{The group left for the Newton Highlands Playground. The light demonstration at NHP was done to show a reasonably comparable light system.}

The meeting then adjourned at 7:15.

