

WOLTERS FIELD ADVISORY GROUP

MEETING – AUGUST 18, 2011, 6:00pm in A-217, HPHS

The members of the Advisory Group present at this meeting were:

Paul Shafer – HP Chief of Police – Present in person
Brad Swanson – Principal, HPHS – Present in person
Bobbie Monroe – Athletic Director, HPHS – Present in person
Kevin Fassett – Wolters Field neighbor – Present in person
Brigid Ohlwein – Wolters Field neighbor – Present in person
David Greenberg – Wolters Field neighbor – Present in person

Those members of the Committee not in attendance were:

Chris O’Neill – HP Police Department - Absent
Mary Anderson – City of Highland Park - Absent
Marjie Sandlow – District 113 Board of Education – Absent
Jim Kirsch – City Council member - Absent

Community members in attendance:

Marty Blumenthal
Carol Brom
Nanette Goltz
David Goltz
Casey Shulman
Kevin Fassett
Joni Shulman
Kim Ogden-Avrutik
Dov Kahana
Eileen Kahana
Margaret McPhee

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Bobbie Monroe. Introductions were made around the table.

Public comments from non-committee members included:

Marty Blumenthal – commented on the noise level associated with the PA system at Wolters Field.
Margaret McPhee – also expressed concerns regarding the noise associated with the PA system.
Joni Shulman – raised concerns revolving around the Relay for Life held at Wolters Field in June (Brad Swanson will address at end of meeting).
Dov Kahana – also expressed concerns regarding the noise associated with the PA system.

Bobbie Monroe reviewed the Fall Lighted Event Schedule. David Greenberg expressed concerns about the noise and traffic created by the practices and games hosted at Wolters Field. There is an on-going issue of athletes' parents dropping their kids off in the neighborhood instead of using the parking lots at Wolters Field. Brigid Oehlwein also has concerns about athletes' parents driving too fast down the streets in the neighborhood. It becomes a safety issue. Brad Swanson made a suggestion to expand the current lighted event schedule to include other categories, such as: PA used or not, Band or not, lights or not. Brad Swanson discussed a need to check the volume levels and directions of the speakers on the stadium field. David Greenberg reported that he has done some checking on decibel levels in the past with his own meter and would work with our district tech person to do the testing.

Bobbie Monroe reviewed the drop-off and parking plan for the fall events at Wolters Field. Traffic patterns will be altered for this fall only because of the construction taking place on Park Avenue. Bobbie reported that the athletes, parents and coaches have been alerted as to the detour to Wolters Field. Directions are also posted on our athletic website. Bobbie will also make an announcement at the fall parent meeting on Saturday, August 20. David Greenberg brought up the issue of people driving through the barricades in the neighborhood on Friday nights and Chief Shafer discussed the option of having our security persons manning the barricades write down license plate numbers of the violators and the police department would follow up. Brigid brought up the issue of parking permits being abused. Chief Shafer said that tickets would be issued to offenders. There is a problem with parking cars along Andean, Sandwich and Centerfield Streets. The streets become very narrow and safety is a concern. Chief Shafer reported to the neighbors that they could apply for a special use permit to prohibit parking on one side of the streets. He said there would be more presence of police in the neighborhoods on heavier attended games.

Bobbie gave an update on the status of the lighted event proposal by the district last spring. Because of the lack of support by the neighbors, at this time the school will not go forward with their proposal. Brigid recommended changing the time limit to 7:30pm instead of 8:00pm. Kevin offered some suggestions for giving more flexibility on practice nights. Brad Swanson explained the school's need to have more flexibility with the lights. Brigid suggested that the school collect data this fall on the current use of the lights and report back to the Committee during the November meeting. Bobbie will track the times that events end and document how many times we could have used lights and how many nights we had on the schedule and did not use. The committee will table the proposals to the City Council for now until this data is collected. Chief Shafer made a motion to have a decibel study done this fall and Brad suggested that the school conduct two studies on football nights. We will also choose two non-football nights to study the sound levels. Brigid seconded the motion and it unanimously passed. Any new communications that come up will be shared with the Advisory Committee, who in turn will pass along to the Sunset Park Neighbors Association. This includes schedule changes with the lights and any other information that would be pertinent to the neighbors.

Other business presented by a committee member included David Greenberg's discussion of the starting time of our meetings. He made a motion to change the November 3rd meeting time to 7:00pm, instead of 5:00pm. This was seconded by Brigid and it unanimously passed. Bobbie will update on the website.

Under public comments, the following was recorded: Dov Kahana asked a question about the direction of the speakers. Dr. Kim Ogen-Avrutik requested that the school notify the neighbors as to the nights when the decibel study would take place and Brad chose two dates: September 23 and October 21. We will choose two other non-football nights and advise the committee. Brigid brought up the Relay for Life event in June and the lack of communication that took place. Brad recognized our role in not communicating and suggested that we have a standard agenda item of rental events that we can review with the committee at our three meetings throughout the year. Brigid asked if the school would again be hosting the movie night during homecoming week and both she and Kevin expressed their support of this event. David Goltz expressed that it was a distraction in their home. Joni Shulman expressed her concern about the fence that the district placed at the Andean Street. She feels that there were other options that were not explored by the district. David Goltz reported that the contractor putting up the fence was using their driveway to do their work and this was distracting. Because of the placement of that fence, Kevin reported that even more traffic now comes through the opening at Centerfield. Brad offered an apology for the troubles experienced by the neighbors.

Brigid made a motion to adjourn, seconded by David Greenberg. Meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.