

WOLTERS FIELD ADVISORY GROUP

MEETING – May 5, 2011

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

Chris O'Neill – HP Police Department

Mary Anderson – City of Highland Park

Bobbie Monroe – Athletic Director, HPHS

Brad Swanson – Principal, HPHS

David Greenberg – Wolters Field neighborhood representative

The committee discussed the proposals that we approved last spring to take to the City Council. After observing parking lot patterns throughout this school year, Bobbie Monroe and Brad Swanson reported that the school is not going to propose leaving the busses in the parking lot during Friday night football games. We have a shortage of parking on heavy volume contest dates, and it is still necessary to move the busses from Wolters Field to the school on Friday nights when we host home football games. The other proposals involving parking north of the baseball field on the grass, parking on both the east and west side of Athletic Drive and the traffic flow for dropping off students will still go forward to the City Council for approval.

David Greenberg raised the question of whether it would be possible to disable the back-up signal on the busses when they are brought back to campus on Friday nights. The school will look into that.

David Greenberg also raised the question of whether the Thor-guard system at Wolters Field has to remain on 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The school will look into that also.

The lighted event schedule for 2010-11 was reviewed. We used 13 regular lighted event nights and 4 special occasions, where lights were turned on to finish an event safely in the fall, and a total of five dates in the spring, for a total of 22 lighted events for the school year.

Bobbie Monroe spoke to the group about a new proposal for the lights at Wolters Field. Because we have now installed an artificial field that is playable every day without cancellations, in order to maximize the use of the field, the school district would like to propose an amendment to the City Ordinance regarding use of our lights:

- Use of the lights until 8:00pm on a weekly basis in the fall and spring Monday through Friday nights. This would allow us to schedule two full practices each night, or play a doubleheader contest. According to past schedules, we would not need lights until mid-September through the end of the fall season. In the spring, we would only need to use the lights during the month of March and early part of April, as the days get longer.
- In addition, we would request only 16 special dates per school year where we would be allowed to use the lights until 10:30pm, or 30 minutes beyond the end of a contest, as in the current agreement. In reality, only Friday night football games require us to leave the lights on that

long. For soccer, lacrosse and field hockey games, lights would be off before 9:30pm. This would allow every sport, in addition to football, to host a later night game or two in their seasons if they wish.

After discussion, Mary Anderson made a motion to approve the proposal, and David Greenberg seconded it. The vote was unanimous in favor of the proposal. The next step will be for Brad Swanson and Bobbie Monroe to host a neighborhood meeting on May 26, 2011, at 7:00pm, at Wolters Field in the Team Meeting Room. The proposal will be taken to the City Council in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.