

## **WOLTERS FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL– 2012-13**

The Wolters Field Advisory Committee met three times during the 2012-13 school year on the following dates: August 16, 2012, November 1, 2012, and May 9, 2013. The committee members include:

Nanette Goltz – Community Member  
Kelly Schuler – Community Member  
David Greenberg – Community Member  
Mike Muldrow – Community Member  
Anne Helander – Community Member  
Marjie Sandlow – District 113 Board Member  
Nancy Rotering – City of Highland Park Mayor  
Jim Kirsch – City of Highland Park Council Member  
Paul Shafer – City of Highland Park Police Chief  
Matt Castle – Highland Park High School Athletic Director  
Brad Swanson – Highland Park High School Principal

#### **August 16, 2012 Meeting Synopsis**

During the first meeting of the Advisory group in August, Matt Castle reviewed the fall Light Schedule, with the spring dates to be added as schedules were confirmed.

Various issues brought up by the neighbors of Wolters Field included: excessive noise on football game nights, traffic in the neighborhood, early morning practices, parking in general in the neighborhood, and the fence at Andean Place.

Brad gave an update on the status of the lighted event proposal by the district last spring:

A maximum of 60 lighted events may be used during a school year as follows:

- On 44 dates, lights may be used until 8:00pm
- On 8 dates, lights may be used until 10:30pm (football games)
- On 8 dates, lights may be used until 9:30pm

In addition, the following two proposals will also be brought forward to the City Council by the Committee to seek approval:

- The School District shall have flexibility on whether they choose to move the busses from Wolters Field to the school on home football games or whether the busses remain at Wolters Field. The parking plan would then be re-examined and amended.
- It is proposed that the Police Department only mail out parking permits for football game nights to residents who live west of Beverly in the Sunset Park neighborhood.

The School District agreed to conduct a sound test at two home events next fall. The dates for the sound tests will be Friday, September 28, 2012 (homecoming football game) and Thursday, September 13 (home boys' soccer game against Deerfield). A light spillage test will be conducted on Friday night, October 5, 2012.

### **November 1, 2012 Meeting Synopsis**

The second meeting of the Advisory Group was held in November.

Matt Castle reviewed the fall Lighted Event schedule with the committee. Sixteen regular dates were used as lighted events. That leaves an additional sixteen dates available for use of the lights during the spring season. Matt also reported that the scheduling software has caused the Spring schedule to not be completed yet, and that he would e-mail the committee when the updated schedule is on the website.

Matt went over the four recommendations for the sound checks completed by Practical AV Solutions. Matt explained that District 113 employees will be working on the four recommendations and he will e-mail the committee when they have been completed. The result of "acceptable spillage" was in the report from the light spillage test.

Brad informed the committee that no proposal from the District has gone before City Council yet. The committee is still concerned about the noise levels during football games and says the band was banging on garbage cans during the October 5 game. The HP Police Department reported they saw limited traffic issues during the fall and that one traffic citation was written.

### **May 9, 2013 Meeting Synopsis**

During the May meeting, the lighted event schedule for 2012-13 was reviewed.

Matt Castle reported that sixteen lighted events took place in the fall and that 8 lighted events have been used so far in the spring. On two occasions, lights did not have to be turned on, even though on the schedule. On two occasions, lights had to be turned on to finish a contest safely, even though not listed on the light schedule.

Once again, Matt reiterated that the Athletic Departments' philosophy is that the lights aren't turned on just "to turn them on," and that games have been moved to earlier start times this year so student/athletes can get home earlier in the evening.

Discussion again revolved around the proposal put forth last spring for the school to be able to use lights for more events. After discussion, it was agreed that the following proposal would be taken to the City Council for approval:

Topics that the committee was concerned with pertaining to Wolters Field were: increased traffic and parking down Athletic Lane, the noise level of the horn on the scoreboard, the noise level of the music, the appropriateness of the music before games, the parking in the neighborhood, the trash in the neighborhood, the gate at Andean Place and the lightning detector going off at all hours of the night.

A maximum of 60 lighted events may be used during a school year as follows:

- On 44 dates, lights may be used until 8:00pm
- On 8 dates, lights may be used until 10:30pm (football games)
- On 8 dates, lights may be used until 9:30pm

In addition, the following proposal will also be brought forward to the City Council by the Committee to seek approval:

- The School District would like permission to park on the grass between the varsity baseball diamond and Park Avenue West.