

Joint City/School Memorial Field Planning Committee

August 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Location: City Wide Community Center, 14 Canterbury Road

Time: 5:00 pm

Committee Members Present:

City Councilors:

- Nathan Fennessy
- Jeff Foote (Chair)

Board of Education:

- Jim Richards
- Barb Higgins

City/School Staff present: Matt Cashman from Concord School District, David Gill from the City of Concord.

Guests: Ron Rayner and Burke Cooper

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Mr. Foote. Mr. Fennessy made a motion to accept the minutes from last meeting. Mr Richards seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Gill presented updated plans from the last meeting and reviewed possible phasing options created by our consultants. The current Master Plan has everything discussed at the public meetings and subcommittee meetings and he reminded the committee this is a 35,000-foot plan. Mr. Gill indicated when we get to final design phase we will get more accurate cost estimates once we reach around 40% of final design.

The updated cost estimate from VHB for final design and permitting is \$1.2 million and once funded it will take approximately 12 months to complete.

Mr. Foote welcomed our two guests.

Mr. Rayner asked when do we value engineer the project to confirm cost estimates and phasing options. Mr. Foote explained that will happen first half of next phase. Mr. Rayner also asked the committee to explain reasons why the track was moved west compared to early plans. Mr. Foote reviewed some of the reasons the committee moved the track.

Mr. Copper asked how you can increase the amount of use on a turf field compared to grass field especially since artificial turf is almost unusable when temps are 90 degrees and higher, also what type of artificial turf will be used and what is the replacement costs. Mr Foote explain how artificial turf field can dramatically increase the amount of field use – no rain outs (except thunder/lightning), no turf damage from wear/use and games/practices can be scheduled back to back unlike grass fields. With proper design and maintenance artificial turf fields should last 10 – 15 years. Mr Foote went on to say replacement costs and operational costs should be presented during next phase of the project. Mr. Fennessy indicated the recommended Master Plan has two artificial turf fields – one inside the track and the other is the main grandstand field.

Mr. Foote thank Mr. Rayner and Mr. Copper for attending the meeting.

