

## **Joint City/School Memorial Field Planning Committee**

April 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Location: City Wide Community Center, 14 Canterbury Road

Time: 5:00 pm

Committee Members:

City Councilors:

- Nathan Fennessy, At-Large Councilor
- Jeff Foote, Ward Ten (Chair)

Board of Education:

- Jim Richards, Zone A
- Barbara Higgins

City/School Staff present: Jack Dunn from Concord School District, David Gill from the City of Concord.

Guest: Concord resident James Potter

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Mr. Foote. Mr. Richards made a motion to accept the minutes from last meeting. Ms. Higgins seconded and approved.

Mr Foote asked Mr. Gill to for a review from last meeting. David indicated he has talked with VHB about moving the new main grandstand (with turf field) towards the west of the park. In the general location of existing Varsity Soccer and JV Football Field. VHB is aware of committee's interest in exploring adding additional parking on the state land west of Memorial Field. Mr. Gill said he did talk with the City Manager about talking with the state if they are interested in selling the land. Mr Aspell indicated that should be part of the committee's final recommendation to City Council and School Board.

Ms. Higgins asked about phase 1 plans and timing especially related to current poor condition of the track. Current phase one plans include the track, field inside the track, new parking configuration and drainage improvements throughout the complex. Mr Gill indicated the phasing could change if we move the new multi-sport turf field and large bleachers to the west. Mr Gill agreed the track is in very poor shape and will not be able to host NHIAA track meets next spring. Cost to resurface track is approx. \$450,000. However, he reminded the committee the new track is not in the same location as current track.

Mr. Foot indicated at the last meeting the group discussed moving both track (with field) and the new turf field and large bleachers to the west side of the park. Mr, Gill indicated he only asked VHB to look at moving the new main grandstand and turf field, he will follow up with VHB about the possibility of moving the track also.

There was a general conversation about need to have two artificial turf fields to expand the overall use of the facility. Question was asked if the little league field is still needed at Memorial Field and if it was eliminated any impacts with LWCF rules and any impact with little league operations. Mr. Gill indicated he will look into it.

Mr Foote asked Mr. Gill to work with VHB and possible update phasing plans and to consider where the staging area would be located during construction. He also asked if VHB can provide update cost to have construction documents to 30% or 40% as he thinks that will firm up cost estimates.

Possible timing of the construction of new Middle School was discussed as related to loss of the 10 acres of athletic field at the current middle school. The committee discussed possible time line to have their joint recommendations back to City Council and School board, everyone agreed within the next 2 – 3 months would be ideal.

The chair Mr. Foote asked the committee if they would allow Mr. Potter to introduce himself and talk with the committee. Committee members agreed to open the meeting for public comment.

Mr Potter introduced himself and said he was there to advocate the track and field sports are considered with planning of the new complex. In the current plans he does not think the track and field needs are considered and need to improved. How is the disc, javelin and throwing areas related to new track? Ms. Higgins agreed this is an important aspect that was briefly discussed in the public meeting and agreed we need to make sure these activities are anticipated in the new master plan.

The committee thanked Mr. Potter for speaking on behalf of the track and field athletes and voted to close the public comment.

The committee discussed the next meeting and agreed on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm (TBA)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm, motion by Mr. Richard, seconded by Mr. Foote, motion passed.

Minutes submitted by David Gill, City of Concord