

Diamond Field Fund- 1-10-18

Name

Steve Severn

Member Report Subject

Diamond Field Fund Committee

Summary

Members of the Arlington County Diamond Field Fund Committee (DFFC) participated in a conference call at noon on Wednesday, Jan 10, 2018.

The following is a synopsis of the discussions and decisions that transpired.

In Attendance:

JP Cooney*, President, Arlington Babe Ruth

Adam Rasmussen, Field and Facilities Director, Arlington Little League

Jerry Spitz, Board member, Arlington Senior Babe Ruth

Doug Wiley Board Member, Arlington Travel Baseball**

Drew Murray, member, Sports Commission (representing Adult Softball)

Steve Severn, Arlington Girls Softball Association, President, Sports Commission member and DFFC Chair

*JP Cooney is replacing Phil Juliano on the DFFC representing ABR

** sitting in for Richie Pacheco, President, Arlington Travel Baseball

Topic: Potential Projects for 2018

Greenbrier Batting Cages- Recommend not-to-exceed budget \$10K

As an alternative approach to the defunct 2017 project to install a concrete pad in the batting cage of Field #2, investigate the possibility of installing synthetic turf in the cage without the use of a concrete full size concrete pad.

Vendors representing non-infill, syn-turf products would be contacted for estimates to install their product in the batting cage(s). Discounts would be sought from the vendor with the notion that this could be used as a small scale "pilot" evaluation program for future County applications. The priority would be the Field #2 batting cage with the other 2 GB cages only considered if budget was maintained.

Investigate the cost and practicality of installing additional lighting for the GB#2 batting cage.

An alternative to Item a , is to investigate the cost and practicality of installing 2 small concrete pads (batters and pitchers stations) in lieu of the originally proposed full size concrete pad. The pads would be covered with commercially available syn-turf mats.

As part of the batting cage improvement effort, inquiries will be made as to the functionality of the pitching machine that now resides in the cage.

- i. Who does it belong to?
- ii. It apparently is in need of repair, does anyone want to pay to have it repaired?
- iii. Would it be used if it were repaired?
- iv. Can we have the County dispose of the machine, if no organization claims ownership or responsibility?

Decision- Proceed with the above plan and report back to the DFFC before committing to any aspect of the project.

New Batting Cage for Bluemont Park, Field #3 Recommended Budget \$25-30K

The batting cage that was part of the original design for the renovation of Field #3 was deleted due to cost constraints. The DFFC was considering to take this on as a project for 2018. This would be a worthwhile improvement to an already excellent facility, just recently completed.

The challenge would be to engage and inform the local community regarding the detailed scope of the project and the impact (fence, noise) it might have on the closest neighbors. In view of the reaction of local neighbors to the fencing install on the ball diamond of Field #3 during renovation, the process of community engagement would likely cause significant delay to the start of the project or even cancel it altogether.

Decision- Considering the currently available funds in the DFFC account (~\$75K) the expenditure of over 30% on this project does not seem prudent at this time in view of the financial impact and the tenuous social climate.

All members present agreed, with the support of their respective organization Boards, that this project should be shelved for at least 1 year and allow the DFFC account to grow, the project to mature and gain additional "distance" over the controversy of the field fencing.

GB #3 Batters-Eye backdrop- A brief discussion was held on the possibility of resurrecting the project to install a batters eye in the outfield of GB Field #3. Former Sports Commission Chair, Bill Murray will be contacted to see if he still has the price estimates that he originally obtained several years ago.

This is not likely to be considered for a 2018 project, but the project should be re-investigated.

Decision- Gather any available information regarding previous efforts to define the scope and cost of installing a batters eye at GB #3. This information would be used to determine viability for future consideration as a DFFC project.

Conference call ended at 12:38

Steve Severn