



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 28, 2016

Committee Members in Attendance:

Cecil Bothwell, Brian Haynes

Guests in Attendance:

Gwen Wisler, Mike Rottjacob, Ryan Teeter, Dean Pistor, Francine Cabernaugh, Jim Jenson, Joe Campton, Adams Wood, Michael Carson, David Ledford, Tom Chalmers, and Bryan Boatwright

Staff in Attendance:

Chief Scott Budzinski , Alex Carmichael, Paul Fetherston, Christina Hallingse, Chief Barry Hendren, Dawa Hitch, Chief Tammy Hooper, Gary Jackson, Polly McDaniel, Roderick Simmons

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bothwell called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of 2/22/2016 were approved on Councilman Haynes's motion, Chairman Bothwell's second on a 3-0 vote.

3. UPDATES

a. Update: Grant Applications and Regional Contract (Report Only)

Chief Chris Budzinski

Chief Budzinski provided an informational update on the Fire Department's grant applications and contract agreement for (a) Assistance to Firefighters Grant - Fire Prevention & Safety, (b) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER), and (c) State Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team Number Six (6). The grant applications and contract agreement were reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee on March 22nd and subsequently approved by City Council.

4. New Business

a. J.B. Lewis Turf Replacement Project - Recommendation for project design including material and input from Recreation Board

Roderick Simmons, Director of Parks and Recreation

Roderick Simmons provided a project overview for turf replacement at the J.B. Lewis Soccer Field, using crumb rubber infill. He introduced Mike Rottjacob of the Asheville Buncombe Youth Soccer Association (ABYSA) and Ryan Teeter of Leading Design and Development (LDD) Sports.

Mr. Rottjacob presented information about the history of the partnership between ABYSA and the City, the current state of the J.B. Lewis fields, and LDD Sport's crumb rubber fill proposal. Mr. Rottjacob read a statement of support for LDD Sport's proposal from ABYSA. *(The full text of that statement is available in Public Safety Committee file in the City Manager's Office.)*

Ryan Teeter, engineer and consultant for LDD Sports gave a presentation on the conditions of the fields at the J.B. Lewis complex. He explained impact testing and "G-Max" ratings. High G-Max ratings present a risk of injuries to players on the fields. Mr. Teeter explained various designs for fields built in flood plains, such as the J.B. Lewis complex, and discussed the safety and environmental issues related to the proposal. Mr. Teeter explained the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ongoing studies of crumb rubber fill. The EPA recently issued a three-year plan that imposes no moratorium, but will continue to test and evaluate data.

The Committee asked questions related to the G-Max ratings, the environmental and health safety of crumb rubber fill, off gassing, and acute vs. long term expose.

Chairman Bothwell opened public comment for J.B Lewis turf replacement.

Dean Pistor is a member of the Recreation Advisory Board, who spoke in favor of the proposal, stating that the G-Max score of the fields poses a risk to player safety.

Francine Cabernaugh spoke as a concerned parent. She commended the work of ABYSA but spoke against the proposal, expressing concern for the gaps in data and the outcomes of the study scheduled for completion in three years.

Jim Jenson is a volunteer, parent, player, and referee, who spoke in favor of the crumb rubber proposal.

Joe Campton is a parent to five ABYSA players. He praised ABYSA as a trustworthy organization that cares about kids. He spoke in favor of the proposal and expressed his concern over the current G-Max rating.

Adams Wood is a parent and coach who expressed concern for the health effects of crumb rubber and the safety of the fields in their current condition.

Michael Carson asked Mr. Teeter if the crumb rubber has been tested when the composite chemicals are broken down. Mr. Teeter explained that the test result that he discussed in his presentation were for the crumb rubber when broken down.

David Ledford asked about the process for G-Max testing. Mr. Teeter explained an annual, standardized test in the proposal.

Tom Chalmers asked Mr. Teeter if the fields were not in a flood plain would he recommend a different material. Mr. Teeter explained that if not in a flood plain, other materials would be options. Councilwoman Mayfield asked if Mr. Teeter meant that crumb rubber was the only viable material for this site. Mr. Teeter explained that Nike Grind would also work, but it gets harder faster and traps materials when flood waters shift them.

Bryan Boatwright is a former player, coach, and future parent who spoke in favor of the proposal. He expressed concern that the dangers of not moving forward outweigh the potential dangers of using crumb rubber.

Chairman Bothwell thanked everyone for their input and stated that his sense is that the City needs to move ahead with the proposal. He stated that the G-Max concerns could not wait three years for the EPA's study to be completed. Councilwoman Mayfield concurred, saying that the City would not get more data within the needed timeframe. She said that she did not see how to get around the need to replace the fields. Councilman Haynes said that he could vote to move forward, but expressed his discomfort with the proposal.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no further public comment.

6. ADJOURN

Chairman Bothwell adjourned the meeting at 5:27 PM without objection.