



Memorandum

To: Jason Wicha, City Manager

From: Deerpath Park Synthetic Turf Athletic Fields Advisory Group

Date: January 10, 2023

Re: Additional Advisory Group Recommendations

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Advisory Group's recommendations for enhancements to the Deerpath Park Synthetic Turf Athletic Fields Design Project.

BACKGROUND

The Deerpath Park Synthetic Turf Athletic Fields Advisory Group was formed by City Manager, Jason Wicha, in May 2022. It was established as a short-term body charged with advising, challenging, and offering insight to City staff and the City's consultants as plans and designs are developed for improvements to the City's athletic fields at Deerpath Park with synthetic turf related amenities.

Group members were selected to provide expertise in the areas of architecture, engineering, field playability and performance, player safety, site design, land planning, landscaping, sustainable design, and knowledge of the practical and operational aspects of synthetic athletic turf fields. The Group is chaired by Prue Beidler and members include David Hamming, Ken Mrock, Marion Cartwright, Mike Bleck, Paul Best, Rick Amos, Sara LaCasse, and Susie Kullby.

The Group was charged with

- Reviewing the scope of work proposed by the architecture and design firm approved by the Council for the project and offering comments prior to the start of the design development process.
- Hearing one or more status reports from City staff and the consultants as design development work is progressing and offering input, raising questions, challenging assumptions, and providing insights.
- Hearing a presentation of the draft project design from the consultant and offering input prior to City staff finalizing a recommendation on the overall project design for City Council consideration.

CONCEPTS EXPLORED

The Advisory Group discussed many concepts raised by the City staff team and members of the consulting team. Some of the concepts discussed included overall site/field layout, sustainability elements, traffic/parking elements, future maintenance needs, and safety issues. Recommendations were presented to City Council on September 6, 2022, and Council supported those recommendations.

Based on further discussions with staff during a meeting on Wednesday, November 9, the Advisory Group is now making the following additional recommendations for City Council consideration:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Advisory Group and City Council previously recommended City staff evaluate turf material options using the criteria of player safety, playability, maintenance, durability, and environmental sensitivity. City staff has continued researching synthetic turf systems to explore the options for the turf pile, shock pads, and infill that would best fit the community's needs. City staff presented material options to the Advisory Group for consideration in selecting the best materials for the project. **In alignment with the evaluation criteria of player safety, playability, maintenance, durability, and environmental sensitivity, the Advisory Group strongly recommends using the following turf system:**
 - **GreenFields Ironturf for the turf pile**
 - **BrockFill for the infill**
 - **Brock YSR for the shock pad**
2. The Advisory Group further recommends that the City continue to view Deerpath Park as a community park, focusing on meeting community-wide recreation needs that serve as gathering places and general athletics, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. As such, **the Advisory Group recommends that the City support the updated long-range Conceptual Vision Plan for the park with amenities that benefit the entire community**, such as a playground, fitness features, a walking path loop, and natural area development. The Advisory Group further emphasizes that there are future opportunities for the site that should continue to be explored, such as the concept of installing a large air-supported dome to provide year-round athletic space and many other activities.