

Phase II Sub-Committee: August 8, 2019

Present: John, Julius, Al, Andrea, Art, Steve, Lindsey, Dan, Tim

Public: Elayne Murphy, Anne O'Conner

- I. Call to Order: Start 3:04pm
- II. Approval of Minutes: June 4, 2019: Steve moves to approve minutes, Dan seconds, passes unanimously.
- III. Update on Bid Process: Art: Met today to discuss. Market was high going in to bid (seasonal market for synthetic turf / fields, runs December to May, delayed bit because of that; bid was approved back May 23). Going to bid on the 21<sup>st</sup> (that's when we will advertise). Will include everything we discussed (ADA improvements to fields, parking, new drive to baseball/softball, ADA access to existing fields, improvements to softball fields to meet Title IX, lighting and synthetic turf of fields in back, and as a bid alternate the track). Will have a pre-bid meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup> (means they have the advertisement and documents, they can come and ask questions, make sure they understand everything), then have a period where we need to respond (will respond August 30<sup>th</sup>). On the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> will go back and go thru everything. Goal is to have things ready for the Spring for softball, if track approved will ask to pour asphalt, need many days above 40 degrees and dry, tend to push that off to May/June, so unlikely to have it in place for this year. Could have asphalt, will be usable, but not surfacing. Extensive process, need 7 coats.

Where is the ADA path to the new addition to the track? Path from building to the track. It is on the plans. Discussion on having parking / additional parking. TO go to bid need approximate length. Is it following current construction path? No. Coming from potentially where trailers are. Path cannot be a direct line from locker rooms.

Payment: 10% contingency, bonds, contractors submit every 30 days on work created, materials used. Advisable to have a person appointed who is qualified to oversee.

Andrea: If Art is doing what he says he will project manager doesn't add much, but can have someone assigned from the board to go to meetings, make decisions, ....

Tim asked and feels good about it. Makes sense as he's on site.

Not as complicated as the building project for MtG. Will be a lot of double / triple checking to make sure sizes and dimensions correct (need this for competitions).

Andrea: Business Manager: If Tim is going to take on this project should consider a stipend.

Fundraising efforts have been paused for obvious reasons as we do not know what we have.

Track at Williams: What we have depends on what happens with the Williams students; do not know yet.

If bid is too high comes back. Can discuss removing things, changing things, .... Have to resend then to all bidders for a deduct price. Can scrap it and say not doing it, wait and rebid later. Can pull it; it's an RFP so not a binding contract. It's a for request proposal.

Dan: multipurpose building: bids came back higher than expected, decided not to accept and pursuing other alternatives, could go out to bid again with a modified proposal that we feel has a better chance of meeting needs with budget.

IV. Review of FAQ document: Background from John on why we have this.

Kim asked to be responsive to forum, giving more information on our process and answer some of the specific concerns raised. Art started working on this after forum, John then added to fill in background stuff. Hopefully people can access and get more information.

Issue of synthetic is not an either/or, will have both types, resource for athletic programs, have not been able to do that in recent history. Solves many problems, meets many needs that grass alone does not address. Boils down largely to playtime.

FAQ reminds that there is a big picture. Track is NOT in the FAQ.

Right now students being bused to play, lot of negative issues. Issues for admin in scheduling, coaches, parents, ....

Lindsey: When first started, one of the option was for turf on John Allen, decided no.

Dan: Why do we pick Williams, MCLA?

Lindsey: both synthetic turf, one slightly newer / squishier. Most frequently for player safety. If standing water on John Allen often have to postpone and then a lot of games in a short period of time, which is bad. If wet danger as can slip, catch cleat. Don't want schedule compression so travel to other places.

Dan: Other local places are facing same weather conditions.

Lindsey: looked at BCC, very expensive.

Steve: Son has games for a soccer league there sometimes, but can lose with almost no notice if BCC needs the field.

Anne: Is there enough funding for grass field needs?

Tim: trying to put out to bid what will need. Very expensive project.

Lindsey: was supposed to be \$80,000, but ended \$54,000 b/c lot of rain and didn't have to water as much. Was \$27,400 for field work and then money for watering but needed less, but area where goalie had to stand for soccer was totally different than six feet out, another \$6000 for sod there, more watering....

Art: phrase mowing: dig so root system can reset. Some fields densely packed, so getting water contribution that isn't getting thru. If want to do big improvements that will help is 1-2 inch lateral lines to add drainage. Not inexpensive, but not full replacement.

Lindsey: drainage used to be best in county. Don't think drainage is issue, ....

Art: some other things, weeds, .... Not inexpensive but not a replace the field. Was on the field today.

Money so far came from Athletic Revolving. Depleted that account, some was to be paid from general fund, Athletic Fund got the part that happened, general had the watering (which didn't happen).

Andrea: Revolving doesn't go into E&D.

Elayne: Great gift from Williams, then scrimping to get money to pay to maintain.

Lindsey: rotation, another field helps maintain the other.

Steve: Agree, this is why school committee has hired people to maintain buildings, facilities, fields. Has to be part of the budgeting.

Art: School will have some maintenance, but we will have some repair / check annual for the first 8 years. The life of the warranty is 8 years, match up with that.

Anne: End of life: my understanding is about half the cost of initial installation to recarpet and dispose.

Art: Talked about early on, how set aside money, lived in a community that did not prepare, make sure putting money in funds. Hope pull up carpeting, regrade, relay and infill. We have a shockpad underneath, will get a second cycle, guaranteed 16 years.

Dan: how can we address concerns that your firm is committed to selling artificial turf? You have explored other options with us. How can we establish you as an independent expert who has given us a full range of options.

Art: I get no benefit from synthetic turf companies. I am a designer, paid by you, represent you. My company has worked extremely hard to combat synthetic turf companies and make sure they are doing the right things. We push them very hard, many things in the synthetic turf world where

they are cutting down on backing or other stuff.... Example: newest turf is hybrid, we went thru this, monofilament, brought samples. Quality control pay, slit play is the work horse. Turf industries do a hybrid but a dual needle stitch. Punch in with one needle but only way to do is to take away some denure, the ability to stand up straight / compression. What they did is we require 10000 denure, said cut both to 5000 and still getting 5000. No, not getting 10000, been on a quest to get rid of this hybrid, if going to do then do two rows of 10000 each. Cutting owners value by putting the dual stitch together. For years denure was how measure strength of the fabric, now saying not important, but for us feel it is. Have no interest in helping a turf company, here to give you the best company possible, testing, make sure meet specifications (we do that, our specifications, very diligent).

Dan: we have been so comfortable because of the information getting, and want to put something in the FAQ that establishes that we did not pre-decide, chose a consultant who could give us the full range of options and make an informed decision.

Anne: discussion very interesting to me, I see the value in your expertise in artificial turf, I don't see that Traverse has worked in providing natural grass designs, don't see that, yes you have the value in artificial turf but can you do similarly for natural / organic? Could you provide the committee with information on others?

Art: Yes, I design more natural grass fields, a lot of my projects are natural, lot of high schools in MA and nearby states. Synthetic is a small part. Do a ton of grass fields. Example: on a one year project with Bristol-Warren, made contractor rip out soil as wrong. Same due diligence. No doubt grass field is better to play on, but hard to maintain at a municipal level. Help people understand how get thru a maintenance intensive sandcap field. Very interested in making fields safer, look at it all, want to maintain safe fields that perform at a level that's good for the athletes.

John/Steve: Also includes playing time. Challenges of getting kids on fields. Grass fields often need a lot of work when need to play on them, not a winning battle. We want Allen field to be viable for play. Even Williams does it – at the end of the season end up playing on turf as have to as couldn't play on cole field (soccer) b/c of maintenance.

MCLA older turf field. Being improved. Did hold water in the rain.

Art: We do athletics, we do tracks, tennis courts, pickle ball, .... Only do athletics. Try to look holistically at all the athletics. Here for the life of your turf. Do provide one year maintenance, keep all records so know what field is doing. Like to have a record as helps with other projects. Equipment to groom field included in contract, we will make sure you are trained properly and really do get a full day training. Every two weeks like mowing, spot checking key areas, shock pads help with injuries. As infill moves, performance changes. Will make sure field is safe and plays well and at a high level. The day you start playing on it, it starts changing and we want to make sure you understand what to do, isn't hard. Pull out bobbypins, sweeper picks up leaves and trash, .... Make sure not doing damage to field as maintain it. Test every year and get back to zero (typically August).

Anne: had raised concerns about bacterial....

Art: Penn State study: if there is a fault in turf it is heat, gets hot, nothing can do about it. Can put in alternative infills but once over 95 outside really shouldn't be on it. Not a huge number of days in the northeast. We recommend if you have a crazy coach who has to be on the field go early / late, but new state policies so not an issue. Nothing fortunately can live or grow in it. Concern back in the day, getting water, UV rays, heat, nothing can really grow or build there. Penn State did a pretty extensive study that shows do not need to worry about bacteria. Geese will go away as can't eat the root system.

Lindsey: adding Tim and Brandon will help ALL outside maintenance.

Dan: To Andrea's point: you do have job descriptions and beyond a certain amount of volunteering there should be a way for things to bubble up, spending 10 extra hours a week, need to throw a stipend. Don't always think about this for salaried employees. We appreciate that you are here and the work. Happy to dump as much as you can handle.

Steve: Makes it easier for us to argue with towns as to what our needs are.

Dan: questions are coming to the school committee. To administration. Tonight might have additional questions from school committee members. We are sub-committee, full committee has to look at and make vote. Coordination is a challenge. Only Art has contact with all. How to weigh requests to what comes in to the FAQs. What is the best way to make sure everything gets in to the FAQs, given all the different interest groups and different points of contact.

John: Never ending process in some sense, trying to cover as much as can, key pivotal ones. That's why trying to get input here.

Andrea: Can create email to request information. Direct it to administrative assistant, this way everyone getting same information.

Dan: Great idea going forward. Most concerned with questions that have already come in. Making sure we don't drop things thru cracks.

Al: noticed 17 of 18 people who emailed school committee did not go to committee meeting.

Steve: could have watched on Willinet.

Steve moves, Lindsey seconds, to post in draft form the FAQ, passes unanimously.

V. Other business not anticipated within 48 hours of meeting.

VI. Motion to adjourn: Lindsey moves, Al seconds, passes unanimously.