

Thursday, October 17th Sports Task Force Meeting Minutes

Andrew Schmidt, sports task force chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

Schmidt began the meeting by sharing site sharing considerations from sports' tournament directors that Play Greenville, NC Sports has relationships with. Schmidt stated that each of the tournament directors that he contacted mentioned that they would like more information on renting the sports complex if it comes to fruition. The following are the general amenities they said were desirable.

- Adequate parking
- Clear and functions scoreboards
- Dugouts
- Accessible facility
- Available hotels
- Restroom facilities
- Spectator seating
- On site food and beverage options
- Tournament growth

Daniel Van Liere discussed the importance of the proper layout of rectangle fields and as well as player benches.

Schmidt also shared additional considerations specific to baseball and softball.

300-foot fields are necessary to accommodate different age groups.

Batting cages on site. Typically, one per field.

Warm up areas for players including pitching mounds.

Portable mounds and fencing to accommodate all age groups.

Ability to adjust base lengths to accommodate all age groups.

Secure storage area on site

Brian Connelly, consultant with Victus Advisors, presented information on the characteristics that make up a good sports complex site. He shared the following top three items with the group.

- I. **Quality of facilities.** The complex must be big enough to accommodate parking needs. Lack of parking is the number one complaint that tournament planners have. The site dimensions are also very important. A rectangle parcel of land is ideal. Flat land with no slopes is also ideal. Uneven land parcels increase costs. The facility needs to be in a location where there is minimal water, flooding possibilities, and where there are no other environmental concerns. The facility should also be ADA compliant.

- II. **Proximity of facilities.** Transportation factors are key. Potential site should avoid known traffic congestion areas. Site should be in a location that could easily move 100 teams in and out. Pedestrian access is also important. Site locations that are conveniently located/near local highways or interstate systems are ideal. Connelly stressed that a potential location should not be adjacent to neighborhoods where noise and lights could be an issue.
Norma Warren suggested to the group that we also consider public transportation when it comes to location.
- III. **Proximity to hospitality amenities.** Connelly shared that a successful complex is typically located near hotels and other amenities including restaurants, retail, and family entertainment options. The average drive to these amenities should be between a 5- and 7-minute drive. Hotels can be as far away as 20 to 25 minutes.
- IV. Other factors to weigh include costs and timing. Considerations include acquisition costs, (who owns the land) if the site is development ready, and any other costs that might impact development.

The sports task force members discussed several potential site options within Pitt County.

The sports task force spent time discussing the most important amenities they think should be part of any potential sports complex in Pitt County.

- **Parking.** Members asked consultant Brian Connelly how many spaces are needed for the facility that is being discussed for Pitt County. Connelly stated that a facility that size would typically have 900 parking space which would require 6 to 8 acres of land. For the actual fields, Connelly stated that 80 acres would be required for 12 rectangle fields not including any diamond fields that may be included on the same site.
- **Locker rooms.** Most all the task force members did not see the need for true locker rooms if there were large restroom facilities on site that people could change in if needed. Small individual paid lockers could be a consideration, however.

Other amenities that members would like to see include the following:

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| Playground | Tent space around the field | Sound system |
| Large bathrooms | ADA requirements met | Scoreboards |
| Championship fields (4) | Concession stands | Food truck areas |
| Sheltered space | Storage building | Sunshades |
| Public Transportation | Water filling stations | |

Task Force Chair Andrew Schmidt announced that there would be date changes for the November and December meetings. The November meeting was originally scheduled for November 21st and will now be held November 20th in the 3rd floor gallery of City Hall at 3pm. The December meeting was originally scheduled for December 19th but will now be held on December 12th at John Paul II Catholic High School at 3:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned