



Meeting Minutes
Turf Fields Advisory Committee Meeting #5
February 24, 2016 7:15p.m.-8:00p.m.

Members Present:

Brown, Patrick	Keeley, Brian
Burke, Jeff	Kish, David
Cowan, Ron	Larsen, Chad
Clarke, Steve	Lawyer, Curtis
Cushman, Colin	McAtee, Molly
Denton, Julie	Pitton, Amber
Everett, James	Read, Matthew
Flint, Ted	Reilly, Kay
Harding, Bob	Ryan, Kevin
Hatch, Greg	Vaughn, Jeff
Hodge, Gary	
Hust, Lisa	

Members Absent:

Benner, Steve
Knutson, Nick
Stinson, Jonah
Swanson, William
Weeda, Brian

Following the Turf Fields Community Meeting, the Turf Fields Committee met to discuss public feedback and turf materials.

Minutes were distributed to committee members prior to the meeting. There were no comments or edits and the minutes were approved.

Ron Cowan led a discussion on the different types of turf fibers for the committee to consider.

Two turfs were initially discussed; monofilament and slit film fiber. Monofilament fibers are more desirable for soccer and slit film tends to be more prevalent on multi use fields. Bob Harding stated that slit film is longer lasting, more durable by a year or two and holds in-fill material better. Sites currently with monofilament turf fiber include Century Link, WWU football and soccer fields, Mt. Vernon High School, Sedro Wooley High School, Edmonds Woodway High School, (on tour), and South Kitsap High School, (on tour). Sites with slit film turf fibers include Whatcom Community College, Bellingham Civic Stadium, Joe Martin Stadium, WWU softball fields, Pacific Cascade Middle School (on tour), and Eastlake High School's baseball field and multi-purpose field, (on tour).

Both turf materials are fairly comparable in price, with slit film being about \$20-40K less expensive. James Everett commented that the savings could be used for other things, for example lettering that is currently considered an additional project option.

Colin Cushman liked the durability of the slit film, noting it is likely we will be on the latter end of replacement and 1 or 2 years can make a big difference. Additionally he concurred with James that \$20-40K may seem small within the project scope, but these funds could be used for something else.

Gary Hodge stated that Western Washington University's field didn't hold up very well, and asked if we could assume that the new fields will look better in 8 years than those that were installed years ago. Bob Harding answered yes, adding that for additional comparison, the condition of Civic Stadium at the end of its life was pretty much what was expected.

David Kish said with slit film your cleats stay on top of the turf, they don't go into the turf.

Another turf option is a combination product of monofilament and slit film. Kennedy High School, (on tour), was a combination of both monofilament and slit film fibers, though it had the appearance of a monofilament turf. Jeff Burke added that the field was less than 1 year old. David asked if there were advantages to the combo over just slit film. Jeff said initially cleats will get into the combo turf a little more, but overtime it will perform similarly to slit film. He added that most Seattle School District high schools and middle schools have been using the combo. Jeff reiterated that typically for only soccer, it's preferred to use monofilament. For multi-sport it's more customary to use slit film for durability and getting the extra year of use. There isn't a strong comparison available to compare slit film vs the combination. With monofilament in the combo product the fibers tend to stand up a little longer. That may provide a longer duration of the turf standing up more and playing a little more like a grass or monofilament.

Jeff Vaughn said he believed these fields would be getting more use than Civic. The more durable we can get it the better it will be. In his opinion, the combo product was a good option.

Matt Read agreed that the combo was an option to seriously consider.

James Everett asked the price comparison between the combo and slit film. Jeff Burke stated \$15-20K more for the combination product.

The group decided to vote to get the three field turf options down to two. There were 8 votes for slit film, 7 for the combination, and 2 votes for the monofilament.

A second vote was taken between the slit film and the combination monofilament with slit film. The combination was selected garnering 10 votes, slit film with 6 and 1 abstaining.

Ron then asked the committee if after hearing the community feedback, they wanted to modify their thinking about a recommendation. We had planned to move ahead with Squalicum this year and Bellingham High School next year with a recommendation of the combination turf with crumb rubber in-fill.

David Kish favored keeping the recommendation as is, as the group has gone through the research and have done due diligence. He suggested we make the data that we reviewed available to the community in order for them to see we've done a thorough investigation.

Ted Flint inquired if it goes out to bid and we find out in a year that crumb rubber is no longer the best product, may we change our recommendation for Bellingham's field. Ron Cowan answered we could change in-fill for the Bellingham field.

James Everett stated we are making an informed decision and we have a contingency plan of changing to a different in-fill if scientific evidence warrants. Gary Hodge agreed with James' comment.

Ron explained the next step is to provide our recommendation to the superintendent.

Jeff Vaughn made a motion that the committee should move forward with their initial thinking. Greg Hatch seconded the motion. The motion passed with 16 for moving forward and one abstaining.

Ron stated he will work with Lisa and the Communications team to formulate a draft recommendation for the committee's review.

Kevin Ryan asked if this is all approved, when would be the start date. Bob Harding stated we will need to advertise for bids in the middle of March. Ron added there is a school Board Meeting on March 24th where there will be a call for bids.

Ron thanked everyone for their time and thoughtfulness that they put in to making this recommendation. Patrick Brown thanked Ron Cowan and Steve Clarke for fielding difficult public questions at the community meeting. Jeff Burke complimented those who participated in presenting to the public. Bob added that this was the most thorough process he's ever seen a group go through. What the Turf Fields Committee took two months to study and make their recommendation; other groups have done in just one day.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00p.m.