



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Turf Fields Advisory Committee Meeting #3**  
**February 3, 2016 2:45-4:45pm**

**Members Present:**

Benner, Steve	Kish, David
Brown, Patrick	Knutson, Nick
Burke, Jeff	Larsen, Chad
Cowan, Ron	Lawyer, Curtis
Clarke, Steve	McAtee, Molly
Cushman, Colin	Ortiz, Lexi
Denton, Julie	Pitton, Amber
Everett, James	Reilly, Kay
Flint, Ted	Ryan, Kevin
Harding, Bob	Stinson, Jonah
Hatch, Greg	Swanson, William
Hust, Lisa	Hodge, Gary
Keeley, Brian	Vaughn, Jeff
	Weeda, Brian

**Members Absent:**

Read, Matthew

Ron Cowan welcomed the committee to the meeting. There were no edits to the minutes from the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and they were approved.

Steve Clarke led a group conversation about the field tour that committee members attended on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Five sites, each with fields of different turfs and infills were visited. The group made observations and commented on each site.

**Edmonds-Woodway High School**

- Stadium Field (2015) - FieldTurf Revolution monofilament with SBR over Elastic Layer pad.
  - Turf was soft and springy, fast and not slick.
  - Ball rolled nicely.
  - LED lighting was impressive.
  - Had scan cards for secured entry.

### **Eastlake High School**

- Stadium Field (2015) – Sprinturf Dual Fiber with Coated SBR rubber infill over elastic layer pad.
  - It appeared that maintenance had not occurred since football season.
- Baseball Field (2012) – AstroTurf Long Parallel Slit Film with SBR infill over aggregate base.
- Multi-Purpose Field (2005) – Sprinturf Long Parallel Slit Film with SBR over aggregate base.
  - Field is 10 years old and still has some fiber left. It is scheduled to be resurfaced this summer.
  - Turf fibers lying over and the field was slick.

### **Pacific Cascade Middle School**

- Field (2014) – FieldTurf long parallel slit film with Nike Grind over elastic layer pad.
  - Lighter than SBR, but should settle over time.
  - Not readily available – long lead time in ordering.

### **Kennedy High School**

- Stadium Field (2015) – AstroTurf 3D (mono/slit film/thatch) with Nike Grind over Brock Power Base.
  - Nike Grind too light; flyout.

### **South Kitsap High School**

- Stadium Field (2015) – Hellas monofilament with GeoPlus, (coconut, cork) over elastic layer pad.
  - Water pooled.
  - Ball didn't roll well.
  - No play in lateral twist as it holds moisture.
  - More abrasive surface and not as much cushion.
  - Would like to see injury statistics.
  - Additional maintenance is required, supplemental fill is needed and it needs to be watered once a week.
  - The color and lines on the field looked nice.

Bob Harding added that Nike Grind should settle down over time. Additionally, he said that with use, turf fibers will lay over a little bit which helps to lock in the infill. Typically fields are guaranteed for 8 years and most fields look similar after approximately 5 years of use.

Steve Benner stated that one infill that was not seen was Zeofill. Bob reminded the group that Zeofill is a mineral (Zeolyte). There are not many fields with Zeofill, and currently there are no fields in Washington with this product. It is being used in California. Bob commented that Zeofill is very light, not very durable, tending to crush easily, and may require watering. It has not been used long enough to see how it will perform long term. It can only be provided through AstroTurf. A lot of fiber and less in-fill is needed, and a shock pad is necessary.

Bob and Jeff shared draft plans for fields at Bellingham and Squalicum which included available field sizes and lines for individual sports including soccer, lacrosse, and football. Also incorporated were locations of fencing, gates, bleachers, lights, field accesses, etc...

Squalicum's draft included track and field event areas. There was discussion on moving some of the event areas to other locations on the plan as it would be difficult to support a large meet with the space available, particularly for javelin and discus. One option would be to not include these two events on the turf during a meet, but locate discus and javelin to a natural turf area somewhere else on the campus. A ball control fence was also suggested as a priority to run the length of the field. Water will be on site, but there will not be restrooms or potable water.

Bellingham's field is maximizing the space available. There are vertical barriers of fences and light poles. Ron stated there has been an initial meeting with the city with regard to a vacation which would allow the field to be longer, but that possible option has not been resolved. Lighting on the field and tennis courts, different fencing options, and access gates were also discussed.

Examples of field end zone lettering and center field logos were presented. Bob stated that mid field logos run \$10,000-\$15,000 and that end zone letters are \$1500-1700 per letter. Ron suggested that the lettering and logo be an alternate for pricing.

Ron then introduced Stewart Myhre, Executive Director-Business and Operations for the Edmonds School District. Stewart shared information regarding turf fields that have been installed in their district. Currently they have 7 turf fields all with crumb rubber. They installed their first Astroturf field in 1983 at their Civic Stadium and have since refurbished this turf field. They will refurbish 2 more fields at the high school this summer. By 2020 they will have 11 turf fields.

At Woodway High School the district had discussed installing turf fields since 2004. Through a number of grants, their 2008 capital levy, city and state funds, the district had the monies to install a synthetic turf/crumb rubber field. As part of the City's Comprehensive plan they were to enter into an agreement with Parks and Rec. The school would have primary access to the facility but all use would run through their Parks and Rec department. As they began to talk with those involved with the programs at the school, a small group came forward with a letter writing petition against the turf and crumb rubber in-fill installation due to perceived health risk. They were questioning the city's involvement and began attending to school board meetings, with discussions concerning the field becoming heated and at times hostile. KOMO news followed the story.

Stewart did an intensive search over the internet, finding documents relating to crumb rubber, much of it scientific, that he reviewed. He passed this information to industrial hygienist, Elizabeth Black, CIH, of EMB Consulting LLC, who wrote a Memorandum report, (April 14, 2015), of documents provided by the Edmonds School District related to synthetic or artificial turf/crumb rubber products. The report was intended to provide an objective review and summary of the literature provided. Following the districts research and Ms. Black's report, there was a board work session, with Elizabeth Black, Bob Harding and a toxicologist brought in from the local health department in attendance. The board asked questions and after reviewing all of the information, the district came to the determination that they had done their studies and due diligence and found no health risk. Stewart also added that other in-fills, including

Nike Grind, have not been studied and we don't know what they are made of. Edmonds moved forward and began to install the first field at Woodway in May of last year.

Ron asked the group to think about what type of infill we want for our fields in Bellingham and if anyone needed more information to make a reasonable decision. He reminded the committee of information provided prior to the meeting and encouraged committee members to review this information:

- a. NBC News Story (<http://www.nbcnews.com/watch/nightly-news/how-safe-is-the-artificial-turf-on-your-childs-sports-field-339230787933>)
- b. KOMO New Story (<http://komonews.com/news/local/soccer-coach-could-artificial-turf-be-causing-cancer-11-21-2015>)
- c. HB 2547
- d. Information from University of Washington
- e. Verdant Health Commission Report
- f. EBM Consulting Literature Review

At the next meeting the committee will make some decisions on where to go from here. The first step is to have a discussion on if we want to move forward with these projects or pause. We will have a type of prioritizing and see what emerges. Steve Benner asked if there was a way to see some kind of line item budget costs. Ron's initial thought was to not discuss cost if it relates to health, stating we don't want to choose an infill material based on budget.

With the in-fill being the big issue, Bob shared that in the first few years, it's a viable option to remove the crumb rubber should we want to do that, however when you extract the infill you stress and wear out the turf fibers.

Ron asked if the committee wanted to meet in one week rather than two. The committee voted to meet at the prescheduled date of Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:45p.m.-4:45p.m.

Additionally, a community meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:51p.m.