



Central Park Task Force Concerns

Responses to concerns expressed at May 5 Special Board meeting

Residents asked if the renovated Central Field will resemble a “big baseball stadium”

- We are recommending improvements to the current baseball field at Central Park. It is not our desire to put in a “big baseball stadium or state of the arts sports complex” on this site. We would like a field that drains quickly, is smooth, hole-free and has excellent turf conditions. The amenities of this field will be discussed with the Task Force and recommendations will be given to the Park Board.

What is the timeline for the project? Is the project being rushed?

- Central Field was identified as needing improvements in the 2001 Master Plan and in the 2015 Master Plan. Based on meetings with neighbors and the April Regular Board Meeting, it became obvious to staff that there were a lot of misconceptions and misinformation in regards to what was being proposed for the park. We felt it was in everyone’s best interest to meet as soon as possible to address these issues and dispel any misconceptions. We also felt forming a Task Force quickly to educate our community and create a discussion platform for ideas and possible amenities.

Will drainage at Central Park be addressed?

- Drainage for Central Park’s site is addressed in our scope of services with the landscape architect.

Will the finished product result in an increased demand on Public safety or cause more garbage?

- We don’t feel that the usage will change with this field, so there should not be a need for increased public safety or garbage removal.

Will the field be less useable by the public and school?

- The Park District would like to continue the same usage of this field, for Park District programs, school use, and community recreational activities.

Residents expressed concerns about the addition of a permanent fence/lights/bleachers was already determined.

- The amenities have not been determined. There have been no plans or drawings done on this project. There were ideas or “wish list” items that were given by staff and GBA that were shared in a FOIA request. However, I believe the FOIA response does not tell the whole story or context



of the emails. In the FOIA documents, a wish list is provided. What you did not see in writing is that I voiced my concern that this field would not be able to accommodate many of those wish list items and that amenities would have to be fully vetted with the community. I regret not writing that conversation down so it would be part of the FOIA.

Will the new field be available to all genders?

- The field is programmed by Glencoe Baseball Association, which serves both boys and girls in their baseball and softball programs.

Do we need more fields?

- We are not adding a field but keeping what we currently have. We believe we do need this field, and Master Planning consultants in 2001 and 2015 agreed with us. Part of the planning process will include educating the Task Force on what the current use is and the participation numbers in GBA and other sports programs and other fields that we have.

Why do we have three seats for baseball?

- We have two seats on the task force for GBA because the baseball field is a main component of the park. The donor received a seat on the task force and is not using it himself but gave a name for another individual. That individual made it very clear that on his application that he is an independent voice.

Where is AYSO?

- The soccer fields are on school district property. The park district lines and maintains those fields, but the soccer fields are not part of the project.

How were the Task Force members chosen?

- The Board did their best to choose members of the Task Force to ensure a diversified voice. The task force was limited in size, but that does not mean that other community members will not have input in the future. Community meetings will be held to discuss plans. The Task Force will also follow the Open Meetings Act and will offer the opportunity for comments during the scheduled public comment section of the meeting.

How will staff maintain the field once it is complete?

- Staff is looking into ongoing maintenance programs and will address the issue in the Task Force meetings and with user groups.