

BOROUGH OF GLEN ROCK

EXECUTIVE MEETING – Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

There will be an Executive Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Glen Rock on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building.

Agenda (maybe subject to change)

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law. This Meeting was included in a list of meeting notices sent to the Bergen Record and advertised in said newspaper in January, posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statue. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

In accordance with the New Jersey State Fire & Safety Code I call your attention to the lighted exit signs. In the event the alarm sounds, move in an orderly manner toward the exit nearest you and leave the building.

**Council Member O’Hagan – present
Council Member Orseck – present
Council Member Biggs – present**

**Council Member Pazan – present
Council Member Surrago – absent
Council Member Nogara – absent**

Mayor van Keuren commented that a great deal of soccer played at the youth level is played on artificial services ... Mayor van Keuren read a letter supporting an earlier comment supporting the high number of soccer games played on artificial surfaces.

Additionally, Mayor van Keuren commented on the validity of the cost estimates provided by the Borough Engineer.

At this time Mike DeSena, Borough Engineer stated that Stantec has reviewed the cost estimates and broken down the items. The original cost estimate for stone showed two costs for turf; one in the \$8 range and one in the \$10 range ... this is due to the depth of stone beneath the playing surface. Mike commented that the estimate has been broken down into 26 separate items/prices. Mike stated they are comfortable in stating the field cost would be \$2.735 million. These numbers are derived from projects that have been completed in the last four years. The turf covered area would be approximately 4.4 acres.

Mike continued stating they have broken down the natural field numbers as well and found the cost estimate to be \$2.309 million. Mike commented the estimates for the baseball backstops is more expensive for natural fields (\$20,000) than for artificial turf (\$12,000) due to the extra concrete and labor involved when installed in natural fields.

Mike also wanted to clarify the replacement costs, which were the same. Once the infrastructure is built of the fields, we would be replacing just the turf; similar to replacing carpet in your home, as long as the infrastructure is not damaged.

Mayor van Keuren asked resident, Mr. Dorost if he had any additional questions or comments concerning the cost estimates.

Mr. Dorost thanked the Mayor and Council for their efforts and transparency. Mr. Dorost stated that there still are differences and agrees to disagree. That being said, Mr. Dorost still believes the following:

- The cost estimate on the natural field is over estimated by give or take \$200,000, and
- The artificial turf is underestimated by \$400,000

The cost difference comes down to the stone and its depth. Mr. DeSena has used an estimate of \$7/cubic yard. Mr. Dorost called Tilcon, a major stone supplier to which they quoted a price of \$21/cubic yard, which does not include labor or material. The net effect of this could be \$400,000. Neither estimate includes the disposal of unsuitable material. The bulk excavation in the engineer's report is \$16/cubic yard; which Mr. Dorost has found to be \$20/cubic yard. Stone and bulk excavation costs could potentially be an uptake of \$500,000.

Mrs. Benjamin added we have to remember that this is a package price. Items cannot be extracted and bid upon independently.

Mr. DeSena reiterated these numbers are based on projects that have been bid upon, both within Bergen County and out.

Mayor van Keuren thanked Mr. Dorost for his thoroughness and interest he has injected into the process.

In conclusion, Mr. Dorost questioned how the Council can continue to raise taxes; why not use the money we have and fix the fields to the best of our ability.

Council member O'Hagan commented the Borough has tried a variety of methods, over the last ten years, to try and improve the condition of Faber Field; including keeping it a natural field.

Jim Seaton, Ferndale Avenue – Mr. Seaton commented that everything that has happened lately is catered to the younger set and once their children are out of school they leave town, subsequently leaving the bill to the senior citizens. Mr. Seaton suggested the town stop spending money on unnecessary luxuries. Mr. Seaton also expressed concern with the excessive temperature artificial turf fields can reach.

Simon Toffell, 10 Eton Place – Mr. Toffell referred to an NBC news story, which recently aired, where artificial turf is linked to cancer and urged the Council to view/read this story.

Council member Orseck commented she is familiar with the article and noted for every study showing one result there will be another story stating the opposite.

Mike Ozanian, 557 Harristown Road – Mr. Ozanian agrees that the field as it is today, is unacceptable. Mr. Ozanian believes the proposed plan is a bad one stating financial reasons. An artificial turf field will cost the town 36% more over a 10 year period.

Mayor van Keuren asked Mr. Ozanian if he believes a natural grass field could withstand the degree of usage Faber Field gets.

Mr. Ozanian replied he does believe a natural field can withstand the use. Mr. Ozanian has reached out to several non-partisan professionals who assure him it could be done. The cost for artificial turf vs. natural grass is always more.

Gary, Stantec Engineering – Gary cited two fields they have worked on; one being the Great Lawn in Central Park. This is a sand-based natural turf field with 8 baseball/softball fields, managed very diligently through the Park Conservancy. There are definite days that are “red flagged” where the field is closed. The second field is on the site of the old Yankee Stadium, which is also a sand-based natural field consisting of two baseball fields where no soccer, lacrosse or football are played. The benefit of a synthetic turf field is the amount of games that can be played. The cost per game of a synthetic turf field versus the natural turf field is significantly less; which means more services are provided to residents at a lesser cost. The intensity of use at Faber Field leans toward an artificial turf field.

Eileen Finn, Rock Road – What is the safety benefit to having a turf field? Council member Orseck stated again for every study done in favor of a synthetic field there are just as many studies arguing against.

Gary, Stantec Engineering – Commented with sports where a lot of “skidding” is done a natural field can develop divots creating ruts in the field. Additionally, the natural freeze/thaw process can also create an uneven playing surface. The reliance and consistency of an artificial surface speaks volumes to safety.

Mayor van Keuren cited a previous question from a resident, asking how is a synthetic field treated after an injury where blood is involved.

Gary replied vendors will provide a disinfectant product that can be used, no different than a natural field.

Mark Braff, Graham Place – Mr. Braff has played men’s softball for 25 years on this field. He has witnessed many injuries due to holes, rocks or ground inconsistencies; not to mention times when on a beautiful day the field is unplayable due to a previous day’s rain. Mr. Braff noted if the difference is \$1 million over ten years, broken down to \$100,000/year spread over the community ... it’s quite the bargain to have a safe, first-class field that is open all year.

Richard Hahn, 1 Glen Avenue – Mr. Hahn cautioned the Council in hastily making a decision that may have a severely adverse health reaction on our residents.

Jim Feeney, 531 S. Maple Avenue – Mr. Feeney believes the demographics between senior citizens and residents with small children need to be reviewed.

At this point Mayor van Keuren concluded the discussion on the turf field and proceeded with the agenda.

- Early Lap Swim

Terry Hettinger – Ms. Hettinger presented the Council with a petition requesting the Wyckoff Y Swim Team be moved to a different time, other than the 6 a.m. – 8 a.m. time from mid-June through July, which they currently occupy.

Martin Mauro – Presented financial figures which total 8,990 depicting patrons who have purchased an early morning swim badge. Mr. Mauro stated these patrons would also be willing to pay additional money to offset the lost revenue of Wyckoff.

Peter Hettinger – Mr. Hettinger also asked if there could be a compromise with Wyckoff Y to change the timing of their pool usage to allow working residents to use the pool during the early morning hours.

Unidentified Resident, Harristown Road – This resident believes many people do not know about the early morning lap swimming and feels a little marketing may be beneficial.

Mayor van Keuren thanked the early swimmers for their suggestions and assured them the Council will consider their requests.

Mark Braff, Graham Place – Mr. Braff commented that Sweet Gum Trees were planted in their neighborhood. Sweet Gum Trees are great for absorbing water, which is good in his area as the water table is high. Unfortunately, the variety planted bears fruit instead of planting a non-bearing fruit variety. Mr. Braff requested that a program be put in place to swap out the fruit bearing variety Sweet Gum Trees with the non-bearing variety.

Council Committee and Liaison Report

Council member Orseck – Recreation Advisory Board will meet October 14th at 8 p.m. All are welcome.

Administrator's Report

Lenora sent the Council a copy of the Best Practices and asked them to review.

Lenora also sent information to the Council regarding obtaining procurement cards (i.e. credit cards). At this time, the Finance Department does not feel it necessary to obtain procurement cards as all purchases are handled through a voucher system.

Mayor van Keuren asked if there was anyone in the audience wishing to address the Council on anything other than turf field.

Irene Brown, 675 Lincoln Avenue – Mrs. Brown strongly urged the Council not to take away the lap swimming which occurs between 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Jerry Dorost, Ackerman Avenue – Asked why we still use the fire sirens to call firemen, it is a 1930's technology.

Council member O'Hagan replied because there is a volunteer fire department there is a protocol that needs to be filed. Council member O'Hagan will get the code that applies to the fire siren.

Keith Verkem, 60 Brookfield Place – Mr. Verkem asked if there is a time schedule for next week's meeting.

Ted Burke, 15 Bradford Street – Station Manager for GRTV. Mr. Burke apologized that there was a mix-up with the starting time of the meeting and consequently the quality of transmission.

9:00 p.m. - At this time the following resolution was offered:

Resolution No. 197-14
Offered by Council Member Orseck
Seconded by Council Member O'Hagan

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Glen Rock has certain pending litigation/personnel matters to discuss; and

WHEREAS, the same constitutes matters which are specifically excepted from the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act of the State of New Jersey.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all matters shall be discussed in private session from which the public will be specifically excluded on October 8 and/or October 15 at 7:30 p.m. or soon thereafter in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subject matter to be discussed at said private session of the Borough Council may be disclosed to the public at such future time as determination has been reached on said matter.

ROLL CALL:

Council Member O'Hagan – yes
Council Member Orseck – yes
Council Member Biggs - yes

Council Member Pazan - yes
Council Member Surrago - yes
Council Member Nogara – yes