

## **Baseball Field Relocation Committee**

January 26, 2017 6:00 p.m.  
Derby City Hall  
One Elizabeth Street, Derby

### **Attendance Taken at 6:10 PM:**

#### Present Board Members:

Mr. Carmen DiCenso, President, Board of Aldermen, Ex-officio  
Mr. Ronald Sill, Board of Aldermen  
Mr. Peter Olenoski, Board of Aldermen  
Mr. Anthony DeFala, Director, Public Works  
Ms. Barbara DeGennaro, Chairperson  
Mr. Ken Marcucio, Sr., Chair, Board of Education, Ex-officio  
Mr. Jack Walsh  
Dr. Matthew J. Conway, Jr., Superintendent, Ex-officio

### **I. Call to Order**

#### **I.a. Opening Ceremonies**

### **II. Public Participation**

Ms. DeGennaro stated that there is limited time for this meeting tonight as there is a Board of Aldermen meeting at 7:00 p.m. if anyone wishes to speak, they need to identify themselves and note their address for the record. The Committee asks to limit comments to 5 minutes due to time restrictions.

Kathy Slowik - 60 Chestnut Drive, Derby, voiced her concerns regarding Pop Warner and Little League being displaced as their seasons are coming up. She is also concerned about having concessions and a place to store equipment and supplies.

Patrick Sheridan - 49 Elm Street, Ansonia, stated that it is a fantastic opportunity to keep the baseball field on campus, but asks that wherever the little league field is relocated they maintain what they currently have.

Kathy Slowik - 60 Chestnut Drive, Derby, stated that she knows that this has to happen fast because of the monetary donation. While she is happy for everyone she is concerned for the current leagues as sign-ups are coming up soon.

Farhad Mekael - 185 Marshall Lane, Derby, voiced concerns about sharing Witek park for baseball and soccer. They would have to limit time for use to eliminate injury.

Ms. DeGennaro made a motion to close public portion, second by Mr. DeFala. All in favor, motion carried.

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on December 7, 2016 was made by Ms. DeGennaro, second by Mr. DeFala. All in favor, motion carried.

### **IV. Discussion of Proposals**

Dr. Conway referred to Eugene Driscoll's article regarding a donation of \$2 million towards a field house, and if the committee agrees, a baseball field on campus.

A donation in honor of Joseph R. Payden, who graduated from Derby High School in 1915, is being made by his daughter, Miss Joan Payden. Joseph Payden lived on 72 Elizabeth Street in Derby. He played football and was the valedictorian of his class at DHS. Miss Payden said that while her father played football that baseball was her father and brother's passion. Once we discussed relocating the baseball field on campus, she was happy to allow monies from the \$2 million to go toward relocation of the baseball field. Miss Payden would like to start this project as soon as possible and is ready to release the monies.

Dr. Conway talked with Miss Payden to let her know that we would have to listen to the concerns of the community so as not to give the perception that we are moving forward without listening to all stakeholders.

Ms. DeGennaro stated for the record that Andy Cota is present at 6:20 p.m.

Mr. DiCenso commended Mr. Pascale and Dr. Conway on securing the generous donation from Miss Payden. He wanted to make clear that no programs will be hurt by this project and this committee will do the best thing for all the children and the community.

Discussion continued on past proposals. Mr. DeFala asked Dr. Conway if use of the baseball field will be limited only to baseball? Dr. Conway stated that they are looking at making the baseball field a turf field, increasing the field for more seasons.

Dr. Conway discussed the state of the art field house that is Miss Payden's vision. Concessions will be a big part of the field house. They are looking to put in a kitchen to cater events. This will allow us to host major events for Derby and possible rental from other organizations. The field house will have a museum that will showcase 100 years of our athletes history.

Dr. Conway stated that Bond monies are being held because the committee has not made a recommendation to DEP about relocation of the baseball field. RFQ has gone out and the deadline for return is February 14, 2017. Start date will be contingent upon availability of construction company.

Mr. Walsh suggested Dr. Conway getting cost estimates for the proposed options. Dr. Conway stated that there is a cost to an architect - \$75/hr. to work up plans. We may review plans we have first.

Ms. DeGennaro stated for the record that Mr. O'Connell is present at 6:25 p.m.

Ms. DeGennaro suggested that the committee schedule another meeting next week. She echoed Aldermen DiCenso's statement that everyone will benefit.

Motion made by Mr. Walsh and second by Mr. DeFala to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

**Dina Gotowala**

Dina Gotowala  
Recording Secretary

Minutes are subject to approval at the next Committee meeting.