

October 27, 2016

Clint -

In response to the topic of lights being installed at Newton Park - on behalf of Glen Ellyn Baseball we as a group would absolutely support this endeavor.

The use of the baseball fields at Village Green for Golden Eagle football practices has clearly been detrimental to the grass/turf area's that we have invested heavily in over the years. To have the capability to move football off of Village Green over to Newton on a permanent basis would be extremely beneficial to the rest and healing process to the grass, and less of a financial burden on us and the park district every off season.

Additionally, as our fall baseball program continues to expand, our field availability for baseball is very limited because football is using the fields 3 out of the 5 weeknights for practice. We would love to have the ability to host the league, and have fields occupied for baseball every night.

Our program is growing, and we continue to invest in the fields at Village Green for the purposes of having a high level baseball program within Glen Ellyn. By adding lights to Newton Park and allowing Village Green to be used exclusively for baseball - we feel our efforts will not be deterred, and the football program will have a true space that they can call home as well.

Thank you,

Brett Hepner
Glen Ellyn Baseball

November 7, 2016

Clint Babicz,

A question came up regarding utilization of Softball fields at Ackerman Park. I have been involved with Glen Ellyn Softball Since 2013, and I am currently Co-Chair for the program. During this time, Our House League Program has grown by 30% and our Travel program has doubled. Given our Loss of (2) softball Fields over the past (2) years, we have found our spring field scheduling to be very tight In coordinating House League, Travel and Glenbard West Softball Practice and Game Schedules. Scheduling was especially challenging when trying to coordinate makeup games resulting from rain cancellations. In the fall, we have also Shared Space with Soccer. This year we were limited to 2 of our 6 fields for the fall practices and games. As a result, we had only 2 fields to coordinate requests for our new Fall In-House Softball Program, Fall Travel, and Hadley Middle School Softball which also utilizes our fields for games and practices. This fall we were maxed out on space, with all Fall House League games being played in Wheaton. In 2017 we will also be hosting Home Games, which will require us to utilize all (4) Hub Fields, in order to accommodate the increased demand.

I also need to express my concern over the damage that was done to outfields during the Lakers Tournament this year. The softball Program has always strived to work cooperatively with other park district sports and activities, including the Lakers Soccer Tournament. This year there was heavy rain that persisted throughout the entire tournament. Despite the Saturated Fields and Damage that was being done to the grass outfields, play continued throughout the weekend. In Particular, there was no consideration for the damage that was being done to our softball outfields. Upon completion of the Tournament, our fields were so badly damaged, that Softball had to restrict our teams from utilizing the outfields for the remainder of the fall. This resulted in our having to cancel several games that were scheduled to be played over the next several weeks. In future years, there needs to be additional consideration when the activities of one sport negatively impact another sport. If Soccer is using Softball Outfields, they should observe Softball guidelines, stopping play when conditions can result in excessive Field damage. We would appreciate it if this could be reviewed.

In summary, our House League and Travel programs are experiencing significant growth, which we expect to continue. Field utilization is very high during most of our Spring and Fall Seasons. Additionally, we are looking to add a 2nd Tournament in 2017 which will place additional demands on our fields. As a result, we would like to see dedicated access to our 6 softball fields during the Spring Season, and to our (4) Hub fields during the Fall. The future of our program is dependent on this field access.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Respectfully,

Jon Ciero
Glen Ellyn Softball
Co-Chair

November 10, 2016

Dear Clint

It is due, in no small measure, to the Park District's governance of our Program that we are reigning State Champions at under 12 age group and at High School Varsity. The fields at Newton enabled us to prepare far better for last season than in previous years and our program is now administered with great quality. However, the Program is aware that it is an increasing challenge for you to accommodate all the activities competing for field space in the Spring.

Our Program starts in March and concludes by Memorial Day. Our practices and matches are on weekdays, not on the weekend, and must take place after school (so from 4.30pm onwards) and must complete by 9pm. It is in this window, with very little daylight, that we desperately need the Turf field to be floodlit. Of course, for much of March and some of April, grass fields can be waterlogged and unplayable, so the Turf is the only option. Rugby is a contact sport, so we must practice intensively and prepare our children to play safely.

We are very proud of the contribution our Program and other sports programs is making to the Glen Ellyn community. It would be a shame if they were victims of their own growth in popularity, because field space shortages limited participation.

Whatever the outcome of this process, the Rugby Program would like to take this opportunity to thank the Park District for doing such a fantastic job for us; and for working so hard on initiatives like this one in an attempt to support the growth.

With best wishes, Martin.

Martin Russell
Glen Ellyn Youth Rugby

November 1, 2016

Dave,

I just wanted to let you know of the Glen Ellyn Bulldogs endorsement for the proposed lights at Newton Park. We represent close to 300 families across Glen Ellyn.

We would be able to utilize the lights during the shortened spring days between March and May when sunset comes early and infringes upon our practice times. It would also benefit the coaches, dual working parents and many volunteers which are inconvenienced when we push to start practice early in the spring to beat sunset. It is very difficult to find volunteers who can start before 5:30pm. Dual working parents find it difficult to get kids to practice prior to 5pm. In the early spring that leaves less than an hour for practice for many of our constituents. I would also like to add, as I know it is a concern for neighbors, from a car flow and parking perspective we would expect much more of a drop off and pick up scenario verse setting up night games to utilize the field.

I would also like to highlight the benefits the turf has brought to the lower newton fields. Usually at this time of year they are a mud pit!! Unusable as a facility and I imagine unattractive to the neighbors. The turf facility and the new drainage have really been a benefit to keeping the grass green at Newton for the neighbors and the community.

The ability to extend the usage a few hours to better accommodate volunteer coaches and practice times would greatly enhance our program and be a great benefit to all of our families.

Many thanks to the Park Board for your consideration to this great project.

Best,

Matt Halkyard
President
Glen Ellyn Bulldogs Lacrosse

Clint,

Thanks for providing a chance to provide our views on lights at Newton Park. The Glen Ellyn Lakers soccer program would be in full support of adding lighting to Newton.

Lights at Newton would benefit the main tenants of Newton (Lacrosse, Rugby, and Football) with additional availability and increased flexibility for usage due to weather, conflicts, etc. It would also potentially provide the Lakers soccer program with incremental usage of the fields for training sessions.

I also wanted to comment on the alternative proposal to move the Newton programs to Ackerman. The Lakers program would be against moving other programs such as football, lacrosse, and rugby to Ackerman Park. Ackerman is already stretched from a usage perspective with soccer and softball and adding other sports to the fields would impact an already tight space, disrupt the training and game schedule. The extra usage would also not allow for adequate resting of the fields to ensure proper maintenance and field health.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Bryan Powell
Glen Ellyn Lakers Soccer



To the Glen Park District Board of Commissioners—

Having had the great fortune of being part of the Glen Ellyn Golden Eagle program for the past 12 years, I would like to offer our support of the Newton Park Lights Initiative. Being part of the GEGE's as well as part of a great Park District, I have been fortunate to see the evolution of not only the Golden Eagles, but many other programs as my 5 kids all have varied interests and passions in this community.

*One of the greatest things my family has observed is the willingness of the park district board to make decisions on behalf of the **ENTIRE** community. Although some of these decisions have been tough and others even met with opposition, the changes and willingness to acknowledge and seek out thoroughly the impact on our great community has always taken precedent. The development of Newton Park over the past 10 years has been truly enlightening.*

Not only has more green space been added to the park, but also the opportunity for more of the community to utilize this venue has been nothing less than heartwarming.

The GEGE's have for the past decade, faced challenges with practice venues for our program. In your effort to utilize all the Parks within the PD inventory, this has not been easy. As our program and many other programs within the PD have grown, space, logistics and practice times have risen to be our top challenges. By the installation of lights at Bill Pope Field, the Golden Eagles can centralize our practice venue and thus alleviate the challenges that our program has and continues to face. Our program has gained its success not by itself, but rather by the support of the Park District Board as well as the community. Allowing our program to thrive by centralizing our practice facilities is vital to our continued success. Newton Park (for the past 53 yrs.) has ALWAYS been the venue for our football games, and by allowing us to again centralize our practice facility and alleviate our parents from picking up kids at numerous venues due to space and grounds limitations, will only add to the great experience that the Park District provides.

The Glen Ellyn Golden Eagles are confident that the PD Board of Commissioners will again respond to the community's desires.

*I have had the good fortune of being present for the 2 roundtable discussions already held regarding this proposal. Although some concerns brought about very spirited discussions, yet others have been hypothetical and presumptuous at best. Sometimes we know tough decisions are made and not agreed to by all, but we are hopeful that the foresight that has been used by the Board will again prevail. Not unlike when the PD was faced with the resurfacing of the Upper Field (Bill Pope Field), great concern and considerable due diligence was executed, to ensure that this decision will benefit the community—therefore we believed our support as the largest private donor was the right thing to do. **WE are very much in favor of the lights on Bill Pope Field**, as they will currently address not only the challenges of our program, but offer relief and address challenges of other Park District programs you are faced with on an ongoing basis. Many of our players also are involved in other sports that face the same challenges as we do despite being at other times of the year.*

I wish to thank you for your time in acknowledging the Golden Eagles' support as well as serving our entire community—not only for the present for those that come behind us, you have put forth a truly admirable effort.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cooke

Glen Ellyn Golden Eagles Co-Chair