

B&G Committee Meeting

March 29, 2022

Jefferson School

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Johnston at 2:30 pm.

In attendance were:

- committee members Colin Braunel, Kerry Trask
- MPSD Director of Buildings and Grounds Chris Dupré
- Nexus Solutions Account Representative Jeff Mangan

Jefferson Playground Discussion:

Background - during the summer of 2016 - Jefferson PTO paid approx \$26,000 to remove a portion of the blacktop playground and install grass (sod). The sod unfortunately did not live more than a couple of months due to the stress of the foot traffic during daily recess. The following summer the B&G department contracted out a landscaping firm to take out the dead sod, prep the ground, and sow grass seed. The area was fenced off and watered to a playground of healthy green grass. The grass was dead by November. That fall - grass seed was sown in again and the same results occurred the following spring. Since then, the area is sparsely covered by weeds but is mostly dirt/mud. The condition is such that in wet weather kids do not play in the area.

Currently, there are three play surfaces that exist on the south side of Jefferson School that comprise the playground.

1. washed pea gravel (located under the playground equipment),
2. blacktop and,
3. dirt/mud/weedy area.

We are soliciting competitive public bids to transform this dirt area into a synthetic turf playground. In addition, there are areas of existing blacktop and/or concrete that need repair. The partnership we have with Nexus solutions (currently working on the design and specifications for replacing the HS pool ventilation system) is providing the engineering and design work and is handling the public bidding process. The bid information will be shared at a future board meeting.

Municipal Baseball Field:

The status of the baseball field is that the city still owns the field and MPSD maintenance staff are continuing to prep the ball diamond for games and practices like we always have. Sometime soon, the city will transfer ownership to the MPSD and it will be our property.

Currently, the users of this facility are the

1. LHS Varsity baseball team and two outside groups
2. Legion-aged kids, as well
3. the men's Bandit Baseball team

A question came up about additional costs. There are some items at the field that will need to be addressed.

These include:

1. replace sump pump and replace or repair sump pit located on the first base side
2. replacing an electrical box with a more weatherproof one.

These two repairs would be handled by our own B&G maintenance staff. The city has also offered to provide some assistance with some larger equipment that might aid us with this work.

While the additional land ownership will increase the workload on the B&G department. There is a benefit to owning and controlling the condition of the facility. There are plans to hire a summer seasonal worker to care for the field preparations for practice and games that occur from the Legion and Bandits use. Conversations have begun with stakeholders to discuss existing facility conditions and to manage reasonable expectations of future improvements.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kerry Trask and seconded by Collin Braunel. The meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.