

MEETING MINUTES
WEST SIDE PARK & LEONARD-LEOTA PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Evansville, WI - MSA #: 09342007

September 3, 2021, 2:00pm



Meeting Location: City Council Chambers. 31 S Madison St

Meeting Purpose: Review West Side Park Sports Needs & Desires.

Sequence:

2:00 Evansville Jays Baseball – Jon Frey
2:30 City Baseball – Leah Hurtley
3:00 Evansville Angels Softball – Troy Larson
3:30 City Baseball – Curt Zoet
4:00 Baseball Youth of Evansville (BYE) – Doug Schwenn
4:30 Soccer – Paul Muench
5:00-5:30 Recap Discussion with Leadership Team

* Mike Pfeil – BYE, City Baseball, Evansville Angels - 9/10/2021

Review Items

1. Introductions

2. Context

- a. Brief Overall Process Recap
 - i. Project History & Referendum
 - ii. At the Stakeholder Input Stage
 - iii. Ideally 2022 construction
- b. Existing West Side Park
- c. Previous Proposed Park Concepts with Other Uses

3. Sports Field Input

- a. Which Park recreation facilities do your group/organization currently use?
- b. If you do not currently use any Park recreation department facilities, are there any that your organization is considering using or would like to use?
- c. What outdoor recreation facility shortfalls does your organization experience?
- d. What immediate improvements would address your group's most urgent needs?
- e. How many events per season does your group host?
- f. What is the approximate number of participants per event:
 - i. Teams
 - ii. Spectators
- g. Specific programming needs/desires:
 - i. Seating
 - ii. Access
 - iii. Restrooms
 - iv. Concessions
 - v. Storage
 - vi. Parking
 - vii. Field type and quantity
 - viii. Relationship to other park amenities
 - ix. Irrigation
 - x. Other
- h. Is your group interested or intending to financially contributing to this project in any way?
- i. What other ideas do you have regarding funding for these types of community facilities?
- j. Please provide any additional comments and suggestions.

4. Next Steps/Schedule

- a. Conceptual Master Site Design

5. Final Questions & Comments

1230 South Boulevard
Baraboo, WI 53913

P (608) 356-2771
TF (800) 362-4505
F (608) 356-2770

www.msa-ps.com

MEETING NOTES

Notice: These notes are issued to serve as a general overview of the items discussed at the subject meeting. Any discrepancies should be brought to the writer's attention.

Present:

Jason Sargent – City Administrator
Daniel Schmitt – MSA Landscape Architect
Ross Rettler – Rettler Corporation Landscape Architect

User Group 1

Jon Frey

Evansville Home Talent League aka “Jays” Organization

(See attached Notes provided by Jon Frey)

1. Evansville J's - Hometown Baseball – 25 team league – Adult amateur players.
2. Age of players (17-50) Average Age (22-23).
3. No cost admission to Jay's games.
4. Hosted events locally in the past.
5. Was interested in the concept of advertising opportunities as part of the new facilities.
6. Yearly fees for use of waived by Park Board in exchange for in-kind improvements to facility.
7. Maintenance of existing baseball facility at Leonard-Leota Park shared between Jay's and City.
8. Jays would likely remain at Leonard-Leota Park (upper field).
9. Upper field once also supported football (in outfield).
10. Jay's would assist financially and/or in-kind (primarily at Leonard-Leota) if appropriate opportunity was available.
11. Identified a need for shaded areas, windbreak, concessions space and equipment as part of new facilities.
12. Recommended renaming “West Side Park”.
13. Suggested Fort Atkinson, Waterloo and Edgerton/Albion as high-quality facilities to review when planning.

User Group 2

Leah Hurlley

Coordinator - City Baseball

1. Field priority (Leonard-Leota Upper Field) has been given to Jay's in the past.
2. Identified need for additional coordination between different leagues and organizations within the community. (Potential for streamlining and combining management of leagues)
3. 32 sponsors in 2021. \$140 each. Income offsets registration cost for participants.
4. Voiced interest in a rental facility (Park Shelter) at the new park that could be utilized for income generation.
5. May – October (87 reservations for park shelters), \$160 per shelter reservation.
6. Not uncommon for existing ballfield schedule to be full by February. 2-3 shelter/field reservations turned down each week (family softball games, etc.)
7. The City is turning down shelter reservations weekly due to programming challenges with other groups.
8. City baseball runs for 6-8 weeks on five fields, two games per night.

9. Existing Facilities (City Owned)
 - a. Leonard-Leota: Upper and Lower Ballfields
 - b. Countryside: backstops only; soccer fields
 - c. Westside: Soccer fields (future ballfields)

User Group 3
Troy Larson
President - Evansville Angels

1. 140 kids as part of the organization.
2. Games start M-Tr at 6 pm (80 hours of use per season). Some starting at 5:30 pm to allow for two games per night.
3. Currently play at the high school facilities.
4. Addressed need for flexibility for base path and pitching rubber locations to support all levels of play.
5. Do not need elevated pitching surfaces.
6. Identified a need for having concessions and parking closely located to the facilities for visitors and older demographic.
7. Never less than 100 people at events.
8. Deep backstops are challenging for younger participants.
9. Consider stubs and conduit for future improvements if they cannot be accommodated as part of the initial project development (lighting, scoreboards, etc.)
10. What is development cost of sports turf? Replacement cost? Rettler suggested considering cost per hour of use as baseline.
11. Evansville Angels would contribute financially to facility improvements that support softball.

User Group 4
Curt Zoet
Coach – City Baseball

1. Curt lived in Illinois and discussed how the park districts worked differently to coordinate activities.
2. Best facilities will not succeed without proper operations and management. Curt alluded to how these park districts provided organization between communities and the need for this type of coordination.

User Group 5
Doug Schwenn
President - Baseball Youth of Evansville (BYE)

1. Age 9-14 supported through youth baseball program.
2. 100 kids are in the program annually.
3. 3 levels of play and age groups are supported through BYE.
4. Typically the organization does not host tournaments based on facilities being available outside of Evansville.
5. There were discussions about trying to streamline the organizations and having the BYE organization be the primary entity.
6. Typically use Leonard-Leota Park Upper and Lower Fields.
7. New facilities need flexibility – multi-level play, base paths, pitching mounds.
8. BYE does not host tournaments due to lack of field space. 200 ft fields up to 12 y.o., 300' for 12 y.o. +
9. Monroe, Edgerton and Watertown (next covered playground) – as example facilities.

User Group 6
Paul Muench
Field Coordinator - Evansville Soccer

1. Soccer program supports U4 to high school levels of play.
2. 6-7 teams play locally in town.
3. 3-4 teams travel to other events.
4. The locations for the different levels of play are as follows.
 - a. U4 – U8 (Countryside Park) 3 fields @ 25 x 35
 - b. U9 & U10 (St. Johns) 2 fields
 - c. U11 (Westside)
5. Based on the preliminary conceptual layouts, Paul felt there was adequate soccer facilities provided. U-12, U-13 and practice space.
6. Drainage of the proposed facilities was a primary concern.
7. Soccer club works with City for maintenance and does the striping of the fields.
8. New goals should be included for new facilities.
9. Needs: Bathrooms, Storage, and Parking – Would consider use concessions if available.
10. Soccer tries to limit use during shelter reservations (keep parking for shelter users).

User Group 7
Mike Pfeil
Park Board Rep, Former City League Baseball Director, Umpire, Softball Parent

1. A park director position would help greatly as the City looks to program and maintain the new facilities.
1. New backstops should accommodate the playground and viewing adjacent to them for foul balls.
2. Outfield fencing could be moveable and adjustable to varying levels of play.
3. Dimensions of outfields for large ball fields could be brought in with a smaller dimension for 1 of the 2 fields.
4. Having the overlapping of the southwest ball field configuration with a larger soccer pitch will provide flexibility to other sports in the future.
5. Provisions should be considered for future lighting as part of a later phase.

Summary of Stakeholder Comments

Jason Sargent and Mike Poock

Requirements and desires of new facilities at West Side Park

- a. Parking – consider facility use, tournaments, aquatic facility cross-over.
- b. Restrooms – needed near fields.
- c. Seating – consider safety, ADA, shade (and windscreens on dugouts).
- d. Storage – near fields for maintenance equipment and gear.
- e. Field Type – grass is functional if maintained, turf if feasible (cost) would be desired but not necessary. 3 ballfields requested, with space for 1 U-12, 1 U-13 and practice space.
- f. Lighting – one field if possible now, future for all.
- g. Irrigation – necessary if grass to allow for increased use.
- h. Concessions – provide facility and equipment, allow for future improvement if budget doesn't allow.
- i. Batting Cages and Bullpen – if provided need to be close to dugouts, not necessary.
- j. Coordination – outside scope of project – park and recreation director suggested to coordinate future field use (reservation) and upkeep city-wide.