

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, January 23, 2019, 5:00PM

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School

Library Conference Room

Present: Chair – Kris O’Brien, Roxanne Ackerman, Megan Anderson, Amy Houghton, Kimberly Kirk, Robert Lionette, Janet Packer, Kathryn Shertzer,
Others: Huntress Associates: Christian Huntress, Daedalus Projects – Joe Sullivan,
Staff: Principal – Sarah Dingley, Finance Manager – Mark Friedman,
Facilities Director – Mike Taus, CTE Director – Barbarajean Chauvin,
Athletic Director – Mark McCarthy,
Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Matt D’Andrea, Asst. Supt. – Richie Smith,
Deer Run: Richard Johnson, Jamie McNeely, Debra Swanson,
Youth Sports: Terry Donohue, Matt Malowski, Joe Mikos, Louis Paciello,
Field Fund: Mollie Doyle, Clark Myers,
Press: Vineyard Gazette – Noah Asimov, MVTV – Michelle Vivian,
Secretary: Marni Lipke *Late arrivals or early departures (see * in text)

Call to Order

The meeting of the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) was called to order at 5:35PM. Chair Kris O’Brien thanked everyone for their attendance and work on the multiplying MVRHSC meetings.

Minutes – Tabled

(Agenda Item #I)

Track Presentation (See documents on file & 11/15/18 Minutes.) (Agenda Item #II)

The MVRHSC and Facilities Subcommittee hired and introduced Owner’s Project Manager (OPM) Mr. Joe Sullivan of Daedalus Projects and Mr. Chris Huntress of Huntress Associates. This was to hear and field question on a presentation of the resulting MVRHS athletic field Master Plan with various options as a preliminary for discussion and decision at the regular MVRHSC February 4, 2019 meeting. The Administration would consider all the information as well as MVRHSC and public comments, before make a recommendation.

Mr. Huntress reviewed the surveys, interviews and collaboration with staff to determine the opportunities and constraints of the MVRHS fields and the development of a conceptual master plan with three options including the existing layout and two plans moving the track and infield up front. Further development showed walkways, dugouts, a field house with locker rooms and bathrooms, grandstands and storage buildings.

- Annual usage was calculated at 2.5 hr. per event. The baseline of MVRHS field use was established (950 hrs.) along with outside users (400 hrs.) and requests for future use (900 hrs.)
- New England weather would put grass field usage at the lower end of 680-820 hr./yr. recommended guidelines. Use by MVRHS only, was averaged at 563 hr./yr. per field. The addition of one or two turf fields, which could sustain about triple the usage hours, would significantly reduce pressure on the remaining grass fields.
- Total construction costs including the Island contingency, design, engineering, permitting, etc. was ~ \$11,300,000. Phase One (track and infield) with an artificial turf infield was ~ \$6,700,000 and with a natural grass infield (including irrigation, drainage, etc.) ~ \$5,700,000.

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- There had been extensive Island discussion on surfaces (e.g. see 4/27/16 Minutes) and Huntress consequently researched and defined synthetic turf objectives for: human health, player safety, heat, water quality, and recycling:
 - eliminating the polyurethane coating and heavy metals,
 - identifying a resilient shock pad and alternative sustainably harvested infill,
 - required and certified end-of-life recycling.
- Next steps would be:
 - improve American Disability Act (ADA) accessibility;
 - support construction of a 400 meter track and infield with grandstands, press-box, lights, etc.
 - consider introduction of at least one sustainable synthetic turf surface,
 - commit to a 20 yr. natural grass maintenance program.
- Huntress Assoc. estimated proper field maintenance would require at least two full time positions (whether with a turf field or not), although some work and/or equipment (mowers, fertilizers, vertigrain machines were included in construction costs) could be subcontracted.
 - Maintenance of established, healthy natural grass field (construction cost \$250,000 each) was estimated at \$28,000/field/yr.—mowing, pesticides, fertilizer, aeration, etc.
 - Synthetic turf (construction cost \$985,000) annual maintenance estimate was \$7,500—monthly sweep/groom, semiannual de-compaction, cleaning and top dressing.
- Throughout the presentation the MVRHSC asked questions on cost, maintenance, safety, etc.
- Mr. Robert Lionette reported that the Facilities Subcommittee considered that the MVRHSC was only responsible for MVRHS events and consequently eliminated all outside use, which would reduce usage hours and allow all natural grass fields. Mr. Huntress noted that in his 25 years of experience, based on his current observations, and given the continual growing interest in sports, it was unusual and impractical to remove existing usage hours from fields and that such an action would not change his recommendations. Later in the meeting Supt. Matt D'Andrea strongly stated that as a community campus the Administration recognized the importance of youth sports and would not support the elimination of outside use of the MVRHS fields.
- Facilities Director Mike Taus reported that three years ago there was no field maintenance plan and only a mower. With MVRHSC support (current budget \$65,000) the fields were improving. However weather and play schedules were a major factor:
 - restricting the growing season to July and August; and
 - destroying a renovated Lacrosse field that never recovered from a single game played on frozen ground under a muddy surface.
- Finance Manager Mark Friedman asked for a 20 year cost overview. These were calculated in construction and maintenance (but not ancillary) costs divided by hours per field use. The calculation included renovation costs at 11 years for both natural grass and turf.
 - Natural grass 1-10 yrs. \$560,000 or \$132/usage hr. and 11-20 yrs. \$435,000 or \$102/usage hr.
 - Synthetic turf 1-10 yrs. \$1,060,000 or \$77/usage hr. and 11-20 yrs. \$617,000 or \$45/usage hr.The reduced turf cost being solely due to increased number of usage hours (1,375 hr. vs. 425 hr.)
- In response to Athletic Director Mark McCarthy's inquiry Mr. Huntress described player safety regarding human head surface impact attenuation (i.e. concussion rate) which was measured by Gmax rating from 0 (none) to 200 (concrete) with recommendations to stay under 140.

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A healthy well-maintained grass field was rated 85-115 and synthetic turf was designed to mimic this at 90-125. From his experience he judged the current barren-patched and compacted MVRHS grass fields to be over the 165 recommended limit and therefore unsafe.

- Once the MVRHSC voted, Huntress and Daedalus would oversee a full survey with geo-tech analysis, design services, permitting and construction. Mr. Hunter suggested that all preliminary work and specs include both natural grass and synthetic turf options so that the MVRHSC could make an informed purchase.

Public Comment - None (Agenda Item #III)

- Ms. Molly Doyle of the Field Fund reported the Fund had renovated and maintained two Oak Bluffs School (OBS) athletic fields with Island vendors for considerably lower costs—only partially due to the difference between non-profit and public procurement regulations. In response to her questions Mr. Huntress reported:

- A synthetic turf carpet was usually replaced about every 11 yrs. at \$400,000; and
- the proposed shock pad had been in the ground for three years in a pilot program.

- Martha's Vineyard Youth Lacrosse President Joe Mikos spoke of the elimination of youth league MVRHS field use as a huge disservice, endangering programs and putting extra pressure on the OBS and West Tisbury School (WTS) fields.

- Youth and Junior Varsity Soccer Coach Matt Malowski also advocated for youth league use suggesting the move would be short-sighted given the lack of other resources on the Island.

- He asked about sports lights for some of the multi-purpose fields to facilitate practices and games during the early winter evenings. He praised and was grateful for the Huntress proposals.

- Renovation of grass fields would take two growing seasons i.e. 3-4 months or one year, however if sod were used it would only be 4-6 weeks.

- Ms. Amy Houghton asked if the MVRHS charged youth leagues for field use similar to charges for use of the Performing Arts Center (PAC)—which had a sliding scale. For profit summer camps were charged but other programs were not.

- Chair Kris O'Brien thanked Mr. Huntress and Mr. Sullivan. The meeting and presentation would be well publicized including: MVRHS website link, MVTV, abutters, the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) and Councils on Aging (COA). Members were urged to consider the issues and come to the February meeting prepared to debate and vote.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None (Agenda Item #IV)

Executive Session – Not needed. (Agenda Item #V)

Adjournment (Agenda Item #VI)

MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO ADJOURN 6:50PM; MR. LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS

Appendix A - Meetings

- **MVRHSC - 5:00PM, Monday February 4, 2019 at the MVRHS LCR**

- AISC – 5:00PM, Monday, February 11, 2019 at the MVRHS LCR

- AISC – 5:00PM, Monday, March 25, 2019 at the MVRHS LCR

continued >

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Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks

- Molly Doyle – send Island vendors maintaining OBS fields to Mr. Huntress.
- All – email any questions to Supt. D’Andrea for transmittal to Daedalus/Huntress.

Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda 1/23/19
- Sign In Sheet 1/23/19
- Huntress letter re: Martha's Vineyard Regional High School – Athletic Field Master Plan (5 p.)
1/22/19
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Athletic Field Improvements (20 p.) 12/4/18

Respectfully submitted,

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Kris O’Brien – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D’Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Minutes approved 2/4/19