

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING

May 9, 2016

Present – Supervisors Brad Schumacher, Jay Swanson, Tom Rush and Larry Handshoe. Supervisor Jeff Holm absent.

Call to Order – The May 9, 2016 regular meeting of Baldwin Township was called to order by Chairman Brad Schumacher at 7:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meet with Russ Mann & Jon Bogart Regarding Young Park Baseball Field – Russ Mann stated that he has had discussions with Supervisor Rush on the project. There is a shortage of fields, good safe fields. He is starting a third field at Athens. He also did the Cambridge fields and a field for Grandy. He has received 3 Minnesota Twins grants and has learned how to save money on these fields. He built one for \$124,000 and another for \$144,000 based on Cambridge's quotes coming in at \$300,000. You can save 25% on ballfield lime by buying direct from Bryan Rock.

Mr. Mann handed out photos of the fields. He stated average fields are 99 pallets of sod which volunteers can lay out in 4 hours. Seeding is cheaper than sodding but he would encourage sod as the cost with seeding is still several thousand dollars and weed control becomes an issue. A 300 foot field is 99 pallets sod which equals 75 square yards.

Schumacher questioned what well source for irrigation with Mr. Mann replying a 30 h.p. pump with a 4 inch well. A variable drive worked well. Schumacher stated that he had talked to a well guy and a 4 inch well goes for about \$5,000, however, we have not gone out for bids. Mr. Mann stated that you really have to have irrigation.

Rush introduced Russ Mann and his wife Ann. Dave Patten present representing the Park Committee and Township Engineer, Jon Bogart. Rush stated that the township is on a budget. We did receive \$10,000 from the Twins and \$10,000 from the township and have received about \$2,500 in other grants. We are waiting to hear on a Burlington Northern grant.

Mr. Mann stated that the biggest expense is the backstop. Athens Township gave them \$49,000 out of \$370,000. That money came from cell tower rental. Twins gave them \$5,000. The remaining \$300,000 came from donations. Ann Mann stated that donations came in from the likes of the Lions Club and the VFW. Schumacher stated that dirt was given to us as a donation from a community member. Mrs. Mann stated that he (Russ Mann) will tell them what he wanted to do and what his vision is. It is for the kids. She suggested contacting Coborns. They had little signs made in recognition of the donors and thanked the people in the newspaper. They have been on t.v. a few times to recognize people.

Mr. Mann stated that the backstop has to be professional installed. Sometimes surplus equipment is available. The ballfield will take 500-600 loads of black dirt. Start with the big volume items and the rest will fall together. Lime is a big one. Put at least 4 inches of black dirt down and then till down to about 6 inches and incorporate sand into the black dirt with a tiller. Rush stated that this field, in the near future, will be used by the general public and the baseball and softball associations. Mr. Mann stated that you need to consider who it will serve, 8-13 year olds or anyone in softball or varsity.

Dave Patten proceeded to tell the Mann's about Kermit Young and Young Park and the donation of the 80 acres. They had no children and donated the land to the township so people realize that there used to be open land around here. Kermit is thinking when he was a kid and played sandlot baseball. Patten stated that he is not sure if he had this in mind. The site is really compact and probably could hold a 250 or 270 foot ballpark to be used for practice or churches. Family softball. On another parcel of land we could develop other ball lots. He is not sure we will have irrigation. Schumacher stated that he has reached out to Able Well and the board has talked about it and it will be added to next Monday's meeting agenda. Rush stated that we need water for a future restroom and drinking water. Bogart stated that drinking water needs to be treated. Swanson stated that we did have a sand point that we had to seal as the health department came out for that. It was the pump head that was open. If it did not have that head we would have been okay.

Bogart asked about the concept of the field. What size, amenities and how much do we want to spend? Rush stated that we have a prestige opportunity with the Twins grant. It is not going to be a Taj Mahal. It is going to be open. Patten stated that we could maximize the field's potential with donations. We have little over \$24,000 in cash. The irrigated sod may not happen. Maybe later. Patten suggests focusing on that inner diamond and the exterior piece and fund raise to upgrade from sandlot to sodded field. Mr. Mann stated that Grandy is a 275 or 280 field. You can go smaller. 300 is the Minnesota national regulation. Build a 240 or 250 field. Little League is 225 to 250. Bogart stated that his plan has a 1% grade going through. Rush stated that one to two bleachers and regular park bench to sit on should be installed.

Swanson stated that Patten hit the nail on the head with what Kermit wanted and he does not want to go against that. Number one: put a sandlot on this parcel. In the future, with Mr. Mann's involvement, he can see Cambridge's complex being built but he fears annexation problems ahead of a field that kids could use. Irrigation should be part of this as any grass that is in sand will have to have water. The well is a must. Patten stated that we could come up with a mix or hydro seed it as that will give it an outstanding chance. Ann Mann stated that then you would have to worry about sandburs. Mr. Mann stated that he thinks the town is honoring Young's wishes with a backstop and shorter fence as you need that for safety. Rush asked what the estimate would be without irrigation or sod. Mr. Mann replied \$40,000-\$45,000. You would get a lot of ballfield for \$75,000-\$80,000 and a lot of volunteer hours. A lime infield is needed for just plain maintenance. The initial plan is really a sandlot field. If this was a grass

infield then it would be different. Rush asked if this would meet the Twins requirement if were to do this minus irrigation. Mr. Mann suggested keeping the 1% slope in your explanation to the Twins as it keeps the field green by keeping the water. That is a big thing that the Twins are looking for. Swanson stated that we are up against maintenance as we don't allow motorized vehicles in the park. Rush stated that the association would maintain.

Mrs. Mann stated that a good idea is to take pictures of everything. What it looked like before, building, to people moving dirt. Put them on boards. She has a donation jar when they have garage sales. Mr. Mann suggested documenting every donation in kind and put a dollar amount on it. Rush asked if it was true that the Twins would come out with a player at the ceremony for the field during the Funfest. Mr. Mann stated that you have to request it and now you may have to pay for a player. More than likely it will be someone from the Board of Directors. Mrs. Mann stated that function would be a good place to put pictures along with a donation jar.

Rush asked Bogart how far can we go from the road. Bogart replied that the field maybe should be shrunk to 275 with maxing out the site at 300 feet. Mrs. Mann stated that most people don't use bleachers and suggested putting a 15 foot long 3-4 high bleacher on each side. Mr. Mann stated that diehards will tell you that have to have 300 but you really don't. Both Swanson and Schumacher agreed to 275. Mr. Mann stated that the fence on the sides need to be about 8 feet. This plan faces the southeast which is a pretty good position with northeast being the best. Keep the infield at 110 feet. The field will need about 250 ton of lime with 8-9 inches at home plate. Mrs. Mann suggest having volunteers rake the lime. Rush asked about receiving separate bids with Mr. Mann replying that he was the city's general contractor for Cambridge. One person on the town board will get the quotes with Bogart putting together a list. It should be one big contract or a town board supervisor calling each vendor for quotes. Mr. Mann suggesting apply the fencing to the Twins grant and be done. Rush stated that Phase 1 should cost between \$40,000-\$45,000 and Phase 2 another \$40,000-\$45,000. Mr. Mann gave out his website: manfield.com and told the board if they had any questions to please feel free to call him. He can get to 10% within the number. Discussion on how the Mann's handle cleanup after every game. Mr. Mann stated that heavy black dirt is needed with sand in it. If given peat black dirt, take it. Will need 500-550 yards and you can blend if you have to. The next steps will be Bogart putting together a list and figure out the quantities.

Rush stated that he appreciates Russ and Ann Mann coming out. Mr. Mann stated that they are in the business for kids and reminded the board that no matter how hard it gets, don't stop. Yell if you need anything. Mrs. Mann invited the board to stop by if they are in the neighborhood. Mr. Mann stated that meeting the Twins requirement is nothing. Go with the fencing. Give them a budget. Conserve on rain water with the grade of the field.

Adjournment – Handshoe/Rush unanimous to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Cathy Stevens

Submitted By: (s/) Cathy Stevens
Clerk/Treasurer
Baldwin Township

BS

Approved By: (s/) Brad Schumacher
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Baldwin Township

6-6-16

Date

Attendees: Dave Patten, Russ Mann, Ann Mann, Jon Bogart