

MINUTES OF AUGUST 23, 2011
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
PROPOSED LIGHTS AT MEMORIAL FIELD

Present:

Adam Kreuzer, Commissioner

Susan Bateman, Commissioner

Lee Neary, Environmental Commission Chair

Public Participation: Linda Gilbert from the Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation and a local lighting expert, Kirk Burger addressed their concerns about lights at new athletic field.

After the completion of public participation, subcommittee members shared their independent research regarding the new field, lighting and other potentially significant environmental impacts. Apart from the lighting impact, the subcommittee expressed concerns about potential noise pollution, destruction of green space, increased garbage and other waste, energy consumption, increased crime and increased air pollution from idling. The members of the subcommittee were very concerned about the potential significant personal safety impact on those that live, work and play in the environment at and near Memorial Field. The subcommittee understands that independent public safety evaluations have raised concerns regarding the traffic patterns, parking and the natural interaction of automobiles and pedestrians, many of whom will be young, at night.

The members of the subcommittee noted their understanding that Glen Ellyn will be the ONLY municipality within DuPage County or other local counties that will have what the School District has proposed. The members of the subcommittee noted their understanding that no other community has or will have an athletic field lighted 6 days a week during the evening during which school, park district or private leased sporting events will be held. No other municipality has a field that is as intimately close to its town and its citizens. If it does, it is not lighted 6 days a week. The subcommittee understands that the field at York High School in Elmhurst may be a good example. Internet research shows that Elmhurst has strict restrictions on the number of days during the year that the York athletic field can be used at night.

The subcommittee agreed to recommend that the Environmental Commission schedule a special meeting to discuss the potential environmental impacts of the new field. It is anticipated that the Commission will decide whether or not to draft a resolution and whether to schedule a brief presentation at an upcoming Plan Commission meeting.