



Joint Workshop Meeting of the Livonia Town Board and  
Zimmerman City Council  
Held at the Zimmerman City Hall Council Chambers  
August 8, 2011

Town Officials/staff present: Chairman Sherper, Supervisors Hass, Hewitt, Manthei, and Clerk/Treasurer Spencer. Supervisor Doebler, absent.

City Officials/Staff present: Mayor Earenfight, Council Members Kowalski, Mathison, Laney, City Administrator Piasecki, Dave Horvath Public Works Director and Clerk/Treasurer Tillmann. Council Member Brisbin absent.

Others present: Tom Wilkinson, Zimmerman Park Board, Randy Anderson, ISD 728 and various Zimmerman Youth Athletic Associations (ZYAA) Representatives and City of Zimmerman and Livonia Township residents.

At 7:00 p.m. Mayor Earenfight called the Joint Meeting to order at the Zimmerman City Hall Council Chambers to receive information from the Zimmerman Park Board and the ZYAA regarding playing field space.

Tom Wilkinson reported the Zimmerman Park Board was approached by the ZYAA regarding the need for more ball fields. The Park Board decided they should pursue obtaining more ball parks but is on a limited budget. The Park Board is reaching out to Livonia Township and the ZYAA for possible help and opinions on how to go about it.

Jason Yonak, Zimmerman Park Board said the site by the Westwood Elementary School would be fitting for additional fields. Wilkinson provided a conceptual drawing for all to view. It includes parking lot, restrooms, three softball fields, one full size and four smaller soccer fields. According to Administrator Piasecki the City owns 11 acres adjacent to the Westwood School.

Anthony Artisensi-Skime, Zimmerman Park Board member said it would be at least two years before playing fields would be available. The site is wooded, trees need to be removed and the grounds treated; the fields would be multi-use facilities. He stated the kids that utilize the fields are from both

Chuck McConnville provided numbers: there are 8 minor teams, Kindergarten to first grade; second and third graders make up the 8 major teams. In 2009 there were 290 players, in 2010 309 players and this year 323 players for an average increase of two teams per year. In 2010 there were 85 minor players; this year 83 minor players; in 2010 there were 85 major players and this year 91; 4<sup>th</sup> grade in 2010 22 players, this year 24 players; 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade in 2010 8 players & 24 this year. In addition there are travel teams for the 10-15 year old age group. They are fielding 27 teams on 6 playing fields for practice and games. Some teams practice on Saturdays and Sundays; field use is from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.; there is no lighting.

Randy Anderson, ISD 728, stated the School District is interested in working for development of the fields. Molly Thompson, ISD 728 School Board Member, City resident and parent also expressed need for additional playing fields.

There were a number of ZYAA participants from both the City and the Township in attendance who communicated the need for more ball field space for practice and games.

Mayor Earenfight posed the question of financing for cost of the project; the City budget is limited. Earenfight noted the Youth Baseball Organization pledged \$30,000 to City for the last playing field that

was built in the City. While everyone is in agreement with the idea of the kids having more fields, the bottom line is how the project would be financed; any ideas are welcome.

Supervisor Hass asked if there is availability on the Johnson fields and about delegation of time there. Softball more than baseball has use of the fields on Thursday nights and on Sunday nights if not in use.

Supervisor Manthei questioned field maintenance; whether with limited budget the City will be able to handle more fields. Earlier Horvath noted they currently have one person working 40 hours a week to maintain fields now. Maintenance of the proposed field is unknown and would need to be worked out. There was question as to whether or not maintenance could be handled by a contractor or in-house; there is question about liability with in-house work.

ZYAA representatives again stated the important thing is to get the kids out to play; they have fund raising opportunities.

Two representatives from each the City, School, ZYAA and Township will meet to talk about options. Gary Doeblor, Dave Hewitt will represent the Township with Don Sherper as alternate. Council Members Laney and Mathison, Administrator Piasecki and Public Works Director Horvath from the City. Date/time for meeting to be determined.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 2011



Chair or Vice Chair



Clerk/Treasurer or Deputy Clerk/Treasurer