

February 13th, 2017

To Whom it May Concern.

I am writing in support of the MV@Play fields initiative. As a high school soccer coach, youth soccer board member, and active community youth mentor I feel that this project is a once in a lifetime opportunity and generous undertaking aimed at providing the very best amenities to our island youth and athletes. At this time, our facilities are in deplorable condition and MV@Play is the only group offering a realistic and achievable solution.

In addition, MV@Play has taken all necessary steps by calling a public forum, recruiting highly trained engineers and experts, drafting formal proposals and plans, lining up donors, and humoring any and all input from the community. They even reworked the entire initial proposal at their own expense to curtail to the concerns of some of the public by utilizing organic infill rather than crumb rubber. This group has done everything in their power to perform their due diligence and present tangible, real solutions for our island youth.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the table, is The “Vineyarders for Grass Fields” contingent. This group offers no palpable solution or any type of formal proposal to outline ways in which we can realistically resolve our field issues. All that has been offered are a series of social media attacks (sometimes personally directed), subjective, emotionally-charged letters, and inconclusive data sets from less reputable R2 (Research Level 2) institutions. An alarmist mentality and fear-mongering tactics are this group’s chosen artillery. One must realize that this type of behavior has no place in logic-based, reasonable, adult discourse.

That being said, it is my sincere hope that the MV Commission realizes the clear difference between objective facts and subjective fear. Unfortunately, both logic and reason are absent from the opposition’s argument and for the Commission to squash this grand initiative based upon these grounds alone would be both foolish and arrogant. Please use proper judgment during your proceedings. Please recognize the difference between objective data presented by highly trained professionals and emotionally charged letters written by an untrained and misinformed populous. Please don’t shut the door on our island’s youth by letting fear and hysteria get in the way of reason and logic.

Sincerely,



Ryan J. White
MVRHS Soccer Coach
MVUnited Board Member
Edgartown Business Owner
(Former) Principle Research Coordinator for Clinical Trials