

Re: Follow-ups to 4-17-20 meeting

Rebekah Thomson <rebekahjthomson@gmail.com>

Tue 4/21/2020 11:16 AM

To: Adam Turner <turner@mvcommission.org>; Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>; Oak Bluffs Planning Board <planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov>; Lucy Morrison <morrison@mvcommission.org>;

Cc: thefieldfund@gmail.com <thefieldfund@gmail.com>; Mollie Doyle <molliemdoyle@gmail.com>;

Hi again,

To answer Alex's questions below:

1. As you have read in the emails we shared with you, while The Field Fund appreciated the grass campus policy as a gesture, it was clear to all involved that the policy was non-binding and easily reversed. For our donors who were being asked to write million dollar checks, the fact that the policy had no legal commitment made it a nonstarter. Indeed, within months of the policy's implementation, school leaders were already discussing a plastic field again and repealed the policy only recently, long after the school committee voted in support of a plastic field and stood on town meeting floors requesting funding for it.
2. The Field Fund spoke with Chip Osborne when we were researching grass advisors. He was a helpful resource but we opted to hire Natural Grass Advisory Group because of their focus on high performance athletic fields, which was the issue here on MV.
3. Our turf grass advisors at Natural Grass Advisory Group are very familiar with both the current proposal as well as the proposed maintenance protocols for the grass field. They disagree with the approach and assumptions for both. We also have a number of other experts and investigative reporting relating to other aspects of the project beyond usage, attesting to the inaccuracies on topics including costs, disposal, recyclability, environmental impacts, safety, etc.

We would like to schedule a time to go through the proposed application with you prior to the completion of your staff report. Please let us know when is best.

Thanks!

Rebekah, Mollie and Dardy

On Apr 17, 2020, at 4:25 PM, Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org> wrote:

Hi Rebekah,

Thanks again for talking with us today. I just have a few follow-up questions that I was hoping you could answer.

What happened with the 10-year grass fields policy that the high school adopted in 2017? Was the Field Fund satisfied with the policy at the time?

Has the Field Fund worked with Chip Osborne on any of its projects?

Has the Field Fund had any grass experts evaluate the high school's current proposal?

Thanks,

Alex

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