



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS**  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCPB May 24, 2018  
Agenda Item 3

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 14, 2018

**TO:** Montgomery County Planning Board/Parks Commission

**VIA:** Mike Riley, Director of Parks  
Mitra Pedoeem, Deputy Director *Mit*  
Kristi Williams, Chief, Public Affairs & Community Partnerships Division *(K.W.)*

**FROM:** David Tobin, Manager, Community Partnerships *DT*  
Neal Hollingshead, Park Manager, South Germantown Recreational Park

**SUBJECT:** Maryland Soccer Foundation, Inc. (MSF) SoccerPlex 2017 Annual Report

**Staff Recommendation:** Accept the MSF Year End Report as submitted.

**Please Note:** The MSF financial statements contained in the included Year End Reports and the Audited Financial report both contain confidential financial information that is considered proprietary and will not be distributed to the public. This information has been reviewed and accepted by the M-NCPPC Secretary-Treasurer. Staff recommends any discussion of proprietary financial information be conducted in closed session.

**Background**

The MSF has a forty-year lease with the M-NCPPC to manage and maintain the Discovery SoccerPlex, located in South Germantown Recreational Park. The lease expires in 2039. The SoccerPlex is a 162-acre soccer facility consisting of 24 outdoor soccer fields, one championship tournament stadium field with stadium seating, one indoor multi-purpose facility, and three artificial turf fields with lights. The SoccerPlex is one of the M-NCPPC's Public-Private Partnership projects, originally developed in 1999, with a total initial project development cost of \$28,081,000 (of which 39% was public funding and 61% private funding). Since 2000, the MSF has invested over \$7 million in general capital improvements, creation of three turf fields and stadium improvements.

As part of the MSF's amended lease agreement terms, the MSF provides the Montgomery County Planning Board with an annual report consisting of: the programmatic benefits and services offered to the public during the year; a financial statement describing their operating and capital budget expenditures, income and reserve funding management during the year; the identification of any new initiatives, any updates to their business plan; information on the Soccer Association of Montgomery County (SAM); and community outreach and events.

### **Staff Assessment of SoccerPlex Activity During 2017**

The SoccerPlex continues to be a successful example of the benefits public-private partnerships can provide to the community. The MSF's business acumen, innovative programming, and ongoing commitment to growing the sport of soccer have created a world class soccer venue that draws more than 1.5 million visitors every year. We continue to enjoy a strong collaborative relationship with MSF and look forward to working with them on new initiatives in the future.

### **FY-2017 Activity Reports**

Attached is the Executive Summary from the MSF's submitted 2017 End-of-Year Report. This summary provides more detailed information on the opportunities and challenges faced by the MSF over the past year.

## Executive Summary 2017/2018

### 2017 and 2018

Now that all 24 fields are built, what's next:

- Drainage, not exciting but hugely popular
- Remove and replace
- Partnering for Player Safety
- Here's Sammy
- Grass Roots Opens
- School Start Date

### Drainage

The number one priority for our customers is to be able to play through a rain event. That's why synthetic turf is so popular because it is "guaranteed play". So, when we installed a full system of sand channels and drains on fields 1 & 2 we were optimistic those fields would be available for play after a measurable rain event. This spring was a great test. It rained and rained and rained. May alone had 4.8" and it all occurred on Thursday and Friday, the worst possible scenario. Fields 1 & 2 played on. Since this was a success, this fall we installed the same system in fields 8 & 10. And our plan is to install them in two fields per year until all grass fields have the drains in them.

### Remove and Replace

Ten years ago we installed three synthetic turf fields and they performed well but it was time to replace them. The best time for us to replace is the early winter when our outdoor activity is at its lowest. The fields are set to be completed on January 13 when our activity begins to pick up. Six months ago we began the process to select a vendor to replace the fields. We met with several companies, walked many fields, and discussed all types of infill. Our goal was to install the safest, most durable system with playability as close to a grass field as possible. On November 27, shortly after our last soccer tournament and training sessions, the process to remove the synthetic turf began. By December 8 the old fields were gone. Starting on December 13, the new fields will be installed. We selected a Brock power base shock pad, AstroTurf fiber and Zeofill as the infill. Zeofill is a newer infill, used extensively in California. The GMAX measurement for the fields should be below 120; a grass field is around 90 and the NFL requirement is 165. We did not sew in any inlays on the fields for field lines, instead we will paint the lines which will hopefully increase longevity and durability.

### Partnering for Player Safety

Several years ago when Holy Cross Germantown Hospital was being planned and constructed, we began an excellent community partnership with Holy Cross Health. This year and in 2018 we are expanding the relationship to add parent education on the two biggest health concerns in sports: concussions and injury prevention. We are now connected with their neurology and orthopedic practices to develop a program that is informational and beneficial to parents of athletes. We are thrilled to have their support.

**Here's Sammy . . .**



He's the new mascot for our SAM soccer club. He welcomes our 3-4 year olds to class, plays with Boyd (the SoccerPlex dog), visits libraries, Clarksburg Outlets, sponsors. He/she is out and about.

**Grass Roots Opens**

Many thanks to Mike Riley for attending the opening of our Grass Roots exhibit that opened in May. It has been well received by local walkers in the park and those waiting in line to buy tickets to the Washington Spirit game. In 2018 we will reach out to schools for field trips.

**School Start Date**

We wondered if moving the school start date would impact our operation and we think it did. Our late August tournament had fewer teams because so many parents remained on vacation that extra week and it delayed registration for our SAM program. Operationally it was challenging. We're hoping it is a one year anomaly and next year parents will settle into a new routine.

**Athletic Trainers**

A year ago we began having an athletic trainer on site during league weekends to evaluate injuries, particularly concussions. The concept was well received but we realize that we need to boost our communication plan so that more coaches and parents are aware of the number they can call for assistance.

**Proposed Field Complexes in Frederick**

In November FC Frederick Soccer Club announced it has purchased 152 acres of land in Monrovia to build a multi-field soccer complex. No further details were available. In addition, the City of Frederick is interested in developing the Hargett Farm property into Westside Regional Park which is a 60 acre site for a planned 10-field artificial turf complex and other facilities. No timelines were available for either project.

#####