

Joint City/School Memorial Field Planning Committee

June 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Location: City Wide Community Center, 14 Canterbury Road

Time: 5:08 pm

Committee Members Present:

City Councilors:

- Nathan Fennessy, At-Large Councilor
- Jeff Foote, Ward Ten (Chair)

Board of Education:

- Jim Richards, Zone A

Absent: Barb Higgins (Board of Education)

Guests: Nancy Guilbault, Fred Reagan

City/School Staff present: Matt Cashman from Concord School District, David Gill from the City of Concord.

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 pm by Mr. Foote. Mr. Fennessy made a motion to accept the minutes from last meeting. Mr Richards seconded and the minutes where approved.

Mr. Gill reviewed the latest Master Plan Concept based on the feedback from last meeting:

- Committee would like the new grandstands to face the west with bathrooms and team rooms under the grandstands. This will allow the noise to project west away from houses and allows the ability to have banners/billboards on the bleachers facing the main park area.
- Committee would like the track bleachers on the south side as that will allow great sight lines of the track events being held on the grass field between the track and the new main multipurpose stadium.
- Committee asked if we really need two softball fields onsite, if so to make sure one of them does not have an outfield fence. This would allow the field to be used by other sports in the off season.
- Can the softball fields be shifted north and west and be built in the wetland area? If so we might be able to add some parking.
- Continued review of the onsite parking is needed. Traffic flow was discussed including enough onsite bus parking.

Mr. Foote welcomed the two guests

- Nancy indicated she thinks it a great plan (with changes discussed tonight) and appreciates the committees review of the plan and hopes it will get funded as soon as possible.
- Fred asked about moving the softball fields into the wet land areas to allow more space. Might need to create a retention pond if able to move the fields. Also, he thought too much stuff in the middle of the complex. He suggested moving the tennis courts closer to the parking lot (maybe in location of first softball field), also the two basketball courts could be moved maybe to the south of the new parking lot. Moving both would open up the middle of the park for more greenspace for events etc.

Committee members thanks Nancy and Fred for their comments.

Mr. Richards ask the committee to request the City Administration (City Manager and City Finance Director) meet with School District Administration (School Superintendent and Finance Director) to begin conversations on how to jointly fund the next Phase to included final design, permitting and updated cost estimates for the project. Mr. Fennessy agreed would be best to secure funding as soon as possible. He noted City Council did approve the next phase in FY26 budget however did not fund the project as the school district share was not funded. The committee agreed with Mr. Richards request.

The committee would like to meet in July (TBA) and asked if staff from VHB and Huntress Sports can be there also to help finalize the master plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm, motion by Mr. Fennessy, seconded by Mr. Richards, motion passed.

Minutes submitted by David Gill, City of Concord