Steve Padget, AIA, LEED AP
1708 Illinois
Lawrence, KS 66044
842-0957

City Commissioners
City of Lawrence

Sept. 11, 2008

RE: LHS site plan

Dear City Commissioners,

Soon you will be considering the School District's proposal for developing the LHS/CVS and FS sites. This letter is to document my professional reasons for opposing several aspects of the proposal on the LHS site.

The Land Development Code establishes minimum standards toward the benefit of the public's health, safety and welfare. In order to squeeze so much onto a restricted site, this code and the minimal standards it sets have been ignored in several significant ways.

This all begins with the chosen use assignment given to the proposed football stadium. The staff has made what I believe to be a serious error in judgment. They have assigned the football stadium to fall under the use definition of "Active Recreation"(**AR**) instead of the more restrictive use designation of "Entertainment and Spectator Sports"(**E&SS**).

The Code specifically requires that, when ambiguities and conflicts exist (such as occur in this case), the more restrictive provisions of the code shall apply. So, in this case, the more general use definition ("Active Recreation") seems to apply but so does the more specifically defined and more restrictive designation of "Entertainment and Spectator Sports".

The following identifies the Code's requirement in **20-109** "Conflicting Provisions" to use the more restrictive use definition:

(b) Conflict with Other City Regulations

If the provisions of this Development Code are inconsistent with one another, or if they conflict with other City Regulations, the more restrictive provision will control. The more restrictive provision is the one that imposes greater development restrictions or more stringent controls.

The use "**AR**" is permitted in GPI zones.
The use "**E&SS**" requires a Special Use Permit in GPI zones.
(See **20-403**)

The use currently assigned by the City staff to the football stadium is that of "Active Recreation" (**20-1755**). It's definition follows:

20-1755 **Recreational Facilities**

Recreational, social, or multi-purpose uses typically associated with parks, play fields, golf courses, or community recreation Buildings.

(1) **Active Recreation**

Areas and facilities used or designed for active or group sports and recreational activities, including spectator areas associated with such facilities. Such areas include but are not limited to:

(i) athletic fields and courts, playgrounds and play apparatus;

(ii) skating rinks and swimming pools;

(iii) boat docks and launches;

(iv) zoos;

(v) community recreation Buildings, including but not limited to meeting rooms, dass or lecture rooms, band shelters or gazebos, and gymnasiums; and

(vi) Structures accessory to community recreation uses, such as public restrooms, refreshment stands, concession shops selling sporting goods, and miniature golf.

This seems to include uses such as are being proposed but only in that the category is so broadly defined. It seemingly could apply to anything from a small playground for children (or, for that matter the current practice field and track at LHS) to Memorial Stadium.

There is another use defined in the code that seems to much more specifically describe the proposed football stadium facilities.

This is "Entertainment and Spectator Sports" (**20-1725**). It's definition follows:

20-1725 **Entertainment and Spectator Sports**

Provision of cultural, entertainment, athletic, and other events to spectators. Also includes events involving social or fraternal gatherings. For participant sports, see Sec. **20-1764**. The following are spectator sports and entertainment use types:

(1) Limited
Those uses conducted within an enclosed Building with a capacity of 500 or less people. Typical uses include small theaters and meeting halls.

(2) General
Those uses generating an attendance of 501 or more people such as theaters (movie or legitimate), large exhibition halls, field houses, stadiums and sports complexes. (Ord. 8098)

"Entertainment and Spectator Sports, General" appears to be a far more specific definition and more clearly can be assigned to the proposed development of a football stadium at LHS. Most notable is the designation, "…uses generating an attendance of 501 or more people such as…stadiums and sports complexes." The proposed facility has state-of-the-art (and expensive) artificial turf system, track, stadium seating, competition lighting, press box, sound system, scoreboard, concession stands and restroom facilities - all for 4,000 people.

On land zoned as GPI, the 'Active Recreation' use is permitted and the 'Entertainment and Spectator Sports' use permitted only with a special use permit. (see **20-403**)

Under a "Community Recreation" use designation (the closest one I can find to "Active Recreation" in the parking schedules, there is no specific parking requirement (see **20-905, Schedule "D").** However, it does require that a good deal of formal, documented study be done prior to the Planning Director's determination of parking requirements based both on precedence and ITE standards. As far as I know, no such formal, documented study has been done.

Under an "Entertainment and Spectator Sports, General" use designation, there is no such ambiguity (see **20-902, Parking Schedule "A"**). Here, there is the requirement to provide 1 off street parking space for every 3 seats. In the case of the LHS proposal this would result in 1,333 parking spaces for the football stadium alone (and far more bicycle spaces and handicapped spaces). Where multiple uses exist (see **20-907(a)**) parking is to fulfill the requirements of all the use requirements on the site combined unless an exception exists under 20-909.

Clearly, the "Entertainment and Spectator Sports," activity designation (general and limited) is precise in its intentions and its requirements. "Active Recreation" is general in both definition and requirements. "**E&SS**" is also clearly the more restrictive use. Under **20-109 (b)** , **E&SS** must be applied as the use in the football stadium case.

In the current proposed plan, the LHS site is to have approx. 850 parking spaces, falling far short of the 1,333 required for the football stadium alone (and far short of the 1,200 spaces provided on the Free State site). In addition, the Code requires a minimum of interior plantings of 60 SF/parking space. This requirement is defined as follows:

20-1003 Interior Parking Lot Landscaping

(a) Purpose

The Parking Lot Landscaping standards of this section require interior Landscaping within Parking Lots to break up large, unsightly expanses of pavement and to provide relief from the heat island effect associated with paved areas.

(c) Landscape Area

(1) Parking Lots shall contain at least 60 square feet of Landscaping area per Parking Space.

(2) Required minimum Parking Lot perimeter Landscaping may not be used to satisfy minimum interior Parking Lot Landscaping requirements.

The currently proposed plan does not include this planting. Instead it cites a variance from this requirement. Why such a variance was allowed I do not know. By allowing such a variance, the public's health safety and welfare have not been better served.

While it is not specifically covered under the Code, the specific method referred to on the plan for storm water detention at least deserves further study prior to approval. The current plan indicates that there will be a 60% decrease in runoff by using the athletic fields as detention areas. In my experience, synthetic turf systems are designed to aggressively get rid of any rain water as fast as possible. The combination of moisture and the extreme heat of sun-lit artificial surfaces create ideal conditions for fungal growth. Some manufacturers will not warrantee their turf if their recommended drainage designs/products are not applied.

To sum up, I have serious concerns about the proposed plan. It includes a major public facility that can only be described as a stadium. This stadium will undoubtedly attract a good deal more intensive use than 5 or 6 times a year (playoff games, marching band festivals, multi-school track meets, field days to name a few). Even if it "only" is used in this manner 5 or 6 times/yr., the Code is clear – the use "Entertainment and Spectator Sports" is the correct application. To not use this and its more stringent requirements is to not apply the minimal standards for the health, safety and welfare of the public as defined in the Code.

Common sense tells us if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's a duck. More importantly, the code is clear that the more restrictive use should be applied.

The current plan as proposed should not be approved.

Sincerely,

STEVE PADGET, AIA LEED® AP
spadget@bnim.com

Northwestern Mutual
FINANCIAL NETWORK®

The Jayhawk Financial Group

Nancy A. Jones
Financial Representative

627 Monterey Way
Lawrence, KS 66049
785 856 2136 office
785 838 9833 fax
913 908 7284 cell
nancy.jones@nmfn.com
www.nmfn.com/nancyjones

August 18, 2008

Planning Commission
c/o Paul Patterson
6 E. 6th Street
PO Box 708
Lawrence, KS 66044-0708

Dear Paul,

I am writing on behalf of Lawrence High School and the proposed athletic fields and improvements. My husband and I are both LHS graduates and we have had two children graduate one in 2005 and the other in 2007. We also have a son that is currently a junior at LHS.

We were shown the proposed improvements at the fall sport parent meeting and I thought it sounded great. There have been very little if no improvements made to the outdoor facilities in a long time and it is very much overdue and needed. Not only does Lawrence High need the improvements to the playing fields but the increased parking would be a much needed addition. I never thought it made since to send kids that are just starting to drive to have to try to parallel park along residential streets, plus they are competing for the same parking spots as many KU students.

I know these enhancements will probably be too late for my children to enjoy but I still feel it is very much needed and would make the two high schools a little more even as far as parking spaces and playing fields.

Thank you,

Nancy A. Jones

Boys Soccer

Petition For Improvement to the Lawrence High School Athletic Facilities

We the below signed are in support of the proposed improvements to the Lawrence High School athletics and activities facilities. We believe the proposal is fiscally responsible and will not require a tax increase or bond issue from the citizens of Lawrence. We also believe that the proposal is environmentally responsible eliminating use of fertilizers, pesticides, fuels and minimizes water usage. Improved facilities at Lawrence High School will improve gender equality among facilities for boys and girls sports, and improve equity between the Lawrence High School and Free State facilities.

By providing appropriate venues and keeping practices and activities on campus, it will improve safety for our students by minimizing student drive time, provide state-of-the-art playing surfaces promoting a reduction in frequency and severity of injury, and give our students a facility to be proud of. The proposal will add 400-500 additional parking spaces to the campus reducing parking congestion in the areas surrounding the school and eliminate the need for students to cross the busy 19th and Louisiana Streets before and after school.

We feel the proposed improvements will benefit more than just athletics. Every student in our school will benefit from these improvements whether they are an athlete, band member, a student in a Physical Education course, or just attend an event at the facility. The proposed improvements will also benefit the community. Community members will be able access our high-quality facilities for personal health, wellness and recreation. Improvements will also be a benefit in the future and can be a key factor in the economic development of our community.

	Name	Activities My Family Participates In	Date:
1	Matthew B. Anderson	Soccer Boys/Girl	8/12/08
2	[illegible]	Soccer-Boys	8/12/08
3	[illegible]	" "	"
4	[illegible]	soccer/boys	8/12/08
5	[illegible]	Soccer/Gymnastics	8-13/08
6	[illegible]	Soccer/Gymnastics	8/13/08
7	[illegible]	Soccer	8/13/08
8	[illegible]	Soccer	8/13/08
9	[illegible]	Soccer	8/13/08
10	[illegible]	Boys Soccer	8/13/08
11	[illegible]	" "	8-13-08
12	[illegible]	Boys Soccer	8/13/08
13	[illegible]	" "	8-13-08
14	LARS WYCOFF	BOYS SOCCER/TENNIS	8-13-08
15	[illegible]	BOYS/GIRLS SOCCER	8/13/08
16	[illegible]	Boys/Girls Soccer	8.13.08
17	[illegible]	Boy Soccer	8.13.08
18	[illegible]	Boys Soccer	8-13-08
19	[illegible]	Boys Soccer	8-13-08
20	J. Scott Nissen	Boys Soccer	8-13-08
21	Susan Bell	Boys Soccer	8-13-08

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	Name	Activities My Family Participates In	Date:
22	Lucy Harris	Girls tennis / Boys Soccer	8/13/08
23	Patrick Dorley	Boys Soccer	8-13-08
24	Cheri Thompson	Boys soccer	8-13-08
25	Mike Thompson	Boys soccer	8-13-08
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Volleyball

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	Name	Activities My Family Participates In	Date:
1	Steph Magan		8/14/08
2	[illegible]		8/14/08
3	Angela May		8/14/08
4	[illegible]		8.14.08
5	Tracy Coldsnow		8/14/08
6	Tim Coldsnow		8/14/08
7	[illegible]		8/13/08
8	[illegible]		8/13/08
9	[illegible]		8/13/08
10	[illegible] Vogel		8/13/08
11	[illegible]		8/13/08
12	[illegible] Waite		8/13/08
13	Carolyn P. Johnson		8/13/08
14	Sandy [illegible]		8/13/08
15	Mike Broadwell		8/13/08
16	Terri Broadwell		8/13/08
17	Suzanne McAlister		8/13/08
18	[illegible] Ramos		8/13/08
19	[illegible]		8/13/08
20	Cathy Hildenbrand		8-13-08
21	Scott [illegible]		8-13-08

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	Name	Activities My Family Participates In	Date:
22	Kim Barring-Bohmann	volleyball, basketball, softball	8/13/08
23	[illegible]	volleyball, basketball, Track	8/13/08
24	Jennifer Kelly	volleyball, basketball, band	8/13/08
25	Becky Orth	volleyball, football, soccer	8/13/08
26	[illegible]	volleyball	8-13-08
27	Kathleen Herrera	volleyball, soccer	8/13/08
28	Megan Rasmussen	Soccer, basketball, gymnastics	8/13/08
29	Laura Pope	Football	8/13/08
30	Jim Vinnik	Football, Baseball	08/13/08
31	Martin F. Williams, Sr.	Football	08/13/2008
32	Rosie Roberts	Soccer	8/13/08
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Football

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	Name	Activities My Family Participates In	Date:
1	MARK & GRETCHEN EDWARDS	Football, Track	8/13/08
2	BILL + MAGGIE WAGNER	FOOTBALL, BSKTBALL	8/13/09
3	Cecil & Wilma Reeves	Football, Track, Basketball	8/13/08
4	Sissy & Rocky Weber	Football, Track	8/13/08
5	Doug & Brenda Billings	Football, soccer,	8/13/08
6	Kevin + Brenda Gobin	Football	8/13/08
7	Neil & Deb Wangler	football, tennis	8/13/08
8	Russ & Angela Seybert	football, band, Wrestling	8/13/08
9	Anita Todd	football, track, baseball	8/13/08
10	Kathy Baker	football track, baseball	8/13/08
11	Yolanda Vann	football, basketball	8/13/08
12	Doug Horton	Football Track Basketball	8/13/08
13	Sheila Orth	Football / Track	8/13/08
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Cross Country

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	Name	Activities My Family Participates In	Date:
1	Kelly Ballard	track & field / cross country	8/13/08
2	Greg Hildebrand	Cross Country / track & field	8/13/08
3	Mona Thomann	cross country & track	8/13/08
4	Joel Holmes	cross country	8/13/08
5	Scott Morgan	Cross Country / track	8/13/08
6	Andrea Balagia	cross country	8/13/08
7	Steve Ramirez	Cross Country	8/13/08
8	Carla Ramirez	Cross Country / Track: Field	8/13/08
9	Christine Herd	Cross Country / Track Field	8/13/08
10	Elizabeth Edmonds	Cross country / swimming	8-13-08
11	Lane Gabler	Cross Country, Swimming, track	8-13-08
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Paul Patterson

From: Julie Branstrom [dcdcdirector@sunflower.com]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 4:16 PM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: support forLHS facility enhancements
Importance: High

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing to lend support for facility enhancements for Lawrence High School. I am the parent of a student at LHS and will have another child there in 2 more years. I believe that there are many benefits in this project, for not only LHS staff and students, but our community as a whole. Some of these include:

- Equitable facilities at both our High Schools.
- Will eliminate the need for students and staff to drive off campus to participate in sporting activities at other venues, improving safety.
- Will accommodate fans with proper seating, concessions and restrooms and will encourage better attendance with the improved flexibility in scheduling events to occur in the evenings after many parents are done with work.
- The proposal is fiscally responsible. This is a multi-million dollar enhancement that will not require a bond issue or a tax increase from Lawrence residents.
- The project is environmentally responsible
- And finally, the proposal will benefit our community as a whole. Improvements to our public schools and facilities is a key factor in the economic development of our community.

I strongly encourage the Commission to approve enhancements to LHS for all the reasons listed, and for many others that I haven't. Thank you for taking the time to consider the input from members of our community.

Respectfully,

Julie M. Branstrom
Executive Director
Douglas County Dental Clinic
316 Maine Street
Lawrence, KS 66044
(785) 312-7770 ext. 207
www.dcdclinic.org

Paul Patterson

From: Bill Wagner [BWagner@kiwi-tek.com]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 5:55 PM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: High school facilities

To Scott McCullough,

It was bought to my attention at a recent fall sports meeting that there is an initiative that will be considered by the Planning Commission to approve the construction of additional outdoor sports facilities and parking at Lawrence High School and Free State High School. I would like to add my family's overwhelming support for this project. As the father of a recent LHS graduate, it was very worrisome to me to see so many students forced to park in the streets surrounding the school. In addition, there is an increased safety risk with the students driving to various sports facilities around town to participate with or to support their school teams. Improved outdoor sports facilities for the city's high school teams, on the school grounds, are long over due and should be brought up to the standards of other nearby districts.

My youngest son is now a sophomore at LHS and we are thrilled to know that he may have access to improved ON CAMPUS facilities before he graduates.

I urge you and the rest of the Planning Commission to approve this plan and to make every effort to have it implemented quickly.

Regards,

Bill Wagner
SVP Chief Operations Officer
KIWI-TEK
office 785-841-8796
corp 317-571-3440
cell 785-760-1017
bwagner@kiwi-tek.com

Paul Patterson

From: Kara Perry [kpyacker@sunflower.com]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 6:12 PM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: High School facilities

Paul,
Know our family supports this effort! We currently have a Sophomore athlete at FState.

Thank you!
Dwight and Kara Perry

Paul Patterson

From: Marci Toalson [marci.toalson@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 6:56 PM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: Sports facilities at the high schools

We want you to know that we would support a city decision to allow each high school to have their own football, soccer, softball and baseball facilities.

Thank you, Marci & Steve Toalson

Paul Patterson

From: Mike & Sue Willoughby [willy2835@sunflower.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 7:50 AM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: FYI

We are very much in favor of both high schools having their own sports facilities.
THANKS,
Mike and Sue Willoughby

Paul Patterson

From: VALERIE WALTHALL [VALERIE.WALTHALL@usafunds.org]
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 8:26 AM
To: Paul Patterson
Cc: bwalthall@jonesdevco.com
Subject: Support for new HS facilities

Dear Scott McCullough and Paul Patterson:

I received an email from a fellow Free State HS parent asking me to write to you to voice my support of current plans to enhance and/or build new high school football, soccer, softball and baseball facilities.

My son was a member of the FS baseball team this year and we were able to see, first hand, how superior the fields, stands, concessions, and restrooms areas are at surrounding school districts. Although we are also able to host tournaments and such in Lawrence, their facilities are better equipped to for tournament activities. I believe that we could attract more teams to the Lawrence tournaments (thus producing more revenue for the area) if the facilities were better equipped, not just for the players, but for the spectators as well.

The proposed facilities for both high schools are much needed and long over-due. Please accept this letter as our support to move forward with planning of the HS facilities.

Valerie and Brad Walthall
409 Nancy Court
Lawrence 66049

Paul Patterson

From: Doug Gaston [dgaston@douglascountybank.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 8:27 AM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: High School Improvements

Please know that I am in favor of the improvements to the sports facilities on campus for each high school, as has been discussed lately. It's unfortunate that Haskell has ended the long-standing relationship that existed between them and USD 497 (particularly LHS) but this creates an opportunity for USD 497 to make some much needed improvements to our own facilities. I would hope that the City of Lawrence will support these changes as well, by granting whatever zoning/permit approvals that might be needed.

Thank you.
Douglas V. Gaston
Vice President

Paul Patterson

From: John Novotny [jnovotny@travellersinc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 10:21 AM
To: Paul Patterson
Cc: 'Brad Stoll'
Subject: LHS & FSHS

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my support for the improvements at LHS and FSHS. This project seems to be in much more proportion with available funds vs. some type of district complex. I like the idea of LHS continuing to play home Football games at Haskell. But it seems an agreement just can't be worked out to put an all surface field there between all the parties involved. Haskell with its current field just can't support 3 Football Teams if I was another Sunflower League School I wouldn't play in Lawrence past the first of October. If the two Coaches are on board I support this.

Everyone was in such a hurry to get the second High School built they didn't properly access the Athletic needs at both schools. There is no reason not to have lights at the FSHS Softball Field and no excuse for the lack of water at both the baseball and softball venues. They both need to be friendlier for the fans.

There is no reason for a 6A High School Softball Program to playing on a field at Holcom with a "Temporary outfield fence." I like Ice Field but no doubt it would be better for him to have his on venue including batting cages etc. which isn't shared with various other Teams and groups.

Between the City of Lawrence and the School District I know the Tennis Courts at LHS need some attention and the Soccer situation last I knew needs to be addressed at both schools.

I'm sure I've missed something, in general the ideas I've heard Randy outlining seem to make the most economic sense and bringing the events back to the School Campus I think this will help each program raise money for their individual programs because it makes it more personal than attending events off Campus.

I'm an old LHS guy (class of 78) and had three kids go through there in the last 5 years. It is now time for the School System, City of Lawrence and the Community at large to make as big of a commitment to the kids who participate in these programs as the Coaches and Administrators have with all their time and effort, overcoming all sorts of things and all the while earning less money than they can make at Wal-Mart working part time.

Let me know if I can help in any way!

John Novotny
2757 Grand Circle Drive
Lawrence, KS 66046
785-691-5606

John Novotny
Vice President

Paul Patterson

From: Angie McClure [Angie@tuckawaymgmt.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 1:04 PM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: FW: Support of Outdoor Acitivity/Athletic Facilities

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From: Angie McClure
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 12:57 PM
To: 'smccullough@ci.lawrence.ks.us'; "ppatterson@ci.lawrence.ks.us'
Subject: Support of Outdoor Acitivity/Athletic Facilities

Scott and Paul – We are writing you on behalf of the facility enhancement proposal at Free State High School and Lawrence High Schools.
We are in favor of this proposal that is being considered. We think this proposal is fiscally responsible since it will not require a tax increase or bond issue from the citizens of Lawrence; it provides equity among both genders that allows for both boys and girls to have equitable facilities; it is fan friendly by providing proper seating, restrooms, concessions and enables the addition of evening games; EVERY STUDENT IN OUR SCHOOL WILL BENEFIT FROM THESE IMPROVEMENTS (band, physical education, etc.); it improves safety for students. These are just a few of the benefits. Not only will students benefit, but the City of Lawrence as a whole (more people eating at our restaurants, buying our gas, shopping locally, etc) will benefit.

Please, please show this e-mail in support of the consideration of facility enhancement proposal.

Thank you very much for your time.

Angie and Darren McClure
785-691-5425
angie@tuckawaymgmt.com
amcclure@sunflower.com

Paul Patterson

From: Palmer, Vicki [vpalmer@ku.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 2:51 PM

To: Paul Patterson

Subject: support for sports facilities

Paul,

I would be in support of the creation of a sports facility at each high school and the addition of parking spaces for Lawrence High.

VICKI PALMER
~~~~~~~~~~~
REGISTRAR
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF LAW
1535 W. 15TH ST.
LAWRENCE, KS 66045
785-864-9211
785-864-5054 FAX
~~~~~~~~~~~

Paul Patterson

From: Larry Chance [LChance@emprisebank.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 9:42 AM
To: Paul Patterson
Cc: smcculough@ci.lawrence.ks.us
Subject: HS Outdoor Athletic Facilities

Paul,

I would like to express my support for the improvements to the outdoor athletic facilities proposed at Lawrence High and Free State. The upgrade to turf fields along with improvements to the bleachers, restrooms & concessions will go a long way toward "leveling the playing field" for our high school athletes and fans. The addition of lights will permit greater flexibility in scheduling activities to permit more parents and other fans to attend. The conversion to turf fields will obviously save escalating maintenance costs for water, fertilizers, pesticides and labor involved in maintain the existing grass fields while providing a safer surface for our athletes. The poor existing field conditions with clumps of grass and weeds have contributed to numerous turned ankles and knee strains. We owe it to our students for the community to get behind this effort.

Larry S. Chance
Commercial Lender
Emprise Bank Lawrence
1121 Wakarusa Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049
Phone: (785) 749-0800
Fax: (785) 749-0387
E-Mail: lchance@emprisebank.com
Visit us at www.emprisebank.com
All of us, for each of you

Paul Patterson

From: Trichshep@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 4:45 PM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: (no subject)

MR. PATTERSON-

THIS PAST SCHOOL YEAR WE HAD A SON PARTICIPATING IN HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL. WHILE THE FACILITIES IN LAWRENCE ARE AT THE VERY LEAST ACCEPTABLE, I CAN SAY WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT EVERY FACILITY WE VISITED OUT OF TOWN WAS BETTER. IN FACT THE FIELD IN EMPORIA WAS PROBABLY THE NICEST SINGLE FACILTY AND WE WENT TO SIOUX FALLS, S.D WHERE THEY HAD SEVERAL NICE FIELDS AND WERE ALREADY EXPANDING THE COMPLEX!! I'M SURE I DON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT OLATHE AND BLUE VALLEY!!!

THE FOOTBALL ISSUE IS PROBABLY THE SAME OR WORSE. THE TRADITION OF USING HASKELL IS FINE BUT THIS IS THE YEAR 2008. OUR KIDS DESERVE BETTER. THIS TOWN IS QUITE FRANKLY EMBARASSING WHEN IT COMES TO FACILITIES FOR SPORTS. I THINK BOTH SCHOOLS HAVING THERE OWN FILEDS IS A NO BRAINER AND IF THE FUNDS WERE AVAILABLE THEY SHOULD BE USED TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS!!!

SINCERLY,

DICK AND SHIRLEY SHEPPARD

Paul Patterson

From: Greg Pavlyak [pav@traderpav.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 2:41 PM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: Facility improvements

Paul.

I have children who are extensively involved in Lawrence youth sports and will attend high school in this town. We are in favor of the proposed improvements. The ability to do so without increased taxes is also attractive.

Thank you for your service

Greg Pavlyak
785.764.6263

Paul Patterson

From: dogster2@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 5:02 PM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: Letters of Support for Facility Enhancements

Hello, my name is Ross Johnson and I am writing as a student athlete. First off, from what i have heard, it seems as if every single student in Lawrence High is so excited for this new plan to add the fields and the extra parking spaces. The fields would be so helpful and very exciting to have on campus so more students can support their school. Being a sophomore living 18 miles out of town, the fields on campus are also VERY convenient. It would be a lot easier than driving to holcom or sport 2 sport. Also, driving to school and not being able to find a parking spot before school is very frustrating. There are always way too many cars on surrounding streets. So i hope that sometime very soon, these fields and parking spaces are added. Thank you.

Paul Patterson

From: Greg & Lisa Johnson [greglisa@sunflower.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 8:17 PM

To: Paul Patterson

Subject: Outdoor Athletic Field Improvements" for USD 497

We support the proposed Outdoor Athletic Field Improvements for USD 497. Both our son and daughter are involved with sports and we hope these improvements will encourage them and others to continue to participate in athletics throughout their high school years.

Greg and Lisa Johnson

Paul Patterson

From: PAT [pat@customspecialties.net]
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2008 8:27 AM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: outdoor field improvements

Paul,

I definitely support improving the outdoor athletic fields for the school district.

The fields are far behind other communities (Topeka, Olathe, Lenexa, even Gardner).

Weekend tournaments generate a considerable amount of revenue to the community and as well as bringing new kids and families to Lawrence.

We all know what negative "opportunities" are available to kids if they turn from sports and these field play a big part in our support of the community.

Thanks Paul,

Pat Hughes
Custom Specialties

The real contest is always between what you've done and what you are capable of doing. You measure yourself against yourself and nobody else.
Geoffrey Gaberino
Olympic swimmer

Paul Patterson

From: Pamela Pine [ppine@usd497.org]
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2008 9:08 AM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: Outdoor Facility upgrades
Attachments: Letter On Facilities.doc

Hello,
I am the Free State softball coach and am sending you this letter to support the outdoor facilties for the High Schools. Thank you for time, Pam Pine

Paul Patterson

From: joe.jones@nmfn.com
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2008 9:19 AM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: LHS Fields

Paul,

As a volunteer coach for youth baseball the last ten years, I have had experience with a number of facilities for play. My team has played at SCABA and Washburn over the years and those facilities are tremendous. They would allow our kids a place to practice and play regardless of the unpredictable Kansas weather. Please consider this email as an overwhelming support vote from a number of kids in town.

Thanks in advance.

Joe B. Jones
Managing Director
Jayhawk Financial Group
627 Monterey Way
Lawrence, KS 66049
Phone: 785.856.2136
Fax: 785.838.9833
email:joe.jones@nmfn.com

720 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4797.

Paul Patterson

From: Lori Vinoverski [loriv3@sunflower.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2008 5:18 PM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: schools enhancements

Please add my email to what I hope has been considerable support of the proposed enhancements to Lawrence High School. I've had 2 children graduate from LHS and believe it's past time that we provide athletic facilities on par with others in the league as well as a solution to the severe lack of parking available at the school.

The amount of money paid for the use of Haskell has been obscene.

Having students drive all over town to fields, stadiums, and parks that don't belong to their school is shameful.

Forcing the majority of students to seek street parking away from the school is both dangerous and inexcusable.

Please construct a plan with foresight and that provides top-rate facilities.
The only thing worse than doing nothing is doing something half-way.

It's past time.
Our students deserve better.
Our town deserves better.
Please don't let this opportunity pass.

Lori Carson

Paul Patterson

From: Marilyn Hull [mhull@sunflower.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2008 5:19 PM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: Letter in support of district facility upgrades
Attachments: Why improve our athletic facilities.doc

August 20, 2008

Members of the Planning Commission:

I am writing in support of the school district's plan for athletic facilities upgrades because I believe we need to use all means available to support kids' efforts to be physically active.

My twin daughters are in their fourth year of playing softball for Free State. For most of this time, their home field has been sub-par compared to Sunflower league opponents' facilities and compared to Free State's facilities for boys. But at least they had a home field on campus. Lawrence High girls don't even have softball facilities within walking distance of the school. This inequity needs to be corrected.

I have heard that Lawrence High's neighbors are concerned about increased traffic and bright field lights. I would argue that people who buy homes bordering school property should be prepared for the occasional minor inconvenience. Along with the perceived negatives, these neighbors will have the advantage of easy access to quality sporting events and facilities for their own recreational use. They will also have the good feeling that comes from making small sacrifices for the good of our community's children.

The proposed upgrades will not increase taxes. They are environmentally responsible, increase safety, and enhance our community's marketability. In other words, the net gain is strongly positive.

At a time when sedentary lifestyles are threatening our children's health, our community must do everything it can to make kids proud to be fit and active. I encourage you to do your part by approving these facility upgrades.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Hull

1621 Oxford, Lawrence

August 20, 2008

Members of the Planning Commission:

I am writing in support of the school district's plan for athletic facilities upgrades because I believe we need to use all means available to support kids' efforts to be physically active.

My twin daughters are in their fourth year of playing softball for Free State. For most of this time, their home field has been sub-par compared to Sunflower league opponents' facilities and compared to Free State's facilities for boys. But at least they had a home field on campus. Lawrence High girls don't even have softball facilities within walking distance of the school. This inequity needs to be corrected.

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At a time when sedentary lifestyles are threatening our children's health, our community must do everything it can to make kids proud to be fit and active. I encourage you to do your part by approving these facility upgrades.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Hull

1621 Oxford, Lawrence

Paul Patterson

From: Bryan Wyatt [wyattac@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2008 7:24 AM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: Support for facility enhancement proposal

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the facility enhancement proposal by USD #497. I have one daughter who graduated from LHS in 08' and a son who is a junior this year. We have seen for years the inequity between schools by Free State High having fields located on site, near the school; while LHS kids have to travel over to Holcom fields to play on the city owned baseball/softball fields. There definitely is an advantage to having fields located near the high school. For safety reasons in traveling but also if some player were to get hurt while practicing, could immediately get help in having access to trainers room; possibly calling parents in case of emergency.

We also have been fortunate to play on the proposed artificial turf, while playing in Topeka at SCABA fields. The fields are safer for far less bad hops and rainouts are few and far between, with this turf. Very low maintenance is needed and just a win-win situation for the kids and the taxpayers!

In closing, our kids are losing out on opportunities by staying in Lawrence and playing sports. Other area towns have more and far better facilities than Lawrence kids! Even small towns like Eudora and Spring Hill have nice new facilities at their schools. Please help the Lawrence kids by supporting this proposal.

Thank you very much,

Bryan Wyatt

Paul Patterson

From: Joan Stevenson [js70@sunflower.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 3:03 PM
To: Paul Patterson
Cc: betty
Subject: LHS/Alabama st.

Mr. Patterson: Where will the sewers that are planning to be put in for the restrooms under the bleachers at the football field be attached to the city sewer line? WE know they have to go someplace. If on Alabama, has this been checked out? Will our old lines carry that big an overload on game nights? Or will we have another big problem. Prior to the larger storm sewers being installed some houses with basements in our areas had raw sewage come into their basement, even those close to my house. (I dont have a basement)
Years ago, people were assured that the lines would carry the load when those apartments between 19 and 21st facing Iowa, all would be just ok. ONLY later they found it didnt and people were really mad because it was sewer overload. That had to be corrected. Now this---if it has to be changed that will be another expense for the city to pay, not the school of course!

Date: August 8, 2008
(for Planning Commission meeting of August 27, 2008)

From: Terry L. Smith
2142 Owens Lane
Lawrence, KS 66046

To: City of Lawrence Planning Commission

Subject: Comments on Special Use Permit submitted by Landplan Engineering for Lawrence High School, 1901 Louisiana

My husband and I are fairly new residents of Lawrence and the Centennial neighborhood. Lawrence's reputation for thoughtful city planning to maintain a good quality of life for all its residents figured prominently in our relocation choice. We are proud of the accomplishments of Lawrence High School students, teachers, and graduates. We think the school should have excellent facilities, including the best science labs, library, performing arts resources, and athletic facilities. However, after consideration of the proposal before the Planning Commission, I do have some concerns as a member of the Lawrence community.

1) Drainage issues: According to statements made at a public meeting, run-off from the site will be less with the proposed changes than currently and will not cause neighborhood flooding (presumably including streets) following a 100-year rain event. I am certain the engineers have made their calculations correctly, and that their statements are true according to their models. It does stretch credibility that so much non-porous parking and gravel-underlaid athletic fields can retain more water on the site than current installation. I am concerned that the plans do not provide sufficient lee-way for possible violations of the assumptions made during the modeling process, for example: meteorologists state that weather events (including rain events) will become more extreme; whether grading and construction of the various fields and parking lots will work together to control run-off exactly as specified in plans; manufacturer claims regarding water flow through the artificial turf fields.
2) Provision for spectators: For several dozen Centennial residents, this will have a huge impact on the neighborhood beyond the impact of having practice fields. Commissioners can imagine having several thousand enthusiastic fans in one's back or front yard with resultant disturbance from lighting, noise, and loss of privacy. I have already encountered neighbors seeking to move from their homes, while faced with difficulty of selling them. The neighborhood already struggles with the issue of absentee owners, and the attendant deterioration of properties and concern for the neighborhood. Surrounding streets for many blocks in all directions are essentially designed for neighborhood use, and currently residents struggle with the issues of streets narrowed by excessive use of street parking, plus KU and LHS traffic, and traffic from drivers cutting through neighborhoods to avoid the over-busy 23rd Street. (For example, the 2000 block of Alabama is currently an almost constant chicken game of two-way traffic sharing a single lane.) The school district's goal of safety for their young athletes (bussing to alternate fields) can be met by improved practice fields on-site without the addition of spectator facilities. A school district official acknowledges that the spectator facilities as planned will still be insufficient for many games, leaving a need to use spectator facilities elsewhere.

3) Environmental issues related to artificial turf: Perhaps some of these are beyond the purview of the Planning Commission, but will impact the community. Artificial turf fields are composed of a complex mix of materials, perhaps including heavy metals and organics. Questions have been raised about water quality draining from these types of installations. Further, there are issues of hotter temperatures than grass fields, field sanitation, replacement costs on a regular basis, and disposal of a large amount of waste material when a field is replaced.

Signed,

From: Scott McCullough
Sent: Saturday, July 19, 2008 10:51 PM
To: Jeanne Klein; Lisa Harris Email; greg@moorevaluation.com; cblaser@sunflower.com; bradfink@stevensbrand.com; hughcarter@dgcounty.com; rhird@pihhlawyers.com; therenewgroup@sbcglobal.net; jeff@chaney-inc.com; MontanaStan62@gmail.com; ksingleton@sloanlawfirm.com; Paul Patterson
Cc: David L. Corliss; Cynthia Boecker; Diane Stoddard; Sheila Stogsdill; Matt Bond
Subject: RE: LHS and Centennial School plans

Jeanne,

I hope this email addresses your question. If it doesn't, please call me at 832-3154 on Monday to discuss.

A little context is in order to address the question. The school district has proposed several improvements to the LHS, Free State, and Centennial sites. Some of those improvements can be made administratively and, as staff understands it, the district desires to process such in a timely manner due to construction time frames. Other improvements do not qualify for the administrative process and will be processed as a Special Use Permit with opportunity for full public comment. The improvements requiring the SUP include the proposed lights, additional parking, and those elements necessary to convert the football field from a practice field into a competition field for LHS. All of the improvements related to the Centennial site will also be processed with a Special Use Permit since none of the improvements currently exist. The SUP process will include a public hearing (with public comment) at the Planning Commission on August 27th and notice to property owners within 200 feet of the school properties. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Commission and the City Commission will hear the requests some time in September.

To date the district has applied for two administrative site plans each for LHS and Free State to replace grass fields with turf and relocate the softball field at LHS. They have also applied for the above-mentioned Special Use Permits, which include the elements you note in your email. All of these files are open to public view and I encourage you and others in the neighborhood to visit the Planning Office and review them. They are reflective of the plans shown at several neighborhood meetings that the district has held in coordination with the neighborhood. Staff has attended at least two such meetings and remains sensitive to the neighbors' concerns of storm water runoff, traffic, lights, and noise and will actively work with the school to mitigate any impact to the area as the Special Use Permit requests work their way to the Planning Commission in August.

The letter that was mailed to adjacent property owners was related to the site plan on file for the administrative improvements and is actually required by the Land Development Code. It is intended to inform adjacent owners of the pending site plan request. No hearing in front of the Planning Commission or City Commission is required of this process. While the language in the code and in the letter states that there is no legal right to challenge the request, the code does provide a process by which any adjacent owner can appeal the administrative decision to the City Commission within 9 days of the decision being made. The code requires that persons interested in learning of the decision provide the Planning Office with contact information and their request to be notified so that Planning staff can notify them of when the decision is made.
Additionally, the request for the LHS improvements is scheduled to be reviewed by the Historic Resources Commission on August 21st. This is a public meeting.
Again, I hope this answers your question, though I know the neighborhood may be getting confused with all of the different notices being mailed for these projects. Staff is available to meet with you to review the files if you like, so please do not hesitate to call to set that appointment.

Scott McCullough
Planning and Development Services Director
785-832-3154

From: Jeanne Klein [mailto:kleinj@ku.edu]
Sent: Sat 7/19/2008 5:39 PM
To: Lisa Harris Email; greg@moorevaluation.com; cblaser@sunflower.com; bradfink@stevensbrand.com; hughcarter@dgcounty.com; rhird@pihhlawyers.com; therenewgroup@sbcglobal.net; jeff@chaney-inc.com; MontanaStan62@gmail.com; ksingleton@sloanlawfirm.com
Cc: Scott McCullough; David L. Corliss
Subject: LHS and Centennial School plans
To Planning Commissioners:

Please explain to me why homeowners have no "legal rights to challenge" proposed developments in single-family neighborhoods that directly affect their quality of life and the economic values of their homes (according to letters sent by Landplan Engineering regarding LHS and Centennial proposals for five athletic fields and expanded parking lots).

Jeanne Klein
824 Greever Terrace
Centennial Neighborhood Association

Paul Patterson

From: Scott McCullough
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2008 8:20 AM
To: 'Joan Stevenson'
Cc: Lisa Harris Email; Paul Patterson
Subject: RE: LHS Athletic field

Ms. Stevenson,

Thank you for your comments regarding the proposed development at Lawrence High School. Per City code, the improvements being proposed will be reviewed administratively with notice being sent to adjoining property owners and to all registered neighborhood associations. There has already been one neighborhood meeting where the school district explained the project and there is another one scheduled for tomorrow night, July 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the cafeteria of the school. City staff attended the first one and we are now very aware of the neighborhood's concerns. The application(s) will be thoroughly reviewed and considered prior to a decision being rendered. Per code, there is an appeal process for any one with standing to appeal if there is disagreement with staff's decision on the matter. You may make a request to receive notification of the decision and you are always welcome to visit City Hall to review the plans yourself. Paul Patterson is the Planner processing the applications.

Again, thank you for your comments and please let me know if I can answer anymore questions.

Scott McCullough, *Director* - smccullough@ci.lawrence.ks.us
Planning and Development Services | www.lawrenceks.org
City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street
P.O. Box 708, Lawrence, KS 66044-0708
office (785) 832-3154 | fax (785) 832-3160

From: Joan Stevenson [mailto:js70@sunflower.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 29, 2008 4:31 PM
To: Undisclosed-Recipient:;
Subject: Fw: LHS Athletic field

I reside at 2014 Alabama and have for over fifty years and feel that this sudden change planned in my backyard, is moving much too fast, and should be considered carefully. Since many of us are on vacation and cannot repond until later in summer could this agenda be placed at a later date? This is going to have a great impact in my neighborhood and on property value. Its a huge addition to be "rushed!"

Thank you,
J Stevenson

Paul Patterson

From: Joan Stevenson [js70@sunflower.com]
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2008 12:37 PM
To: Undisclosed-Recipient:;
Subject: Fw: LHS Athletic field

To the board of USD 497:

I reside on Alabama,2014, and am very concerned with the new additions that will be immediately behind my house. Of course am very aware that its youre property to do with, and that you are also trying to keep the high schools equal, however its certainly making a problem when Free State has 2x the space that LHS has.

AS now planned a softball field will be behind me with bright lights, loud speakers, and bleachers directly in back. That is NOT exciting to think of when in the evening a game goes on. Then you should definitely feel even more distress for my neighbors to the north in the 1900 block who if you proceed to install bleachers on the west side of the football field, all they will have when they look out their windows or doors is a huge bleacher right outside, now does that sound like something any of you would want behind youre homes? No I doubt it!

The noise and again the lights, the crowds that will be in the area should further be distressing. New people that have moved here and purchased houses are VERY upset and they deserve to be.

It would probably be ok to improve the track area for a "practice field" but not a field for competition. We are sorry that you feel this need, but for the property owners this is 50 years to late. Would any of you purchase a house with this in the back yard? Too much is being squeezed into the space that you already have. Yes, we are sorry too, that the board years ago did not have the foresight to purchase more land, and yes we have always been aware that its the schools, and yes thought perhaps sometime you would make improvements, but this is really just too much.

Many of my neighbors are now stating: why dont they just buy us out! Of course that wont happen since we are just a narrow strip along the west perimeter and act as a buffer!

Think again if any of you consider this popular in the area anywhere near the LHS, not just adjoining.

Question: why in all the meetings with Tom Bracciano, city officials etc.regarding this field, not ONE board member has come to listen to all our complaints? Wouldnt it be advisable to hear what other taxpayers/voters have to say?

Thanks,

J Stevenson

Arly Allen
1101 West 21st
Lawrence, Kansas 66046
huested@aol.com

June 27, 2008

City Planning Department
City Hall
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you about the proposed site plan for the new athletic facilities at Lawrence High School.

As a resident of the Centennial Neighborhood, my neighbors and I are deeply concerned about this proposal.

We have several concerns:

1) The neighborhood was developed at the same time the schools (Lawrence High School and Centennial Elementary School) were built. Many of our houses predate the schools and most are contemporary with the schools. Radical change of the type proposed was never contemplated in the past and will radically affect the real estate values of our properties.

2) The haste with which this extraordinary proposal is being pushed is frightening to us. Since it is summer, many of us are out of town on vacation and cannot devote our attention to an issue of great importance to your homes and neighborhood.

3) We do not understand why the School Board wants to place all of these large athletic facilities in an established neighborhood which lacks the space and the street pattern to handle the crowds that might be generated.

4) We think that such facilities should be placed in remote locations where the noise and traffic and crowds will not disturb local residents.

These are but a few of the many concerns we have about this project. We hope that you will see fit to slow this process down so that we and others might have a chance to further examine the impact this project will have on our neighborhood.

Thank you for your help and your concern.

Arly Allen

Paul Patterson

From: Scott McCullough

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2008 10:34 AM

To: 'Huested@aol.com'

Cc: js70@sunflower.com; adkab@ku.edu; Tom@Tom-Harper.com; jschultz@ku.edu; bblank@sunflower.com; alstrom@sbcglobal.net; Paul Patterson

Subject: RE: Proposed Athletic Facilities at Centennial and Lawrence High School

The Land Development Code outlines the process for such improvements. This type of request is not considered by the Planning Commission, but there is opportunity for the public to review the plans prior to a determination being made on them. We encourage the public and the neighborhood association(s) to review the plan(s) with the school district and the City once you receive notice of the application(s). As mentioned in the previous email, the school district and City have been willing to meet with the public on the requests and much public input has already occurred. Thank you for the comments and we look forward to working with the public on these requests.

Scott McCullough, *Director* - smccullough@ci.lawrence.ks.us
Planning and Development Services | www.lawrenceks.org
City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street
P.O. Box 708, Lawrence, KS 66044-0708
office (785) 832-3154 | fax (785) 832-3160

From: Huested@aol.com [mailto:Huested@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2008 9:43 AM
To: Scott McCullough
Cc: js70@sunflower.com; adkab@ku.edu; Tom@Tom-Harper.com; jschultz@ku.edu; bblank@sunflower.com; alstrom@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Proposed Athletic Facilities at Centennial and Lawrence High School

Dear Mr. McCullough:

Mrs. Joanne Stevenson sent me a copy of your email to her. It appears from this email that you plan to deal with this as an administrative matter and not bring it to the attention of the full Planning Commission.

I hope I have misunderstood this.

If ever there was a subject which needed the attention of the Planning Commission this is it.

These changes will create a major change in a neighborhood that is more than 50 years old.
These changes will increase traffic and parking problems for the residents living in the area, as well as those going to and from the games.

These proposals require the most through citizen review. Yet they are being proposed at a time when many people who will be affected are out of town.

We would hope that you will bring this before the Planning Commission this Fall when residents can give it their full attention.

Cordially,

Arly Allen
Centennial Neighborhood Association

July 1, 2008

Petition of the Centennial Neighborhood concerning the School Board's Proposal to build a variety of new athletic facilities at Lawrence High School and Centennial School.

We the undersigned members of the Centennial Neighborhood are concerned about the plans of the Lawrence School Board to build a series of new athletic fields on the school grounds in our neighborhood.

We object to this on the following grounds:

1) Our neighborhood was built in the 1950s, at the same time as the school buildings. We have supported the schools since that time.

2) Suddenly within this year, 2008, the School Board has decided to radically redesign the school grounds. This redesign will have a marked effect upon the neighborhood.

3) **We are especially concerned about**

a) the sudden nature of these changes

b) the size of the changes,

c) increased traffic and congestion,

d) increased noise pollution,

f) increased trash pollution,

g) light pollution from field lighting,

h) increased parking problems,

i) increased water run-off in an area that is well-known for flooding,

j) building bleachers next to our houses,

k) unruly crowd behavior,

l) loss of property values due to these changes.

5) All of these problems that need discussion and consideration.

Petition of the Centennial Neighborhood concerning the School Board's Proposal to build a variety of new athletic facilities at Lawrence High School and Centennial School.

We the undersigned members of the Centennial Neighborhood are concerned about the plans of the Lawrence School Board to build a series of new athletic fields on the school grounds in our neighborhood.

We object to this on the following grounds:

1) Our neighborhood was built in the 1950s, at the same time as the school buildings. Since then we have supported the schools and enjoyed the open space and proximity to the neighborhood schools with relatively little conflict.

2) Suddenly within this year, 2008, the School Board has decided to radically redesign the school grounds. This redesign will have a marked effect upon the neighborhood.

3) This comes at a difficult time for the neighborhood since many people are on vacation and cannot devote their time to this important issue.

4) Nonetheless, we have a number of issues with the proposed redesign.

a) We are concerned about the large scale of the changes,
b) We are concerned about the increased traffic and congestion these changes will bring
c) We are concerned about the increased noise that will attend the athletic events,
d) We are concerned about the increased trash and damage to our lawns that crowds might bring,
f) We are concerned about increased parking problems for the neighborhood
g) We are concerned about the possibility of increased drainage and water run-off in an area that is well-known for flooding,
h) We are concerned about the effect of building bleachers next to our houses which might block our views and turn our houses into unsuitable habitations for families.
i) We are concerned about the increased heat that might be generated by cars, traffic and Astroturf fields in our neighborhood.

5) All of these things represent problems that need discussion and consideration as they may radically alter the nature of our neighborhood and affect adversely our retail values.

We the undersigned oppose the installation of these athletic facilities in our established neighborhood and suggest that they be placed in an area where there are no houses and homes, where there can be easy access by cars, where noise and excitement engendered by athletic contests to not disturb the neighbors.

Name	Address
Sven Alstrom	842 W 21st
SVEN ALSTROM	840 W 21st
Family Leeden	840 W 21st St.
Wanda J. Leeden	

We the undersigned urge the School Board and the City to delay the development of these athletic facilities in our established neighborhood until our neighborhood has time to analyze this.

Name	Address
[illegible]	825 West 21st Street Lawrence, KS 66046
[illegible]	825 West 21st St. Lawrence, KS 66046
Rosalene Killby	815 W 21st Lawrence, KS.
[illegible]	801 W 21st [illegible] KS
[illegible]	812 Greeve Ter. " "
[illegible]	815 Greever Ter Lawrence Ks
Scott Finkebrock	825 Greever Ter Lawrence, KS
Beth Atkley	813 Greever Ter Lawrence, KS
Roy E Gridley	610 Greever Terr Lawrence 66046
Marilyn Gridley	610 Greever Ter Lawrence
Marilyn Gridley	616 Greever Ter.
Fi Fi McClure	628 greever Ter.
Carolyn Jones	819 Greever Ter.
Kenneth Snyder	819 Greever Ter.
Katrina Clark	833 GREEVER TER.
Janet Mody	2100 Carolina
Winifred H. Gallup	848 West 21st
Alfred F. Gallup	" "

We the undersigned urge the School Board and the City to delay the development of these athletic facilities in our established neighborhood until our neighborhood has time to analyze this.

Name	Address
Joan Thomson	2014 Alabama
Alita York Cooper	909 W 20th St Terrace
Ray [illegible]	2009 Alabama
Chen Lee	1945 Alabama (owner) (~~12505 [illegible]~~)
Vernon Brolis	1917 Alabama
Margaret Barlow	1920 Alabama
Marilyn Bailey	1925 Alabama
Wynona McKinn	1014 W. 20th St
Conrad M. Henderson	2008 Alabama St.
Judith M. Henderson	2008 Alabama St.
Grace Foutz	2032 Alabama St
Jay Foutz	2032 Alabama
Lee Flanders	2026 Alabama
Betty J. Alexander	1940 ~~Ala~~ Alabama (owner) 928 E 1279 Rd Lawrence KS 66047
Jeanne Klein	824 Grosvenor Terrace
Mary Lou Wright	1734 Illinois (U. Place Neighborhood)
Helmut Huelsberger	1908 Alabama

Louis Zook 629 W 21st

[illegible] 623 W 21st

Edgar E. "Gene" [illegible] 637 West 21st

[illegible] 1021 W. 20th St.

William V. Fisbell 2512 Harper (church)

Warren Moline 876 E 1289 Rd. (church)

We the undersigned urge the School Board and the City to delay the development of these athletic facilities in our established neighborhood until our neighborhood has time to analyze this.

Name	Address
Mary Ann Traiger	803 W 22nd Terrace
Scott Curtis	828 W 22nd Ter
Barry D. Stallman	822 W. 22nd Ter
Dennis K. Hoffman	822 W 22 Ter
Alan Witt	816 W 22 Terr
[illegible]	815 W. 22 Terr.
Melba J. Edwards	832 W. 22nd Terrace
Kenneth D. Guthrey	838 W 22nd Terrace
Jean Affolter	2543 Cedarwood Ave.

We the undersigned urge the School Board and the City to delay the development of these athletic facilities in our established neighborhood until our neighborhood has time to analyze this.

Name	Address
Gloria Jacob	843 W. 22nd St
Craig Jacob	837 W. 22nd St
Kellie Schmid	900 W. 22nd Street
Mary T. Pratt	900 W. 22nd Street
Diane Stiles	812 W. 22nd St.
Florence Swanson	818 W. 22nd St
Cecilia Ochoa Mary	830 W. 22nd St
Phyllis Blaylock	815 W. 22nd St.
	2131 CAROLINA ST.
Shana Good	2105 Carolina St.
	2105 CAROLINA ST.

We the undersigned urge the School Board and the City to delay the development of these athletic facilities in our established neighborhood until our neighborhood has time to analyze this.

Name	Address
[illegible]	1101 W. 21st
Robert A. Blank	2133 Owens Lane
Elaine Blank	2133 Owens Lane
George Smith	2142 Owens Ln
Jerry L. Smith	2142 Owens
Mark L. Halmberg	2136 Owens Lane
Sue Simons	2145 Owens Ln.
Mary Winston	2130 Owens Ln.
John Dorton	2130 Owens Lane

-----Original Message-----

From: Sven Alstrom [mailto:alstrom@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2008 12:06 PM

To: maf@sunflower.com; adkab@ku.edu; AL Gallup; Anne Marvin; asa@blueskywindandsolar.com; bacjb@ku.edu; bblank@sunflower.com; captainkgood@yahoo.com; conrad henderson; Daniel Poull; derek.helms@freeplanetinc.com; gdiepenbrock@ljworld.com; geoterrysmith@sunflower.com; glklingenberg@sunflower.com; hueslber@ku.edu; huested@aol.com; janinejoslin@gmail.com; jantle@jccc.net; jmeyer@sunflower.com; Joan Stevenson; jschultz@ku.edu; Lynne Zollner; Mark Kaplan; michael.sizemore@gsa.gov; mveatch@sunflower.com; Paul Davis; randy.masten@us.army.mil; rich_givens@yahoo.com; richardk@ku.edu; Sean Williams; shanagood@sunflower.com; spadget@ku.edu; sven alstrom User; Tom Harper; wiechert@ku.edu

Subject: SPECIAL USE PERMIT for LHS

In doing a little follow-up research on the high school planning issues, I looked up the GIS map for Lawrence (on the Lawrence web site).
It seems that sometime between Landplan's submittal of their site design and now, the property has been changed from RS-2 (as shown on Landplan's
map) to GPI (General Public Institutional). As a consequence, the kinds of buffers between them and the surrounding RS neighborhoods (esp.
Centennial) is even more stringent than if they still had an RS designation. Also, the proposed location of the stadium will definitely fall within one or more of the historic resource environs shown on the map.
Also, according to the current planning ordinances, an "Entertainment and Spectator Sports" use such as is being proposed (4000
spectators) requires 1,334 off-street parking spaces. The plan only shows approx. 900 spots (new + existing) with about 150 of these being next to the virtual school. So, technically, they're only proposing about 750 spots on the same site as the football stadium (57% of what is required for the football stadium alone).

August 22, 2008

Sports

High Temps On Turf Fields Spark Safety Concerns

by Allison Aubrey

Listen Now *[5 min 18 sec]* add to playlist

Morning Edition, August 7, 2008 · Lots of coaches and players love the benefits of artificial fields. There's no practice time or games lost to muddy conditions, and the fields are easy to maintain. They require no pesticides or water. But increasingly, municipalities are raising questions about extremely high temperatures on the playing fields when the weather is hot and sunny.

The first evidence of a "heat island" effect came a few years ago, when Columbia University climate researcher Stuart Gaffin analyzed thermal images generated from NASA satellite maps of New York City. He wanted to figure out how urban trees may help cool down neighborhoods. When Gaffin noticed a bunch of hot spots on the maps, he assumed they were rooftops. But he wanted to know for certain.

"So we picked five or six really hot locations in the Bronx and went to visit them, and two turned out to be turf fields" says Gaffin. In retrospect, he says he should have realized that, because they're a perfect sunlight-absorbing system.

Temperature Check

To understand just how hot the synthetic fields can get, we visited Riverside Park in Manhattan with Geoffrey Croft, founder of NYC Park Advocates.

Carrying a thermometer, Croft stood at the periphery of one of the turf fields that's used for a soccer camp.

In the shade it's 86 degrees. But out in the center of the soccer field where kids are playing soccer, the sun is directly overhead. Holding his thermometer waist-high, he gets a reading of 160.6 degrees Fahrenheit.

Croft is surprised. "It's way higher than I thought it would be," he says.

As the coaches call a water break, which they do every 15 minutes or so, a group of 8- and 9-year-olds stands dripping in sweat.

"It's hot," says 8-year-old Michael-Luca Natt. "Very hot." Nearby, two more day-campers, Max Rana and Billy Hurwitz, say it can be hard to keep playing when it's so hot on the field.

Heat-Trapping Recycled Tires

Part of what's trapping the heat are bits of ground-up recycled tires used by the manufacturers to cushion the turf. When Croft bounces a ball on the field, bits of the black rubber bounce back up with it.

"It's getting all over my leg," Croft points out as the ball bounces. The kids attending the camps show me how the crumb rubber gets in their hair and in their shoes.

The Synthetic Turf Council is an industry group that represents manufacturers of the products. The group says using recycled tire rubber is a cost-effective way of making the surfaces more resilient. The group is aware of reports of 160-degree temperatures on the fields.

"I don't think anyone in our industry would suggest it's a good idea to play on a surface that's that hot," says Rick

Doyle, president of the council.

Doyle says he knows of no documented cases of people being injured. It's more of a management issue, he says.

"Just as coaches have to reschedule games due to rain when they play on grass fields," he says, so too they need to reschedule or consider an alternative surface to play on when it's hot and sunny.

Concerns Over Chemicals

A number of cities and municipalities, including New York City, have many days of very warm and sunny weather.

Coach Mike Handell has permits to run baseball camps in Riverside Park. He says there are only so many green spaces in New York, and increasingly they're being converted to synthetic turf.

Handell says he likes the fact that the fields don't get dry and dusty. But he knows they're hotter, and he's heard concerns about the chemicals found in the recycled tires.

"If they're unsafe. I want to know. I'm mean I'm personally interested because I have permits for these fields," he says, and kids are playing on them.

Heat Is Primary Concern

The New York City Health Department hired consultants to assess potential health risks associated with crumb-rubber turf fields. The report concludes that the risk of harm from exposure to hazardous chemicals such as lead in the rubber appears to be very low unless the chemicals are basically eaten.

According to the report, another possibility is that players may inhale chemicals that vaporize to form a gas. Health assessments suggest that the exposure levels are likely below a level of concern to human health. But these assessments use conservative estimates of exposure. The report says additional studies measuring chemical exposures of players on turf fields should be conducted "to give more representative data on exposures related to urban field use."

Since crumb-rubber turf absorbs and retains heat, the NYC Health Department report says heat is the primary health concern associated with playing on the fields. It says people can suffer dehydration, heatstroke and thermal burns at field temperatures above 115 degrees.

Based on these concerns, the New York City Parks Department has now decided to move away from using recycled-tire rubber in new turf fields. Commissioner Liam Kavanaugh says decisions have already been made regarding a couple of installations.

"We have two fields in construction where we've actually canceled the black crumb rubber and are actively looking for an alternative," Kavanaugh says.

The state of Connecticut has committed $200,000 to conducting exposure studies, with testing scheduled to begin this fall.

The industry has offered up a couple of options, including a sand-based fill. The Synthetic Turf Council says one company, Mondo, advertises that its Ecofill is "up to 50 percent cooler." And another company that markets a product called "Cool Grass" synthetic yarn says it can reduce surface temperatures on synthetic turf by up to 35 percent.

"Technology is evolving all of the time," says the council's Doyle. Yet many of these new products can be quite a bit more expensive.

Kavanaugh says he's hopeful one will work since, overall, the city likes the low-maintenance artificial turf.

But Columbia University researcher Gaffin says he's skeptical. He says even without any black rubber added, the plastic blades of grass in synthetic turf trap a lot of heat.

"They're spongy and lightweight — and that means the solar energy that's absorbed quickly gets converted to high temperatures," he says.

Without the natural system of evaporation that living grasses have, everything's working in one direction to turn sunlit turf fields into heat islands, he says.

Related NPR Stories

March 12, 2005
N.L. Leaves Artificial Turf In The Dust

Nov. 9, 2004
Finding Profitable New Uses For Recycled Tires

Oct. 16, 2004
A Cemetery Switches To Artificial Turf

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What is this?

From: conrad henderson [mailto:conandjudy@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2008 3:10 PM
To: Sheila Stogsdill
Subject: SUP for Lawrence High

2008 Alabama St.
Lawrence, KS 66046
Aug. 22, 2008

Dear Members of the Lawrence Planning Commission:

As residents of the neighborhood that will be affected by the expansion of sports facilities around Lawrence High School, we would like to express some of our concerns about this project. My wife and I live at 2008 Alabama St., directly in front of the proposed softball field just south of the projected new football stadium. We have lived at this location since 1976 and are very familiar with the history of the Centennial neighborhood. For example, we have experienced the increasing fragility of our area as more and more houses have become rental property. We realize we live in a mixed-population neighborborhood where the needs of various groups, from senior citizens, to families with young children, to college-age renters, must be accommodated. We must also get along with our big neighbor to the east, Lawrence High School. There have been shocks in the past, such as the closing of Centennial School; however, for the most part, things have worked out.

Now, though, many of us are faced with major changes adjacent or very close to our properties. This has led to several concerns. First and foremost, the shoehorning of a major venue like a football stadium with all its required facilities, i.e. bleachers, concession stands, restrooms, lighting, sound-systems, etc., into an established neighborhood is unprecedented in the city of Lawrence and is a site-overwhelming, disruptive change. The planned increase in parking area also does not seem adequate for the anticipated crowds and can only be achieved by circumventing the green-space offsets required by city codes.

Another possible problem has recently come to our attention. It is our understanding that the restroom facilities planned for the new stadium would be hooked up to the sewer line serving Alabama St. between 19th and 21st Streets. In the past there have been capacity problems with this system at the lower end of the sewer near 21st Street. It is our concern that tying in a major outflow from the expected restroom facilities at the sports complex may overwhelm an already heavily taxed and probably outdated sewer system. The danger of backup into basements certainly merits further study of this plan.

Basically, we feel the stadium is not a good and justifiable solution to Lawrence's long-term need for a district-wide, centralized high-school sports complex. Wouldn't public money be better spent on such a facility?

We recognize Lawrence High School's needs for modern, serviceable practice facilities. With regard to the planned softball field behind our house, we think it would be a better solution to flip the design around and put the homeplate area in the northeast quadrant of the field. In this way, the bleachers and the backstop and much of the commotion of games would be away from pre-existing houses and much closer to the school and parking. When I brought this matter up at one of the information meetings, I was told by the Landplan designer that the optimal direction for a softball field is looking northeast, so that the sun would not be in the eye of the catcher. It should be pointed out, however, that there are some fields in town, for example, ones at Holcomb and Clinton, that face southwest.

Thank you for taking these matters into consideration before issuing a special use permit for this addition to Lawrence High School.

Sincerely,
Conrad M. Henderson
Judith M. Henderson

ttfn Judy

From: Larry Chance [mailto:LChance@emprisebank.com]
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2008 4:12 PM
To: jeff@chaney-inc.com; hughcarter@dgcounty.com; rick@hirdlaw.com; lharris@ku.edu; greg@moorevaluation.com; thenewgroup@sbcglobal.net; ksingleton@sloanlwafirm.com; Bradley R. Finkeldei; cblaser@sunflower.com; stanley.rassmussen@us.army.mil
Subject: Proposed High School Improvements

Planning Commissioners:

I would like to add my unconditional support to the proposed improvements to the athletic facilities at Lawrence High and Free State. The upgraded facilities will provided much-needed improvements for the students and fans, as well as for the athletes finally able to compete on decent fields. The existing facilities are embarrassing, to say the least, and the uneven grass & weeds have contributed to numerous ankle & knee injuries. Our community finally has an opportunity to bring our facilities up to date with eco-friendly improvements without expending tax dollars and I think we owe it to our students to support this proposal.

Larry S. Chance
Commercial Lender
Emprise Bank Lawrence
1121 Wakarusa Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049
Phone: (785) 749-0800
Fax: (785) 749-0387
E-Mail: lchance@emprisebank.com
Visit us at www.emprisebank.com

-----Original Message-----
From: Stacy Riggins [mailto:bstnnriggins@sunflower.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2008 9:38 PM
To: bradfink@stevensbrand.com; hughcarter@dgcounty.com; Greg@moorevaluation.com; Iharris@ku.edu; ksingleton@sloanlawfirm.com; jeff@chaney-inc.com; rick@hirdlaw.com; therenewgroup@sbcglobal.net; Rasmussen, Stanley L NWK
Subject:

Lawrence Public Schools are putting together a wonderful proposal for outdoor athletic facilities for our two high schools. The proposal benefits the future of our community. The quality of public schools and school facilities is a key factor in the ecomomic development of our community. I hope you will show your support in improving our community with these facilities.

We live near Free State High School and love to sit in our screened in porch in the evenings and listen to the band and baseball games. It is a great combination of the Lawrence Public Schools and the community. What a wonderful place to live! I am sure you will support facility improvements for our high schools. Thanks!

Bill & Stacy Riggins
240 Earhart Circle
Lawrence, KS

-----Original Message-----
From: Kent & Brenda Hatesohl [mailto:hatesohl4@sunflower.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2008 8:00 PM
To: bradfink@stevensbrand.com; hughcarter@dgcounty.com; cblaser@sunflower.com; greg@moorevaluation.com; lharris@ku.edu; ksingleton@sloanlawfirm.com; jeff@chaney-inc.com; rick@hirdlaw.com; therenewgroup@sbcglobal.net; Rasmussen, Stanley L NWK
Subject: support facilities enhancement proposal

August 24, 2008

To: Lawrence City Planning Commission

Re: Proposal for outdoor athletic facilities enhancement for our local high schools

We strongly support the proposed outdoor athletic facility enhancement at both Free State High School and Lawrence High School. We believe that this proposal is both fiscally and environmentally responsible and is something this community is vastly in need of.

Having two active boys progress through Lawrence Public Schools and being involved in a number of extra curricular activities, we have experienced over and over the unsafe and inadequate facilities (soccer and baseball fields in
particular) they have had to play on. The Free State soccer coaching staff and grounds crew have attempted to maintain an adequate playing field, but the Kansas climate makes it difficult to keep natural turf at the level that our kids deserve for an entire season. In addition, because there are no lights on the soccer field, all Free State home games must be played in the afternoon to avoid darkness. This significantly reduces the number of fans (parents included) to support the team, especially during regional playoffs.
JV games are often cut short because of lack of light. The only "home field advantage" is an unsafe field, rough playing surface and dark. Our students deserve better.

Fans also deserve better game venues. The soccer and baseball "stadiums" are certainly not fan friendly. In addition to no restroom or concession
facilities, reasonable seating is very limited. Too often, Free State
coaches and fans must listen to ridicule and negative comments about our facilities. In our family's six years of playing in the Sunflower League, Lawrence's facilities have been without a doubt the worst in the league.
Again, our student athletes and fans deserve better.

In this time of tight budgets, we believe the proposed plan to be fiscally responsible. This is a multi-million dollar enhancement that will not require a tax increase or bond issue but will significantly improve the facilities in our town. It is also environmentally responsible as it eliminates the use of fertilizers, pesticides and fuels, and minimizes water usage required for the upkeep of current playing fields.

The proposed plan will have a positive effect on the entire community. The quality of our public schools, including all facilities, certainly contributes to the economic development of Lawrence. Our educational system is strong; our athletic system has the potential to be as well.

Our youngest son is a senior this year; he won't benefit from this proposal.
However, we hope that the next generation of students will have a home to be proud of.

In closing, we strongly encourage you to do the right thing for the Lawrence community, Lawrence Public Schools and all current and future students - support the facilities enhancement proposal.

Thank you,
Kent & Brenda Hatesohl

-----Original Message-----
From: Steve Burk [mailto:ssmkburk@sunflower.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2008 6:35 PM
To: Rasmussen, Stanley L NWK
Cc: ppatterson@ci.lawrence.ks.us
Subject: Lawrence Public Schools outdoor athletic facilities

Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

I am writing to request your support for the outdoor facilities enhancement proposal for the Lawrence High School and Free State High School campuses.
My husband and I are the parents of two Free State senior girls who are deeply involved in academic, arts and athletic programs. We believe that the significant merits of the proposal - such as quality of facilities, safety improvements, equity in facilities across schools and sports, community access, scheduling consistency and flexibility, and fan-friendliness - will deliver tremendous benefits to the students and supporters of the Lawrence Public Schools.

Our daughters have experienced the need for new or upgraded facilities as members of the Free State marching band, as student supporters of several outdoor sports, and as 4-year participants in cross country and track programs. The dedicated student athletes, coaches and fans of Lawrence deserve facilities that are at least equivalent to those of our peer schools.

As taxpayers and as a family unit, we strongly believe that Lawrence Public Schools have proposed a fiscally- and environmentally-responsible plan that will provide our students some of the best facilities in the area. Thank you for your support in helping this plan become a reality.

Sincerely,

Sally Burk
4208 Wheat State Street
Lawrence, KS 66049
(785) 841-7780
ssmkburk@sunflower.com

-----Original Message-----
From: tiffany francis [mailto:momabirdfrancis@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2008 9:11 PM
To: Rasmussen, Stanley L NWK
Subject: LHS FSHS Facilities

Stan, Mark and I unfortunately will not be able to make the meetings concerning the FSHS and LHS facilities agenda but would like to share our support for the improvements to both of the Lawrence High School Athletic facilities. If there is something we can do, please let us know. Thanks,
Tiffany Francis

-----Original Message-----
From: Julie Jasperson [mailto:juliejasperson@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2008 6:30 PM
To: ppatterson@ci.lawrence.ks.us; bradfink@stevensbrand.com; hughcarter@dgcounty.com; cblaser@sunflower.com; greg@moorevaluation.com; lharris@ku.edu; ksingleton@sloanlawfirm.com; jeff@chaney-inc.com; rick@hirdlaw.com; therenewgroup@sbcglobal.net; Rasmussen, Stanley L NWK
Subject: Improvements to High School Athletic Fields

August 23, 2008

Dear Planning Commission Members,

I am writing to voice our support for the improvement of the athletic fields at both Lawrence public senior high schools. This year I am the President of the Free State High School Marching Band Boosters, a parent group that works to provide fund raising and support to the marching band at Free State.

These improvements would provide a big benefit for the Marching Band.
Currently, there are costs associated with using many school buses to transport the students to Haskell University for football games. In addition, the band rents a truck or a trailer to transport some of the percussion equipment to Haskell. This causes wear and tear on the percussion equipment, requiring equipment to be replaced, and requires extra volunteers to manage the transfer.

Imagine how much easier it would be to walk out the band door and right into the football stadium. Percussion equipment could be easily wheeled into the stadium. If rain were to threaten, it would be easy to simply move back into the school building. Currently, if it rains at Haskell, there is a real scramble to try to keep everything dry and back into the truck, trailer and
buses.

For these reasons, we support the improvement to all of the athletic fields at both high schools. In particular, we would like to see the football stadiums built/improved first, if it could be accomplished in time to hold some of the games at home this year. If that is not possible, then we would support the improvements in whatever order makes the most sense

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to your support of all the athletic improvements.

Julie Jasperson, President
LFSHS Marching Band Boosters

129 Sharon Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049
843-7863

From: Schultz, Jerry A [mailto:jschultz@ku.edu]
Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2008 9:29 PM
To: Bradley R. Finkeldei
Subject: Oppose LHS Athletic Developments

Dear Commissioners,

I live in the Centennial Neighborhood and I am writing to let you know that I strongly oppose the development of a competitive football field at the LHS. I was unable to sign a petition that was sent to you earlier by residents of the Centennial Neighborhood asking the District administration to stop this ill-advised plan. This email is my signature.

First, I am truly surprised that the School Board is willing to accept changing from grass to artificial turf. This is an unhealthy idea. My background is community and public health and the CDC has advised that there are several dangers involved with these types of turf. Lead, dust, and extreme heat make their use inadvisable. As you know New York city has decided to stop using artificial turf and national sports leagues are returning to real grass. The health department should provide an opinion on the use of this turf.

I suggest you use Google Earth and review the footprint of the various school properties in town, especially the differences between LHS and FHS. In all cases, except LHS, there are substantial barriers or distance between playing fields and neighbors' homes. The plan will put a 4,000 seat spectator facility with lights and loudspeakers within 75 ft of many homes in our neighborhood. It also seems to me that the plan doesn't meet several zoning requirements related to parking, drainage, and a buffer zone.

We are not opposed to facility equity between the schools, but not when it will cause serious problems for neighbors. There are other ways of solving for equity and state of the art competitive fields. Our neighborhood supports LHS and our schools. The District would not have the open property near Centennial School, if not for the efforts of neighborhood residents several years ago. We hoped that the school district would implement reasonable projects there. What has been proposed seems to be some kind of geometry and design challenge. How much can a designer fit into designated open spaces? Clearly, no thought was given to the potential impact this development might have on nearby residents. The impact on residents is so obvious. Please walk the area I am talking about (west of the LHS football field) to get a feel for how close this is and how it will really disrupt residents' lives. Let me know which of you will be willing to move in to any of those houses.

Please reconsider this decision and join the community in a discussion of how to solve for competitive football at our high schools in a more appropriate manner. I will be lending my time and resources to prevent this development by protesting to the Planning Commission, City Commission, the community and through any other legal means available to the neighborhood.

Jerry Schultz, Ph.D.
1945 Tennessee St.,

PS. Please share this message with all Commissioners?

Sven Erik Alstrom AIA
E C O L O G I C A L A R C H I T E C T U R E P. A.
842 West 21ST Street
Lawrence, Kansas 66046
email: alstrom@sbcglobal.net
tel: 785 749 1018

14 August, 2008

REQUEST TO DENY SPECIAL USE PERMIT
Lawrence High School – Athletic Field Facility expansion

Dear Scott,

First let me say that there are several inaccuracate statements in Mr. Bracciano's letter of August 11, 2008 which I would like to address. The Centennial Homeowner's Association Steering Committee met on August 13 and closely reviewed this letter as a starting point to our opposition to the Special Use Permit.

Introduction

Facts

1, The existing LHS property zoning does not support expansion of these facilities without adequate traffic & parkinig being provided for the increased usage.

2. There have been no traffic studies of the impact of the proposed increased facilities on 19th & Louisiana, 23rd & Lousisiana or 21st street vehicular traffic, whether under existing code or new code requirements for vehicular traffic control.

3. There have been no parking studies of the amount of code required traffic, open space, and required landscape improvements for the expansion of the athletic facilites under the current city code requirements.

Analysis

Conclusion

Regards,
Sincerely,

Sven Erik Alstrom AIA / NCARB

for Willa M. Alstrom Trust, property owner of record

2000 Alabama Street
Lawrence, KS 66046
August 19, 2008

Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Office
c/o Sheila Stogsdill, Assistant Planning Director
City Hall
6 East 6th Street
PO Box 708
Lawrence, Kansas 66044-0708

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

We are writing to share our concerns about the proposed building and construction projects at Lawrence High School, and we greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide input. Our home is located at 2000 Alabama where we have lived happily for three years. We bought this home because of the benefits of location and the prospect of having a stable neighborhood anchored in part by Lawrence High School. We are educators ourselves. Our decision to make our home in the Centennial neighborhood was motivated by our desire to live near an educational center. We are keenly aware of some of the implications of living near the high school, including the daily band practices and noise from the tennis courts and softball fields. In short, we have been happy to be part of this community and support a place for young people to grow and succeed, but we did not anticipate anything of the scale or magnitude of the proposed expansion of the athletic facilities, given that this is a high school surrounded by residential properties.

We have several concerns about the proposed changes in the existing Lawrence High School property. We strongly believe that Lawrence High School should have outstanding *practice fields* for both the women and men's sports and that the major inequalities between Lawrence High School and Free State High School should be addressed. However, it also seems that these issues must be addressed in the context of the considerable differences between the two sites and the best interests of the surrounding neighborhoods and the community as a whole. In that regard, the proposal to add two separate large-scale football stadiums, with seating to accommodate more than 4,000 spectators at each site, seems to be both a poor use of financial resources and a decision that is insensitive to the best interests of the surrounding community. Is it necessary to have two facilities of this scale to host an average of six games per year at each site? Wouldn't it make more sense to find a permanent solution to the inequality that currently exists between the two high schools? At the present time, neither site has a football stadium, so there is no inequity with respect to competition space for football games or band competitions. The other hard reality is that one site is half the size of the other and sits right in the heart of a residential neighborhood. The prospect of introducing crowds of more than 4,000 spectators to a site that presently cannot even adequately

accommodate parking for the 1500 students and staff that attend Lawrence High School on a daily basis should raise serious concerns. While the present proposal would add an additional 400 parking spaces at LHS, the total number of parking spaces is woefully inadequate to accommodate the types of crowds proposed. Traffic, security, and crowd noise also present more significant intrusions at the Lawrence High School site. If the desire is to have true parity, why not build a district-wide competition facility on neutral territory for all the schools that exist now and may exist in the future? This space could be used by the high schools and middle schools. A unified, district-wide competition facility would ensure equity across all the schools and would allow for future growth if we should ever add a third high school.

We are particularly concerned about the speed with which decisions are being made as well as the compatibility of the proposal for the surrounding residential community. If the decision is made to proceed with the plans for competition fields, we have several considerations for the planning commission.

- We recognize the need to have adequate sports facilities for students, but we ask that there be clear provisions that the use of these facilities be limited to school competitions and that the proposed complex does not become a city-wide facility or adult-league playing fields.
- With the proposed increased use of the high school facilities, we are concerned about increased litter and trash throughout the surrounding neighborhoods. We ask that the high school commit to ensuring that the surrounding neighborhoods where people will invariably park will also be cleaned of trash following games and events.
- At 2000 Alabama, our property is attached to an easement that provides a current pathway to the school. We currently experience a notable amount of student foot traffic past our office and bedroom windows. Students park in front of our house and walk to school through our yard. We are responsible for maintaining the easement property and clearing the litter left by pedestrians. While we have grown accustomed to this level of foot traffic, we are very concerned that there will be a dramatic increase in foot traffic for the proposed sporting events. While there is not a proposed gate currently, we ask that it be a clearly stated that there will not be a gate in the proposed fence behind our property at 2000 Alabama.
- Our home is located behind the proposed softball field. We ask the planning commission to make clear provisions about the usage of this field and take specific steps to ensure that the surrounding properties are not dramatically affected by foot traffic, noise, light pollution, litter, and stray balls.
- We ask that there be clear restrictions to hours of operation and that all events and clean-up activities be completed by 10 p.m.
- We are unclear on the type of landscaping and grading that will be added between our property line and the proposed fields. There has been discussion of some planting and grading in order to minimize the visual impact of these fields, but we do not understand the specific proposals and their impact on our property, especially in terms of drainage.

- With the proposed increased parking, we ask the planning commission ensure there is adequate green space provided for each new parking space.
- There are numerous concerns over the proposed football stadium.
    - We would propose that there be additional studies completed to see the impact of placing a sports complex like this one in such a highly residential neighborhood. We would be reassured to see lessons and ideas from those studies to ensure success and to minimize the detrimental impact on the surrounding area.
    - The noise from the events at the football stadium will have a dramatic impact on the quality of life in the surrounding neighborhoods. This area has many older, long time residents of Lawrence, and this will have a dramatic impact on their lives especially. There is special concern about both the loud speakers as well as the crowds.
    - There is not adequate parking for the proposed stadium. This will mean that parking will spill over into the surrounding neighborhoods, and this will again decrease the livability of the areas. The roads in place currently have difficulty sustaining the traffic and parking for high school events and even the regular school day.

We also ask that you seriously consider the composition of the neighborhood. In some ways, this is a fragile neighborhood. We have a mix of rental property, long-time residents, families with small children, and elderly residents. There are mutual benefits between the school and its neighbors, and we are worried that the proposed changes will negatively affect the neighborhood and that this will permanently alter the area and change it to primarily rental properties. While there is nothing wrong with rental property, there are significant benefits to having permanent residents in the area to ensure long-term property value, to guarantee maintenance of the area, and to ensure security. Our neighbors have interrupted vandalism at the high school, and we constantly watch to make sure the property does not become a loitering area or a center for mischievous behavior or illegal activity. We do this because this is our home too, and we are proud of our school. If there is a decrease in permanent residents around the school, this type of community ownership might be lessened.

We assume that there has been a full assessment of the environmental impact of artificial turf and its long-term financial implications. We understand there may be some yearly cost benefits from moving away from soil and grass surfaces, and there are some benefits for ensuring playability of the fields. We also know there may be some benefits from moving away from using such high quantities of dangerous pesticides and fertilizers, although using organic grass and maintenance techniques could avoid those problems as well and save costs. However, we hope you and the school board also consider the following issues:

- What is the environmental impact of disposing of the waste from the artificial turf when it is replaced in a decade? This could be the equivalent of 120 tons of crumb rubber, and we ask that the impact on waste management in the county be considered.

- What are the provisions for replacing the surfaces in a decade? While the school district apparently has the funds to install these surfaces, where will money for new surfaces and installation come from in the future?
- There are several long-term problems with artificial surfaces. One is the heat from the surface. Second is the increased chance of injury, specifically to football players, although the surfaces seem to better for soccer players. Third is the on-going maintenance demands for cleaning, disinfecting, and maintaining the surface. Fourth is the waste from the replacement of the surfaces. Several stadiums across the country and in the state of Kansas have replaced artificial surfaces with natural turf because of the maintenance issues, the dramatic increase in surface heat, and the waste problems. Perhaps we should learn more about the limitations of this type of surface before acting too quickly. While we may in the end decide these are better, safer surfaces, we ask that these concerns be investigated to see if we are moving in the right direction.

Flooding is a major concern for our neighborhood, and we have a unique problem living at 2000 Alabama. The run off from the current playing fields goes through our property, and the water that collects on sidewalks and freezes in the winter. This affects our neighbors as well. We also have had regular water problems in our basement. It is our understanding that the flooding has been addressed in the current proposal, and we ask that the planning commission be vigilant in ensuring that this long-term problem is addressed throughout the entire neighborhood.

We have chosen to make our home in the Centennial neighborhood, and we feel great pride in Lawrence High School and the accomplishments of our students. We want to encourage them to grow intellectually and physically, and we know this is also the goal of the planning commission. What we are asking for is caution in this decision-making process. This is a massive proposal for dramatic changes to a primarily residential area. We urge careful thought and consideration before construction begins and before structures are built that become permanent. We see the mutual benefits between the neighborhood and school, and we ask that you have a plan in place that both supports students and their neighbors.

Sincerely,

Hannah Britton and Bob Tryanski
2000 Alabama Street

What is artificial turf?

A modern artificial field surface has three layers — shock absorbing, drainage, and surface. The surface has silicone-coated polyethylene/polypropylene plastic blades that simulate grass and a several-inch layer of "infill" that keeps the blades upright. The infill varies by manufacturer and may include ground-up recycled tires, ground-up soles of athletic shoes, silica sand, and/or new thermoplastic or rubber material. This infill is known as "crumb rubber."

References

Synthetic Turf: Health Debate Takes Root, 2008

Environmental Health Perspectives, published by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

www.ehponline.org/docs/2008/116-3/toc.html

Artificial Turf: Exposures to Ground-Up Rubber Tires, 2007 Environment and Human Health, Inc.,

www.ehhi.org/reports/turf/

Toxicants in Artificial Turf, 2007

Rachel's Democracy & Health News #937 Environmental Research Foundation

www.rachel.org/bulletin/index.cfm?St=4

Facts about Artificial Turf & Natural Grass

Turfgrass Producers International – *www.turfgrasssod.org*

Commonly Asked Questions about Synthetic Turf

Synthetic Turf Council

www.syntheticturfcouncil.org/

DHSS Calls for Federal Action on Potential Lead Hazard Posed by Artificial Turf

www.state.nj.us/health/artificial-turf/index.shtml

Locations of Artificial Turf Fields

The most comprehensive listing is available at the website of FieldTurf Tarkett, *www.fieldturftarkett.com,* which has about 55 percent of the market in the U.S. For other turf manufacturers and systems builders go to *www.syntheticturfcouncil.org* and click on the link to members.

Grass playing fields vs. synthetic turf

How will your district decide?

In school districts across the nation, the question being asked is "grass or plastic?" Figures from the Synthetic Turf Council, a trade organization based in Atlanta, show that 10 years ago there were seven new-generation fields installed in the United States. Today there are 3,500. Many school districts covet synthetic turf because it always looks good and can be played on year-round.

The debate, sometimes fierce, is over whether synthetic turf is safe for human and environmental health, and whether its advantages outweigh those of natural grass.

Local associations can encourage a rational comparison of artificial turf and natural grass on the basis of the considerations that follow.

Costs

School districts should be encouraged to request comprehensive bid proposals from both artificial turf and natural grass producers. The bids should include "cradle-to-grave" costs, including field preparation, installation, maintenance and repair for an extended period of time (at least five years), and disposal.

Natural grass with onsite native soil is usually the least expensive to install. The more prepared the soil is, the more expensive natural grass installations become. Synthetic turf is usually the most expensive to install.

Maintenance

Artificial turf fields require personnel and equipment for dragging, infill additions, redistribution, cleaning, and carpet repair. Specialized equipment includes a sweeper, groomer, field magnet, and roller.

Natural grass fields require personnel and equipment for mowing, watering, fertilizing, and pesticide application. Specialized equipment includes a mower, fertilizer applicator, aerator, and vacuum.

Both types of fields require a line painter, cart for towing equipment, and a top dresser. Both also require irrigation and perhaps boom spraying. In the case of artificial turf these are for cooling as opposed to grass growth.

Local associations should be alert to the need to retrain grounds staff if they will be required to maintain artificial turf. Some maintenance tasks may require specialized equipment and skills that could be outsourced.

Disposal

One artificial field contains approximately 120 tons of crumb rubber or 26,000 recycled tires. Costs for removal and disposal could be significant. Many fields now in service will soon be reaching the end of their life spans and many questions about disposal remain to be answered.

Rick Doyle, president of the Synthetic Turf Council, says the infill could be cleaned and reused; put to another purpose, such as for rubber asphalt; incinerated; used in place of soil to separate landfill layers; or otherwise recycled. Typically, however, it is sent to a landfill.

There are no real disposal issues with grass fields.

Wear and durability

Wear and durability information should be obtained and compared. With regular maintenance, synthetic turf fields usually last up to 10 years and are typically warranted for seven to eight years. Properly installed and maintained natural grass fields remain viable for about 15 years.

Hazardous Materials

School districts should ask for a *Material Safety Data Sheet* (MSDS) on each turf component and anticipated maintenance product. If any are of unknown composition or have no available MSDS, that should raise a serious warning.

Hazardous materials associated with natural grass fields include pesticides and fertilizers, unless the grass is being grown organically.

Hazardous materials associated with artificial turf include ingredients in the polyethylene/polypropylene blades, the crumb rubber infill, and ingredients in maintenance products like disinfectants, anti-static cling treatments, and solvents for seam repair.

Recycled crumb rubber contains a number of chemicals that are known or suspected to cause adverse health effects. The most common types of synthetic rubber used in tires are composed of ethylene-propylene and styrene-butadiene combined with vulcanizing agents, fillers, plasticizers, and antioxidants in different quantities, depending on the manufacturer. Tire rubber contains metals (zinc, selenium, lead, and cadmium), phthalates, polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). One company produces "Ecofill" infill, asserting that it contains fewer toxins.

An MSDS will give some information on the health hazards of the product. An MSDS is written by a product's manufacturer and should contain a list of hazardous ingredients and may contain the percent of each ingredient in the product. Ingredients may be missing if they are considered a trade secret.

Heat Stress

Artificial surfaces are dramatically hotter than natural grass fields, reaching temperatures up to 150 F, possibly contributing to burns, dehydration, and heat exhaustion. They may be too hot to play on at times. Watering cools them down, but they reheat quickly.

Sanitation

Soils in grass fields contain bacteria which decompose body fluids, algae, and dog, goose, and other droppings. These do not decompose on artificial turf.

Proper maintenance of synthetic turf requires that the fields be sanitized to remove body fluids and droppings. Manufacturers market sanitizing products for this purpose. According to *Synthetic Turf Sports Fields: A Construction and Maintenance Manual*, published by the American Sports Builders Association in 2006, some synthetic turf owners disinfect their fields as often as twice a month, with more frequent cleanings for sideline areas, where contaminants concentrate.

Sports injuries

Several studies reported no differences in the incidence, severity, nature, or cause of injuries in soccer teams who played on grass versus new-generation synthetic turf. However, injuries may depend on the type of sport being played.

A five-year prospective study of football injuries among high school teams showed that there were about 10 percent more injuries when games were played on synthetic turf than when played on grass surfaces.

Conversely, the risk of serious head and knee injuries was greater on grass fields.

Environmental Health

Crumb rubber can move around on the field and it sticks to the skin, shoes, and clothing. It can end up inside schools, vehicles, and homes and in the land and water around the field. Some metals in the rubber leach into water.

Artificial turf creates environmental hot spots, while natural turf creates cool spots. A natural grass field supports birds, animals, and insects. It generates oxygen, reduces greenhouse gases, and filters and purifies rainwater. Artificial turf does not.

Paul Patterson

From: glatzfam@sunflower.com
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 9:46 AM
To: Paul Patterson
Cc: glatzfam@sunflower.com
Subject: Proposed School Improvements

To All Committees:

The following letter is in support of the proposed improvements to both LHS and LFSHS. Our family moved to Lawrence in 1990 and we have raised our three children here. Our oldest child graduated from LHS and the younger two from Free State. They had wonderful opportunites in many activities from music, band, drama, and sports. The girls are graduates of KU and our son has just begun his college education.

The proposed improvements to the high schools would be a wonderful addition to the sports arena. The lights and turf would allow games to be played in the evenings and during wet weather. This would also allow us to proudly host others teams and tournaments which we are limited in doing at this time. Currently students and parents must re-arrange their school/work schedules to accomodate the early game times in Lawrence. Often the JV (soccer) games must be cut short because of daylight savings time.

For years we have been able to enjoy the complete facilities in KC and Topeka and it would be wonderful to be able to provide restrooms, concessions and ample seating for our visiting teams and their families.

Lawrence is a very proud city and we have so much to be proud of. Our University, the Lied Center, our high schools and the programs that they have to offer, our thriving downtown, the many businesses and so much more. The school proposals would only add to that pride and continued opportunties for students and faculty.

We ask your serious consideration in approving these improvements.

Sincerely,
Sue and Jay Glatz

Free State High School Athletic Department
4700 Overland Dr.
Lawrence, KS 66049
Telephone: (785) 832-6050
Fax: (785) 832-6097
Mike Hill, Athletic Director
Deb Carpenter, Athletic Secretary
Ben Mugridge, Events Coordinator

August 22, 2008

Dear City Planning Commission Members,

Please consider a favorable response to the request of USD #497 for approval of facility enhancements on the campuses of Lawrence and Free State High School. The proposal before you on Wednesday, August 27 promotes the safety, equity, wellness, education and entertainment of every current and future high school student in Lawrence, their families and other members of our community.

This proposal enhances our school communities in that it provides for increased safety and security. Students can now remain on campus for many activities as opposed to driving to other Lawrence venues. Equity amongst genders and schools will be achieved under the proposal, a laudable goal for any community. The plan considers the taxpayers as it is done in a fiscally responsible manner that is too environmentally conscious.

Upon completion of this proposal, students will compete, perform and learn in some of the best facilities in the entire region. Our athletes, performing arts groups, and students will utilize facilities that are fitting for a community such as Lawrence.

I urge you to vote in favor of this proposal for the benefit of our community. Your hard work on behalf our city is greatly appreciated.

With regards,

Mike Hill
Assistant Principal/Athletics Director
Lawrence Free State High School
785-832-6050
mhill@usd497.org

Paul Patterson

From: David Childers [childers@sunflower.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2008 8:37 AM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: Outdoor Activity/ Athletic Facilities Comments

Dear Mr. Patterson and Planning Commission Members,

I believe that the creation of site specific facilities for both high schools is a step in the right direction towards supporting increased participation and safety for all community members.

However, there are two thoughts that I believe should be kept in mind.

1) Haskell has been so kind and generous in providing Haskell Stadium at such reduced costs over the decades. Surely there must be something we could do to provide them a benefit in kind. Could these plans in some way be designed to provide a benefit to Haskell as means of thanking them for their generosity?

2) Consider Topeka. As they have grown into a city with many, many high schools, each with their own facilities, maintaining those separate facilities became a large burden on the USD 501 Public Schools. Now they have Hummer Sports Park - which is a single site, state-of-the-art facility for all the schools to use. Would improvements to Haskell Stadium be less expensive and actually oriented to the inevitable outcome that Topeka has found?

Thank you for your consideration.

/David C.

James David Childers
3109 Trail Road
Lawrence, Kansas 66049
785-842-1172

Paul Patterson

From: Margaret Townsend [mtown@ku.edu]

Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2008 9:05 AM

To: Paul Patterson

Subject: proposed improvements for the LHS and FSHS athletic facilities with artificial turf

Dear Planning Commission members:

I am writing in support of the proposed facility enhancements at Free State and Lawrence High Schools. The proposed improvements are not only environmentally responsible in the elimination of fertilizers, and pesticides, lower water use and fuel expenditures, but it is overall fiscally responsible in that the program does not require a tax increase or bond issue to the community at large.

The proposal provides equity between schools, among sports, and provided gender equity for boys and girls athletics. Safety should be improved in that students will not have to drive to off-site venues to participate in sports and band activities. The new turf surface will also provide improved safety for the players. School spirit will be increased because of provision of facilities the kids and families can be proud of.

The new field surface will provide additional high-quality facilities for community wide personal health and wellness recreational use. Students involved in sports, fine-arts (band), and physical education will benefit from the improved facilities. The proposal benefits the future of our community. Continual improvement of the quality of public schools, and school facilities, is a key factor in the economic development of a community.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposed school improvements. I hope you will approve them.

Best regards,

Margaret Townsend
Parent of an upcoming Free State Band student

Paul Patterson

From: flygal725@sunflower.com
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2008 4:03 PM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: HS sports facilities

Dear Mr. Patterson,

I am one of, I hope, many Lawrence parents that are rallying behind the sports improvement facilities for both High Schools. These improvements are desparately needed in this town for many reasons. Most importantly they will provide a safe and efficient area of competiton for our athletes and those athletes visiting our city.

I graduated from SMSouth in 1979. We had a fabulous football stadium that we did and they still do continue to share with 2 other SM schools. The entire SMSouth campus was set up for a winning program. That was 100 years ago! This city is so far behind and our kids deserve better. Better facilities, better practice fields and esp. a place to be proud of when visiting schools come to compete with our athletes.

A multisports complex in this town shared by the 2 schools is something that really needs to happen in the near future. The spirit of the kids, community and pride of this community would be enhanced. It is emabarrassing to play at Haskell...no bathrooms or concessions for our guests!!! My son played football last year for FSHS. I am sorry but it was really embarrassing when we left the Olathe team/parents in the rain with no shelter on the South side of the field!!!!!! The money we are paying out to rent this stadium is certainly not a good investment. It is like an adult renting a home vs buying a home. We are not making a good investment. Where are we getting the thousands of dollars we spend during the season to RENT Haskell?

I continue to hope that a multisports facilty is going to happen someday soon. For the present time the enhancements are crucial to maintain a well run High School athletic program in this town. I believe it will excite the kids to plays sports, be proud of their city and when kids are busy, involved and healthy..through sport esp. everyone wins. You recruit better coaches, better players, nuture community involvement. There are so many smaller towns out there with better sports facilities than Lawrence. We dont even have restrooms at FSHS. My son actually played 3 sports last year. It was so emabarrassing to NOT have somewhere decent for our guests to go to the BATHROOM at the baseball field..too.

Thank you for listening. From what I understand these improvements will cost the city little or nothing. There is a fund set up for it. Please make this happen and share our thoughts with your committee members! Good Luck. I hope to see you at one of the meetings.

Stacey Hassig FSHS parent

August 19, 2008

Dear Scott McCullough and the City Planning Commission,

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I write to you in support of U.S.D. 497's efforts to upgrade its outdoor facilities at Free State High School and Lawrence High School. Providing high-quality facilities and resources for students in a fiscally and environmentally responsible fashion is something for which all districts should strive, and I am glad to join a school system that is committed to doing just that.

As a new administrator in the Lawrence Public Schools (I began my tenure as the Principal of Free State High School on July 1st), I became quickly impressed with the amount of proactive thinking that has been conducted as part of the planning process. Much of the planning can be broken down into the issues related to finances, the environment, safety, and efficiency.

Despite the high cost of today's construction, a plan of this magnitude will not require a tax increase of a bond issue for the citizens of our district. I am not employed in a position that allows me the expertise to explain the financial roadmap to fund the project, but I did hear over and over again the commitment to paying for the project without asking the public for more money during tough economic times.

This plan also earns my support because of the environmental aspects of the upgrade. Because the playing surfaces on all of the competition fields will be artificial, the need for fertilizers, pesticides, fuel, and water is either eliminated or greatly reduced. Going "green" is a worthwhile and notable trend in today's society.

I believe this project should be supported based on the improvement in the area of student safety alone. While student travel will not be completely eliminated, every teenage driver we can take off the road by providing on-site facilities is a victory. This fact hits home for me, as I have had to deal with the death of one student and a severe injury of another student just two years apart during my time as principal in another district. Both students were headed to practice at the time of their respective accidents.

Finally, providing both Free State High School and Lawrence High School with quality outdoor facilities improves community pride and efficiency in managing the resources. Every student will benefit from these improvements including those in band, physical education classes, and on athletic teams. Scheduling events in the Lawrence community becomes less burdensome for the district, the Lawrence community, and for venues sponsored outside of the community.

On behalf of the Lawrence Free State community, I thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Ed West
Principal
Free State High School

Paul Patterson

From: GreerLang@aol.com

Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2008 12:44 PM

To: Paul Patterson; bradfink@stevensbrand.com; hughcarter@dgcounty.com; cblaser@sunflower.com; greg@moorevaluation.com; Lisa Harris Email; ksingleton@sloanlawfirm.com; jeff@chaney-inc.com; rick@hirdlaw.com; therenewgroup@sbcglobal.net; stanley.rasmussen@us.army.mi

Subject: Athletic Facilities for Free State & Lawrence High High Schools

Dear Members of the City of Lawrence Planning Commission:

I am writing this letter to strongly support the current proposal to enhance the athletic facilities at Free State and Lawrence High School campuses. It is my understanding that some of neighbors located near LHS have expressed concerns with the plan. It is my further understanding that the school board is actively working to mitigate the concerns expressed by these neighbors. However, despite the expressed concerns, I believe that it is important that the planning commission, in considering this proposal, understand the benefits of the proposed plan, not only for the current and future students of Free State and Lawrence High, but for the Lawrence community, as a whole.

These benefits include the following:

- The proposal is fiscally responsible. This is a multi-million dollar enhancement that will not require a tax increase or bond issue from the citizens of Lawrence.
- The proposal is environmentally responsible. It eliminates the use of fertilizers, pesticides and fuels, and minimizes water usage, required for the upkeep of current playing fields.
- The proposal improves gender equity among facilities. Boys' and girls' athletics will have equitable facilities.
- The proposal provides equity between schools and among sports: Each high school and every sport will benefit from equitable facilities.
- The proposal improves safety for students. The ability to participate on campus minimizes students driving to and from off-site venues.
- The proposal provides safe playing surfaces for students. Playing surfaces will be state-of-the-art, promoting a reduction in the frequency and severity of injuries.
- The proposal provides appropriate venues for our kids. Our kids deserve high-quality facilities in keeping with peer schools in our conference. Our kids should feel proud of their facilities.
- The proposal provides greater scheduling certainty and flexibility. With the addition of lights and turf, rainouts will be reduced and practices and events can be held in the evenings - increasing the attendance of fellow students, fans and parents, thereby increasing ticket sales and revenues from sporting events.
- The proposal is fan friendly. It will provide proper seating, restrooms and concessions and enable the addition of evening games, which may be more suitable to parent/fan attendance.
- The proposal benefits more than athletics. EVERY student in our high schools will benefit from these improvements! Fine Arts (Band) students benefit from this proposal as well as students enrolled in our high school courses (physical education). Any member of our school family who participates or attends events will benefit.
- The proposal benefits the community. Community members and groups will have greater access to high-quality facilities for personal health and wellness and recreational uses.
- The proposal benefits the future of our community. The quality of public schools, and school facilities, is a key factor in the economic development of a community.

Having resided in the Lawrence community for 20 years - the one thing this community has lacked is adequate

athletic facilities for both of our high schools. Although our community takes pride in the accomplishments of our young athletes, the Lawrence community has woefully failed our children by not providing them with quality athletic facilities on campus where they can (i) safely attend practices after school, (ii) play games in the evenings and (iii) have pride in their facilities when they serve as host to other high schools. As the parent of a child that plays soccer for Free State, I have been appalled to see the disparity between the athletic facilities provided by our high schools versus those provided even in smaller surrounding communities. Athletics provides so many opportunities for our children and their futures and provides the means by which many of them will be able to secure a higher education. This is a plan that is long over due and it is time that this community steps forward, as one, and makes the interests of our children and their futures its highest priority.

Sincerely,

Greer S. Lang

Greer S. Lang
4521 Cedar Ridge Court
Lawrence, Kansas 66049
Phone (785)842-4800
Fax (785)841-6155
Mobile (785) 691-6155
e-mail greerlang@aol.com

Paul Patterson

From: Wayne Ideus [wlideus@sunflower.com]

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 9:58 AM

To: Paul Patterson

Subject: Support for Lawrence High Schools facility upgrades

Dear City Planning Commission,

I wanted to voice my strong support for the planned facility upgrades for the Lawrence high schools. The facility upgrades including new tennis courts, addition of lighting and turf to multiple outdoor playing fields, the addition of seating areas for fans and the addition of concession and restroom facilities.

These plans are beneficial to the students, to the school community and to Lawrence for the following reasons:

- The proposal is fiscally responsible. This is a multi-million dollar enhancement that will not require a tax increase or bond issue from the citizens of Lawrence.
- The proposal benefits the future of our community. The quality of public schools, and school facilities, is a key factor in the economic development of a community.
- The proposal improves safety for students. The ability to participate on campus minimizes students driving to and from off-site venues.
- The proposal is environmentally responsible. It eliminates the use of fertilizers, pesticides and fuels, and minimizes water usage, required for the upkeep of current playing fields.
- The proposal benefits the community. Community members and groups will have greater access to high-quality facilities for personal health and wellness and recreational uses.
- The proposal provides appropriate venues for our kids. Our kids deserve high-quality facilities in keeping with peer schools in our conference. Our kids should feel proud of their facilities.
- The proposal improves gender equity among facilities. Boys' and girls' athletics will have equitable facilities.
- The proposal provides equity between schools and among sports: Each high school and every sport will benefit from equitable facilities.
- The proposal provides safe playing surfaces for students. Playing surfaces will be state-of-the-art, promoting a reduction in the frequency and severity of injuries.
- The proposal provides greater scheduling certainty and flexibility. With the addition of lights and turf, rainouts will be reduced and practices and events can be held in the evenings.
- The proposal is fan friendly. It will provide proper seating, restrooms and concessions and enable the addition of evening games, which may be more suitable to parent/fan attendance.
- The proposal benefits more than athletics. EVERY student in our school will benefit from these improvements! Fine Arts (Band) students benefit from this proposal as well as students enrolled in our high school courses (physical education). Any member of our school family who participates or attends events will benefit.

As with any project of this size, there will those individuals or groups that may feel this is a negative. I believe there are ways to minimize any negative effects of these changes and that the school board and facility planners are working to resolve any of these issues.

I would like the City Commission to support and approve this action as there are many benefits to all of the Lawrence community.

8/25/2008

Thank you,

Wayne Ideus
5209 Thorn Tree Ct.
785 550 3142

Paul Patterson

From: Judy Gilman [judyg@sunflower.com]

Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2008 3:14 PM

To: Paul Patterson

Subject: Athletic Facilities Enhancement Proposal

I would just like to add my comments to support the proposal for facilities enhancements. In travelling to our competitors fields last year, I realized how far behind our Lawrence teams are. The soccer field that the girls at Free State use causes cancellations that wouldn't happen with an artificial turf. I suspect it also causes more injuries due to the turf issues. We need to provide a competitive environment for the Lawrence school kids. Even the private schools (Bishop Miege) are finding ways to create this sort of facility.

In today's environment where we are looking at the effects on our environment, I understand that the current enhancement proposals would be environment friendly by requiring less maintenance as well as eliminating the need for fertilizing and watering. That, in addition to reducing potential injuries, seem to mean that this proposal needs to be seriously considered.

Judy Gilman

Paul Patterson

From: Kevin Hooper [khooper7@cox.net]
Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2008 4:28 PM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: New facilities!

Planning Commission,

My name is Kevin Hooper and I'm writing this letter in support of the requested facility enhancements to Lawrence High School. As a 1995 graduate of LHS I know how important these enhancements would be not only for the LHS students and athletes, but also the entire Lawrence community.

I played baseball at LHS from my freshman year on and played college baseball at Wichita State University after leaving LHS. This year was my 10th in professional baseball having spent parts of two years in the major leagues with the Detroit Tigers. Having played the game so long I know how important good facilities can be in improving ones skills. I have hoped since leaving Lawrence High that this process was going to happen and I think time is due to make it happen.

One of the biggest reasons I feel this is a serious need is the safety of the student athletes. This process would keep them from having to drive to off-site venues. I remember that always being a pain when I was there and I always seemed rushed after school to get to my car and then drive to practice or a game.

Some other benefits would be that it will not require a tax increase or bond issue from the citizens of Lawrence. Also, it will be environmentally responsible, eliminating the use of fertilizers and saving on water usage. Both boys and girls and both high schools would have equitable facilities for each sport. The kids should feel proud of their facilities and not be upset after playing at a state of the art facility in their conference and then have to come home and play at their own. Rain outs would be reduced because of the turf that would be put in. Plain and simple any member of the LHS family who participates or attends events will benefit from these improvements.

Thanks for your time and I hope this proposal goes through for the great city of Lawrence, Kansas.

Kevin Hooper

Paul Patterson

From: Frank, Tammy S [tsfrank@cmh.edu]
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 12:49 AM
To: Paul Patterson
Subject: support for the outdoor athletic facilities

Dear City Planning Commission-
We are writing in support of the LPS outdoor athletic facilities for both LHS and LFSHS. We agree wholeheartedly with all the reasons stated in the proposal.
Thank you!
Sincerely,
Tammy & Barry Frank