Melrose Conservation Commission

Minutes for December 7, 2010

Present: Susan Murphy, Kate Hickey, Richard Doucette, and Joe Nerden

Absent: Kevin Anderson & Steve Locke

Staff: Kathy Morgan

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

Members met with Denise Gaffey, City Planner and Director, John Scenna, Project Manager & Charlie Serpa, Engineer, from DPW, Nathan Collins, from Gale Associates, Inc., Mike Cunningham, from SEA and Mayor Dolan for an informal meeting to discuss the Athletic Turf Field project & the realignment of the sewer line that runs under the current field.

Mayor Dolan began by thanking all the boards present for all their time and efforts and then began to explain the city's needs for additional playing fields, why Mt. Hood was originally chosen for the location of the turf field, available land and available funding, and why the project is now being proposed at the High School Athletic Field. After stating his appreciation for all the hard work done, Mayor Dolan left the meeting.

Mike Cunningham, from SEA took over the presentation to explain the proposed sewer project that will be done in coordination with the turf field. The sewer line currently runs underneath a corner of the football field/track running from the Westside of the Middle School to Tremont St. Their project includes relocating 750' of sewer line south of the football field, cutting through the baseball field, which will remain a natural field. Mr. Cunningham outlined some of the challenges to overcome. The ball fields have deep organic fill and were previously a wetland. The sewer will be installed on piers. Ground water at the site is very shallow. They plan to treat any water they encounter and put in a detention pond or divert it down to the connection at Tremont St. The existing sewer pipe will be abandoned and filled. They would like to file formally with the Commission and get on the January 6th agenda. They would then like to put the project out to bid by February 2nd. Other than being in the floodplain, there is a detention pond where a wetland replication was done during the Middle School project. The BVW has been outlined and buffers shown. The new sewer line will cross through the 100' buffer. Mr. Cunningham said they won't be changing any of the grades and won't be increasing any impervious area.

Nathan Collins, from Gale Associates took over explaining the existing conditions at the site and the process of installing a turf field. Mr. Collins said that water is now staying below the track. The flood elevation at the site is at 53, including the entire site. The current field is convex and runoff flows to the edges. The new field will have a ½' slope to one side and will drain vertically through a series of filters, 11 inches of crushed stone, 3 inches of washed stone, and then a collector pipe, that will slow down the velocity, and runoff will eventually

drain to the detention pond. He said the new baseball field will also flow out to the detention pond. The exact amount of new impervious area is not known yet. There will be new bleachers and a new, smaller concession stand. There will also be a new bathroom and concession stand in the pavilion at the entrance. There will be some new parking areas, but no new drainage. ADA upgrades will be made.

Mrs. Murphy asked the depth of the ground water at the site. Mr. Collins said, 32". Mrs. Murphy cautioned to take dewatering seriously, having learned from the Middle School project. Mr. Collins said, hopefully the project will be done in a drier time. The schedule for the sewer project is to start by mid February and be done by April 1st. The turf field project will start May 15th and looked to be finished by the first week in October.

Mr. Nerden said the Commission would be looking for more information on the dewatering, volume specifics and where it will be go or be stored. Mr. Cunningham said traps will have to be constructed with deep well pumps. Mr. Nerden talked about Ell Pond elevations and the detriments of lowering the pond. Mr. Scenna said they have left a month between the two project for any unforeseen problems. Mr. Nerden asked if this new sewer line will alleviate the problem at the Towers. Mr. Scenna said it would some what in that the piping design will change and will run smoother, but they are governed by the MWRA and will be working with them for other designs to handle the capacity. Mr. Nerden asked if the City still pumps at Tremont St. Mr. Scenna said not any longer. Mr. Nerden asked if they will attempt to clean out the existing drain lines around the field. Mr. Collins said there is considerable silt in the connections and when the new field is installed, they will be eliminated.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM