

From: Tom Tunncliff <tomtunncliff@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 2:13 PM
To: Doug Koehler <DKOEHLER@waukesha-wi.gov>
Subject: re: Baseball Park Memorial Project

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Greetings Doug,

My name is Tom Tunncliff and I live on Brendon Way in Waukesha, which is adjacent to the baseball park. I was at the onsite meeting yesterday but wanted to share some thoughts for the Plan Commission meeting.

As an architect and an educator, I am very familiar with neighborhood and environmental impact studies of projects like this. I want to wholeheartedly commend the memorial and the renaming of the park in honor of Jackson Sparks. I also, as a father whose son played many baseball games at that park, am in favor of the new turf, dugouts, and bleacher modifications. I think that will greatly enhance the baseball there for years to come.

The two most controversial items to this proposal are the lights and the sound system. While the lighting plan has done much to mitigate the negative impact on the surrounding neighborhoods, the audiovisual system is currently positioned to broadcast high volume sound, all day and late into the evenings, into the neighborhoods. In the summer months, many of the trees will block the lighting, but not the sound. It will carry strongly into each of the surrounding neighborhoods. It is the audiovisual loudspeaker system that will turn this proposed plan into the largest neighborhood nuisance experienced to date. Unfortunately, it will also cast a significant negative pall to the memorial name of Jackson Sparks, which none of us in our community would want.

Some have said that this sound system is so important because it will give the players a more memorable experience hearing their name called out over the loudspeakers. As an educator, I can point to numerous studies that show the value of youth sports on building self-confidence. There is no evidence to my knowledge that hearing one's name called out over a loudspeaker has any positive bearing on building self-confidence. It is the hard work of practice week in and week out, the crack of the bat, and the cheering of the crowds that builds a young athlete's self-confidence.

I would like to wholeheartedly propose the Commission approve this project in its entirety with the exception of the audiovisual loudspeaker system.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your respectful consideration,
Tom Tunncliff