

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. B(7)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: APRIL 5, 2005

TITLE: A REQUEST TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ADDITION OF LIGHTS TO THE SOCCER FIELDS AT SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING DEPARTMENT	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: A. RESOLUTION SETTING THE PUBLIC HEARING B. VICINITY MAP	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: MARTY ROUPE, 918-7333

PURPOSE

When the Smith Middle School Athletic Fields CUP was approved on May 22, 2001, a condition was included requiring a public hearing before lights were added to the playfields. Pursuant to this condition, a lighting plan has been developed for the soccer fields. The Town Staff recommends that the Board set a public hearing for April 26, 2005 for consideration of the lighting plan.

INFORMATION

The Board of Aldermen approved a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) on May 22, 2001 for the construction of athletic facilities adjacent to Smith Middle School (see **Attachment B**). At the time, it was mentioned that lights may added to the fields at a later date. The Board then attached a condition to the CUP, which requires that a public hearing be held prior to the placement of lights.

Recently, Orange County, Chapel Hill—Carrboro City Schools, and the Town of Carrboro have worked together with a consultant to develop a lighting plan for the soccer fields. The lighting plan will be presented during the public hearing.

As the public hearing essentially fulfills an action mandated by the Board during the original approval of the CUP, staff is not considering the addition of lights to be a modification of the plans per se. With that in mind, please note that staff intends to advertise the public hearing in the newspaper and post notice of the public hearing on the site, but does not intend to mail notices to property owners or renters in the area. Several advisory boards (Northern Transition Area Advisory Committee, Planning Board, Appearance Commission, and the Environmental Advisory Board) will be notified of the public hearing via email.

FISCAL IMPACT

Usage fees from the soccer fields are expected to outweigh operating costs for the lights.

RECOMMENDATION

The Town Staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution setting a public hearing date of April 26, 2005 for consideration of a lighting plan for the Smith Middle School soccer fields.