

# **BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

ITEM NO. D(3)

## **AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT** **MEETING DATE: January 15, 2008**

**TITLE: Discussion of Potential Artificial Turf for Smith Soccer Fields**

<b>DEPARTMENT: Recreation and Parks</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: NO</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> A. Resolution B. Letter of Request – Orange County Staff C. Board of Commissioners Soccer Field Agenda Item – 11/5/07 D. Information Sheet for Agenda Item E. Fee Waiver Policy	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Anita Jones-McNair – 918-7381 Roy Williford – 918-7325

### **PURPOSE:**

The Board is asked to consider several requests made by Orange County staff concerning resurfacing of the Smith Soccer Fields to artificial turf. This is a project that the County is interested in pursuing. Prior to making the decision to move forward with the project; they are seeking approval on several ways in which the Town of Carrboro can contribute to the project.

### **INFORMATION:**

A report was presented to the County Commissioners outlining a proposal to resurface the soccer fields at Smith Middle School. As a result of the presentation; County staff was asked to contact the Town of Carrboro to see if we would be willing to contribute to the project in several ways. Current estimates for artificial surfaces on both fields are in the \$1.6-1.75 million dollar range. In order to reduce potential costs we are being asked to waive rental soccer field reservation fees for soccer groups that contribute funds to help pay for the resurfacing project until the amount of contribution is used in rental fees. Triangle United Soccer Association, Triangle Futbol Club and CHAC Soccer have each offered to contribute funds in support of this project. We are also being asked if applicable to waive permit and engineering fees or the Town absorb fees for this project.

The Town attorney was consulted about this request. Generally speaking, he is not aware of anything that would prohibit us from waiving the one time engineering and permitting fees. He believes the Town has previously waived fees for other project(s). Also waiving rental fees for soccer groups that contribute to the project can be considered. The Board can either amend the fees and charges schedule or enter into an agreement. Duration and other factors should be considered.

The Town's 2/18/97 fee waiver policy revised 9/26/2000 (minutes attached) only applies to developments of affordable housing meeting need based criteria as specified in the "rebate" policy. Development review or land use permit fees for a CUP permit modification amount to

\$300. Engineering review fees have not been budgeted anticipating a fee waiver for this project. Carrboro staff and their engineer have stated that the project is likely to be viable contingent upon receipt of engineering drawings and water runoff quality studies. The project site is located in a high priority location for stormwater management improvements in the Bolin Creek watershed, and this project represents an opportunity to incorporate such improvements in the design. Carrboro staff are available for follow-up with county staff on this topic as appropriate, including pursuit of grant funding for stormwater improvements.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Engineering fees have not been assessed or budgeted for this project. The Town pays engineering fees to Sungate on all projects. Also, there will be a potential loss of revenue and additional expenses due to field light use. Field rental fees are \$10 per hour without lights and \$30 per hour with lights.

- Total soccer field rental revenue for 2006-07 was \$14,555 and to date \$7,643.
- CHCCS paid \$3,835 in reservation during 2006-07 and \$1,520 to date for this fiscal year.
- Triangle United Soccer paid \$5,633 in fees during 2006-07 \$5632.50 and \$3,070 to date. 2007/08 to date \$3070
- Triangle Futbol Club paid \$403 in 2006-07 and \$390 to date \$390. Note: Spring 08 rentals are not included in the 2007-08 totals.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

If the Board feels compelled to contribute in anyway given our limited resources; staff recommends the following:

- Waive permitting fees; and/or
- Not waive engineering fees because it is an out-of-pocket expense; and/or
- Waive field rental fees only for those groups that contributed to the project. If the field is reserved and lights are needed, the light fee will be assessed.