

ATTACHMENT A

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RESURFACING OF THE SMITH SOCCER
FIELDS TO ARTIFICIAL TURF
Resolution No. 77/2007-08**

WHEREAS, Orange County requested that the Town of Carrboro waive rental soccer field reservation fees for soccer groups that contribute funds to help pay for the Smith resurfacing project and waive permit and engineering fees or the Town of Carrboro will absorb fees for this project; and

WHEREAS, the Board discussed the requests made by Orange County to help defray costs for the artificial turf.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CARRBORO BOARD OF ALDERMEN:

Section 1. On behalf of the Town of Carrboro directs staff to

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.



ORANGE COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS

P.O. Box 8181
300 West Tryon Street
Hillsborough, NC 27278
Phone: 919-245-2660 Fax 919-644-3042

November 27, 2007

Ms. Anita Jones-McNair, Director
Recreation and Parks Department
Carrboro Century Center, 100 N. Greensboro St.
Carrboro, NC 27510

Dear Anita,

As you may recall, during discussions with soccer leaders last spring, the idea came up to install artificial surfaces on a soccer field. The soccer leaders identified Smith Community Field as an ideal site. During initial meetings with partners and soccer representatives, Triangle United Soccer Association, Triangle Futbol Club and CHAC Soccer each offered to contribute funds in support of this project. The potential contributors have requested that, in exchange for their donation toward the project, facility use and lighting fees be waived for their organization. For example, if a club were able to contribute \$100,000, they would have free use of the field(s) until \$100,000 worth of credit is used.

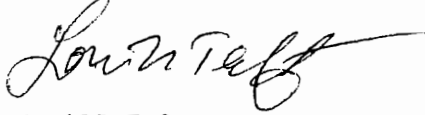
Initially, I had the understanding that you agreed to this proposal and that Carrboro would be willing to absorb this potential loss of revenue, thereby contributing to the project. The County Manager has instructed me to be sure that I am correct in this understanding. Presumably, Carrboro would also consider raising fees if the fields were to be converted to artificial. I believe that a survey would show higher rental fees for this type of field. This might help reduce the impact of this loss of revenue.

Available funding for this project is virtually non-existent, and would only be available if the BOCC chooses to divert funds from another project. Current estimates for artificial surfaces on both fields are in the \$1.6 - \$1.75 million dollar range. In order to reduce potential costs for the Smith project as much as possible, we would also like to request that you inquire as to whether

applicable permit and engineering fees could be waived or absorbed by Carrboro. We believe that there will be some engineering consultation required and are unsure as to what degree. Your assistance in this area would help us minimize and understand the full financial impact of the project to the County so that the Commissioners can make as fully informed a decision as possible.

Please provide me with Carrboro's response to these inquiries at your earliest convenience. I look forward the working with you on this project if and when it is approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori N. Taft", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Lori N. Taft
Management Director

**ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: November 5, 2007

**Action Agenda
Item No.** _____

SUBJECT: Potential Artificial Soccer Surface Report

DEPARTMENT: Recreation and Parks

PUBLIC HEARING: (Y/N)

ATTACHMENT(S):

Project Information Sheet
Site Plan

INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lori Taft, 245-2660

PURPOSE: To provide a report to the Board for their consideration, to determine if there is continued interest in this project, and if so, to consider what next steps would be desired.

BACKGROUND: Members of the Board may recall that in the late 90's, during the planning of Smith Middle School; the Town of Carrboro, through the Mayor's office formally requested Orange County's assistance in providing an additional field at this location for use by the community. An MOU was developed, with CHCCS, Carrboro and Orange County as partners. Carrboro and Orange County each contributed \$75,000 to the project. In 2005 Orange County provided an additional \$133,561 in 2001 voter approved bond funding for the installation of athletic field lighting at the two fields.

During discussions with soccer leaders last spring, the idea came up to install artificial surfaces on a soccer field. The soccer leaders identified Smith Community Field as an ideal site. Interest by Board members present led the Manager to direct staff to pursue the idea.

The general consensus in the field management and in the player community is that artificial surfaces are excellent. They extend playing time and reduce operating costs. The products available have improved in the last 30 years reducing injury concerns. Partners in the 2001 MOU for the Smith fields have agreed that the project would be beneficial (Carrboro, CHCCS), however neither party had discretionary funding to contribute to the project. The partners have agreed to MOA amendments to allow for additional community use of Field 3a (school field), details to be determined.

Orange County staff has met with Carrboro Planning and Development staff, who have been encouraging. Indications are that this project would be considered a "minor modification" to

the existing CUP for the soccer fields, and therefore not subject to the 12 month or more process required for new applications. 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.

Two contractors have provided information and price estimates at ~\$8-8.50/sf. The two- field area is about 201,450 sf (one field is ~100,725 sf) The price for both fields together is approximately \$1,624,400, or for one field - \$856,000. Design, engineering and permitting fees and requirements are not included in this cost estimate.

Each of the major independent soccer leagues have been invited to fact finding meetings and have been involved in the initial process for this potential project. Triangle United Soccer Association, Triangle Futbol Club and CHAC Soccer have each offered to contribute funds in support of this project.

Planning and engineering for the project as well as the bid and contract approval process could be completed within six to nine months. The project would take three months from the notice to proceed until completion. The project would have to be completed during the off-season for CHCCS sports teams. Construction would occur preferably during the winter and possibly during summer months.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is currently no available funding dedicated to resurfacing the fields at Smith Middle School. However, should the Board agree that moving forward with this project is a higher priority than other currently funded Parks projects, staff could propose funding options that would allow the Smith project to move forward in lieu of an earlier start on other projects.

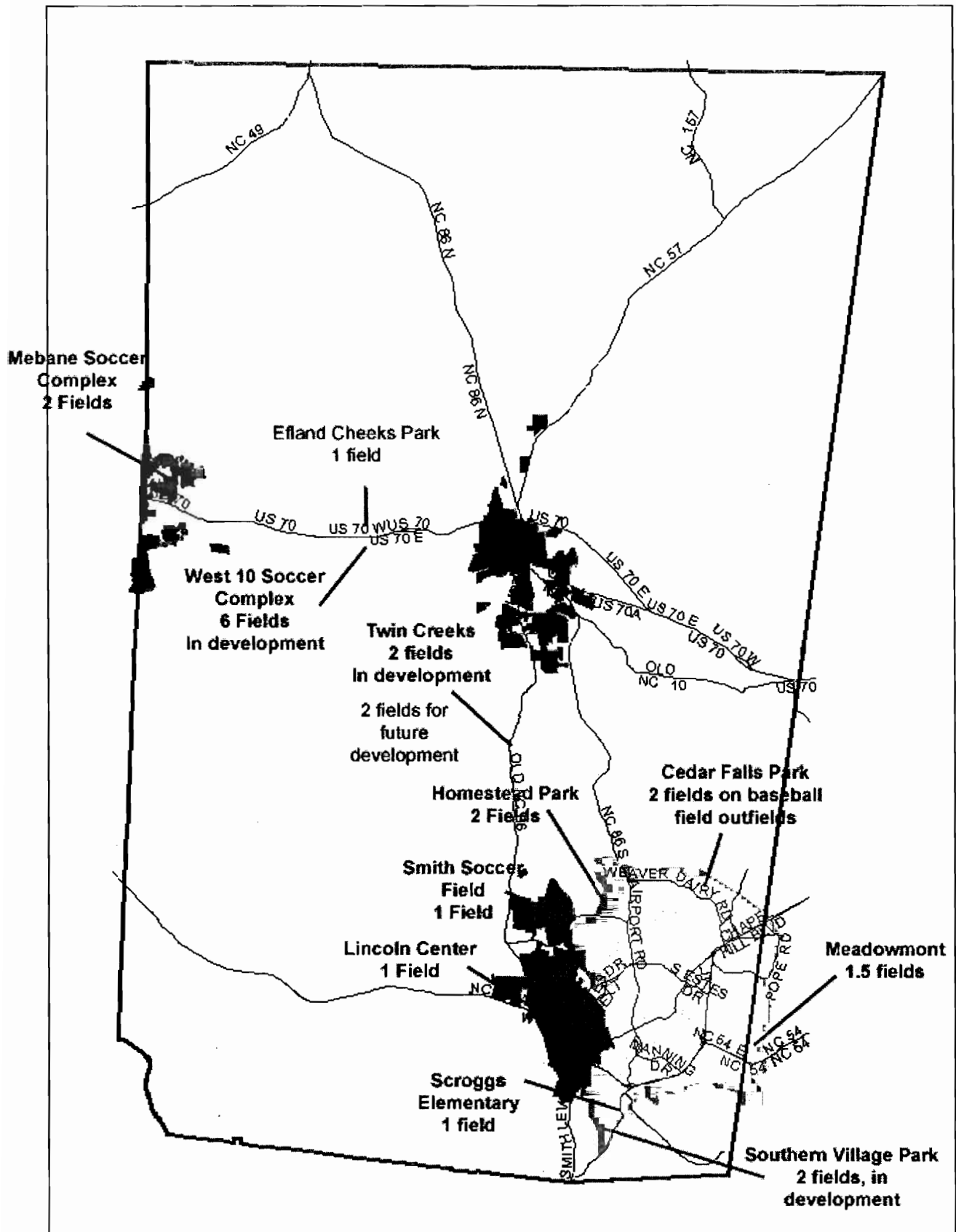
RECOMMENDATION(S): The Manager recommends that the Board accept the report and provide further direction.

Potential Artificial Surfacing Project

Smith Middle School and Community Soccer Fields

INFORMATION SHEET

- The two subject fields are on UNC property leased to CHCCS.
 - An MOU between CHCCS, the Town of Carrboro and Orange County stipulates, among other things:
 - CHCCS is responsible for maintenance of both fields.
 - Carrboro manages the playing schedule for the "community" field 3b, and CHCCS manages the schedule for field 3a.
 - Orange County installed athletic field lighting on both fields in 2005.
 - The lights have allowed extended play, but field conditions have deteriorated.
 - Soccer leaders, Town and County Board members expressed interest in artificial surfaces for these fields.
 - The County Manager has directed staff to explore the feasibility of this project.
 - Both CHCCS and Carrboro would like to see the project proceed.
 - Neither have funds to contribute
 - Orange County has no funding identified for this project
 - Amendments to the MOU would have to be made.
 - Initial meetings with Carrboro Planning have been positive with regard to permitting.
 - Soccer groups have proposed to contribute to the project. Available funds up to \$600,000 have been offered.
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- Two contractors have provided information and price estimates at ~\$8-8.50/sf.
 - The two- field area is about 201,450 sf (one field is ~100,725 sf)
 - The price estimate for both fields together is approximately \$1,624,400, or for one field - \$856,000
 - Most of the products carry an 8-year warranty.
 - The estimated prices do not include design, engineering, permits or environmental studies of any kind.
 - The project would take three months from the notice to proceed until completion.
 - If the County were to approve this project, the earliest opportunity for construction to take place would likely be during the winter of 2008-2009.



ATTACHMENT F-1

UNOFFICIAL CARRBORO RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION –
2/4/08

Present – Members: Doris Murrell, Marianne Nicholson, Eric Allman, Cheryl Parker and Kevin Fuerst; Board Liaison: Lydia Lavelle; Guests: Steve Scroggs and Staff: Dennis Joines and Anita Jones-McNair.

Murrell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Murrell called for corrections or questions concerning the minutes of the last meeting, 1/07/08. No corrections or questions were requested; therefore the minutes were accepted as presented.

Communications and/or Speakers from the Floor

Steve Scroggs was introduced and Alderman Lavelle was introduced as the Commission's new Board Liaison. Scroggs presented an overview of the School Facility Rental Process. Facility rentals were recently transferred under his division. Soon the rental function will be web-based and available on line to complete. Scroggs shared that fact that there were over 12,000 hours of facility rentals last year. One of the main focuses will be to know who is renting each facility and when. He is also standardizing the scheduling process along with facility billing. One other focus is on advance communication with renters.

Nicholson asked about the usage of outside facilities. He mentioned tennis courts should be reserved for liability purposes. Tracks are open and rentals are only necessary for track meets and structured activities. Base and softball fields are rented too. The school district runs into problems with rental of rectangular fields for soccer, lacrosse and field hockey because of high usage and maintenance concerns. The district is considering artificial turf.

Murrell asked about the Community in Schools Committee/Group history. At this point, Scroggs is not aware of the history, however is not opposed to the idea of having a group of citizens to help. He reiterated that we serve the same citizens. Murrell also shared the meeting of the local Recreation and Parks groups and the concern raised about working with the school districts and facility usage. Everyone in attendance agreed on the need for balance between schools, communities and renters.

Joines asked about facility rental increases. Scroggs did not anticipate our rental fees increasing for the next fiscal year. Joines also requested that staff work with his office on facility key inventory.

New Business

Murrell called for new business. Joines presented and summarized a departmental Special Events calendar. Jones-McNair suggested that the listing be given to the Board of Aldermen.

Jones-McNair presented the Smith Soccer Field resurfacing project that Orange County requested. The commission discussed the request. One of the concerns was the precedence it will set. They also thought about similar situations that the Town was involved in. The Century Center Hall floor and Farmers Market were mentioned. Jones-McNair will check on those two situations and provide information in the upcoming Board Agenda item. The commission is in support of staff's recommendation, however expressed concern that the groups that contribute should not be allowed to increase usage and "bump" other groups using the field unless time is available.

Old Business

Murrell called for old business. Allman announced the Bicycle Committee is underway. Greenways Incorporated is the consulting firm that will work with the committee and community to develop a Bicycle Plan. The first public workshop will be in April.

ATTACHMENT F-2

Allman also provided an update on the Greenway Commission. Two commission meetings were held and one is scheduled for Wednesday. The first meeting was an introductory meeting sharing specific information about the commission and charge. The second meeting was designed to provide an informative 3 hour session that included presentations from Chapel Hill, Land Legacy, Morgan Creek Land Conservation and Greenways. The next meeting is scheduled to elect officers and begin the RFQ process for the Bolin Creek and Morgan Creek projects.

Report by Chair and Director

Jones-McNair summarized the proposed budget. She also announced a cultural resources project with three MPA students this quarter. Alderman Lavelle suggested obtaining a copy of the Architectural Inventory.

Murrell announced the Tennis Backboard Dedication scheduled for February 13th.

Alderman Lavelle asked how many membership applications are being reviewed and how many commission seats available? Murrell shared that two applications are being considered and 4 committee openings.

Considerations for next and future meetings

Meeting Adjournment

Murrell adjourned the meeting at 9:04p.m.