



## Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

### DIAMOND SPORTS FACILITIES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### TAC MEETING 7 | 9 NOVEMBER 2023 | NOTES

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*TAC members may offer modifications to these notes by submitted comments to MPRB staff. Requests for modifications must be received within one week of the TAC meeting to allow for public posting within three weeks of the TAC meeting.*

The boys' baseball and girls' softball fields were the main topics of discussion at the TAC meeting. TAC members talked about the items that should be prioritized in the diamond fields, using a quick survey offered by staff as the discussion lead. In every field tier, safety was the primary concern, with safety fencing as an example of a feature that ought to be present in all tiers. Concessions in tier one fields were also supported by TAC members, as they can bring in money for the park board. TAC members also noted that MPS athletic directors need to meet to best align field use, particularly because some fields might be home fields for more than one softball team. There was also a suggestion that MPS assistance should be pursued to advance field conditions supporting softball. TAC members also wondered about the use of Bossen Field Park as a hub for softball; staff responded:

#### **Bossen 2-7**

- Hosts MPRB and non MPRB adult softball games
- Hosts MPS softball games
- Kickball games
- MPRB youth baseball and softball games
- There are also additional softball and kickball renters that use the fields.

#### **Bossen 1**

- Used by Roosevelt baseball
- Used by MPRB and non MPRB baseball teams
- Rented by adult baseball groups as well

Staff handed TAC members a map with the locations of parks with fields that are or could be adapted to serve as fields for high school girls competitive play. There was general agreement on the list, with questions about Pershing Park and Bottineau Field Park; staff noted that assigning those fields to high school girls' softball would be difficult because of other programs occurring on those fields. Staff will also look into Northeast Athletic Field Park, East Phillips Park, and Harrison Park. Staff noted that despite its limited use, North Commons field #1 is available for games, according to staff.



TAC members returned to the components desired for each field tier. There was strong consensus on the need for better definitions for each tier, in addition to the exercise of defining what components should be included in each tier. A robust discussion of scoreboards revealed that suburban fields use a QR code to allow an individual to access the controls for a scoreboard. A TAC member inquired as to why there is no rain cover on tier one fields? TAC members discussed how rain covers could save money by reducing the amount of upkeep required on the field. TAC members also note that backstops are too small. Staff indicated the final report will provide more directed specifications for diamond sports field equipment.

Michael Schroeder noted there are one or two more meetings left of the TAC. The goal is to present a set of recommendations for diamond sports to the Board of Commissioners during February, depending on how long it takes to assemble a report. Early discussions with the Board of Commissioners is important to meet the Board's direction relating to high school girls' softball.

The meeting ended at approximately 6:30 pm.