



Operations & Environment Committee

2117 West River Road N
Minneapolis, MN 55411
www.minneapolisparks.org

Committee Meeting

April 12, 2017

~ Minutes ~

Wednesday 5:10 PM

I. Call to Order

The time being 7:21 PM, Chair, Commissioner District 1 Liz Wielinski called the meeting to order.

Chair, Commissioner District 1 Liz Wielinski: Present, Vice Chair, Commissioner District 3 Scott Vreeland: Present, Commissioner At Large John Erwin: Absent, Commissioner District 5 Steffanie Musich: Present, Commissioner At Large Annie Young: Present, Commissioner District 6 Brad Bourn: Present.

President Tab appointed Commissioner Bourn to serve as April 12, 2017 Operations & Environment Committee members

II. Study/Report Items

2.1 Minnesota Department of Agriculture Update on Gypsy Moth Find in Richfield, MN

III. Action Items

3.1 That the Board adopt Resolution 2017-171 captioned as follows:

Resolution 2017-171

Resolution Committing Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to Several Actions Related to Waste Tire Products, Including Consideration of Alternative Materials in New and Rehabilitated Synthetic Turf Fields; Reporting to the Health, Environment, and Community Engagement Committee of the City of Minneapolis During Athletic Field Project Scoping; Researching Alternatives to Poured-In-Place Playground Surfacing; and Installation of Signs at Synthetic Turf Athletic Fields

RESULT:	ADOPTED [4 TO 1]
MOVER:	Scott Vreeland, Vice Chair, Commissioner District 3
AYES:	Scott Vreeland, Steffanie Musich, Annie Young, Brad Bourn
NAYS:	Liz Wielinski
ABSENT:	John Erwin

That the Board adopt Resolution 2017-171 captioned as follows:

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Commissioner Wielinski passed the gavel to Vice Chair Vreeland and moved the following substitute motion:

Substitute Motion failed on a Roll Call Vote.

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) was created by the Minnesota Legislature in April 1883 and has the authority to manage and operate park facilities;

Whereas, The MPRB currently owns and operates nine synthetic turf athletic fields at eight parks that contain waste tire crumb rubber, and numerous playgrounds that utilize poured-in-place surfacing that may be derived from waste tires;

Whereas, The MPRB issued field use permits for over 13,000 hours at the Park Board's 415 athletic fields in 2016 so an average of about 33 hours per field;

Whereas, The MPRB chose synthetic turf fields as a means of increasing playing time and facility quality in the City based on research available at the time including studies by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA, 2009), the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH, 2010), the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA, 2007) and an evaluation by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC, 2008);

Whereas, In December 2013, the U.S. EPA altered its website to remove the impression that the limited 2009 study, a scoping study to assess methods for investigating tire crumb rubber, found that crumb rubber infill was safe;

Whereas, In 2015, the OEHAA commenced a new study of synthetic turf products that will include: expert and stakeholder input, hazard identification, exposure scenario development, sampling and analysis of new and in-field synthetic turf, and biomonitoring study protocol development;

Whereas, In February 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) launched a multi-agency Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb Used on Playing Fields and Playgrounds that is studying "key environmental and human health questions" including exposure;

Whereas, In response to a request from the OEHAA, the National Toxicology Program (NTP) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services began studying potential health impacts of chemicals released from synthetic turf with an emphasis on the crumb rubber in 2016;

Whereas, The Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb Used on Playing Fields and Playgrounds Status Report released in December 2016 identified 16 major categories where data about waste tire products at fields and playgrounds are limited or lacking including emissions assessments, particle exposures, cumulative assessments and alternative infills/materials;

Whereas, The City of Minneapolis is currently considering a moratorium for waste tire materials on playgrounds and athletic fields;

Whereas, Duluth Parents for Healthy Playgrounds found 12 chemicals of High Concern and one chemical of Priority Concern as defined by Minnesota Health Department (MHO) when testing the Lester Park Elementary School playground tire mulch: barium, chromium, lead, zinc, anthracene, benzo(a)anthracene, benzo(a)pyrene, Benzo(b)fluoranthene, chrysene, fluoranthene, phenanthrene, Pyrene and methyl isobutyl ketone;

Whereas, a study of tire mulch and tire crumb rubber conducted by Yale University for the non-profit Environment & Human Health, Inc. found 90 chemicals of which 12 are known carcinogens and 20 are known irritants;

Whereas, in September 2016, the MPRB approved the action of "ensuring that safe, non-toxic materials are used in the construction of any premier fields or or play area surfacing in the parks" when adopting the South Service Area Master Plan;

Whereas, while the CT DPH study included only one indoor crumb rubber synthetic turf field, they found levels of benzothiazole and naphthalene high enough to create a borderline acute risk to children playing indoors, so the study recommends "New indoor fields should consider alternatives to crumb rubber infill as a cushioning agent;

Whereas, in 2012 the MPRB acknowledged "that heat is an ongoing concern and

takes precautions on all synthetic turf fields in the park system, including encouraging hydration and cancelling or postponing games if temperatures rise too high;

Whereas, because alternative infills have not had adequate study and because these are more expensive than synthetic turf with crumb rubber infill, MPRB staff has recommended monitoring future studies and not considering alternative infills at this time;

Whereas, The Precautionary Principle holds "When the health of humans and the environment is at stake, it may not be necessary to wait for scientific certainty to take protective action" and,

Whereas, This resolution is supported by the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan, which envisions "Maintain a safe place to play, celebrate, contemplate, and recreate" and "Be a sustainable organization;"

SOLVED, That the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board adopts a moratorium on construction of new synthetic turf fields and that this moratorium shall be reconsidered by the Board of Commissioners within twelve months of the completion of the Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb Used on Playing Fields and Playgrounds and OEHA studies currently in progress;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners adopts a moratorium on the use of new or used waste tire materials in the rehabilitation of existing synthetic turf fields and that this moratorium shall be reconsidered by the Board of Commissioners within twelve months of the completion of the Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb Used on Playing Fields and Playgrounds and OEHA studies currently in progress;

RESOLVED, That the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board staff shall report to the Health, Environment, and Community Engagement Committee of the City of Minneapolis and to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Board of Commissioners during the project scoping phase rehabilitated synthetic turf athletic field project;

RESOLVED, That the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board commits to researching alternative products to waste-tire-based poured-in-place playground surfacing, in order to consider whether alternative products are warranted in terms of availability, cost, and safety;

RESOLVED, That the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board shall install signs at each of its synthetic turf athletic fields, with those signs being in line with recommendations from the Minnesota

RESULT: **AMENDMENT DEFEATED [2 TO 3]**
MOVER: Liz Wielinski, Chair, Commissioner District 1
AYES: Liz Wielinski, Brad Bourn
NAYS: Scott Vreeland, Steffanie Musich, Annie Young
ABSENT: John Erwin

IV. ADJOURNMENT

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Liz Wielinski, Chair, Commissioner District 1
AYES: Wielinski, Vreeland, Musich, Young, Bourn
ABSENT: John Erwin

Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM