

June 22, 2022

Alderson Andre Vasquez
40th Ward, Alderson
5620 N. Western Avenue
Chicago, IL 60659



Greetings Alderson Vasquez,

The *Amundsen Athletic Foundation* (AAF) Field Committee received your email on Wednesday June 8th. The follow up regarding your May 31st and June 6th meeting with the Chicago Cubs and the Chicago Park District, respectively, seemed to enable you to get a fuller understanding of the history of real investments and aspirational improvements earmarked for Winnemac Park fields over the past 5 years. While nearly all of the information in the email was already known to many of those in the community who seek a sustainable plan for the area, we were very happy to learn your office and the park district agreed to move forward with a significant allocation of TIF funds to prioritize solutions for drainage within soccer and baseball fields used by AHS, many other CPS schools and organizations, as well as broader community. We were also happy to learn another priority is a turf infield for that area. The safety and accessibility of our fields are of the utmost importance and AAF Field Committee is excited to help be an important voice during this process.

Our committee subsequently had a series of conversations with CPS leadership and additional stakeholders,¹ such as the Chicago Metropolitan Baseball Association. Those meetings during the week of June 10th resulted in confirmation that key indicators, such as a feasible and sustainable maintenance agreement, could be developed in partnership with the park district to fully activate the fields to maximize programming over time. With the common goal for all stakeholders being sustainable solutions, the temporary fixes traditionally made to the fields could finally be avoided. We understand, however, that your TIF allocation also includes additional projects within the park. We are hopeful your office is able to provide some assurances, as well as address some time sensitive action items, to keep AAF and the broader community fully informed.

The committee was grateful to learn your commitment to allocating funds for the park would happen formally by July and fit within the timeframe the AFF Field Committee requested in our letter on June 6th. As that date nears, we are requesting some additional follow up from your office and the park district that allows important information about earmarked dollars, realistic budgets and timelines to be communicated. We ask for follow-up communication, at your earliest convenience, and as it relates to the action items noted below, so we can begin to prepare for ongoing conversations following the July 4th holiday:

- Respectfully request a stakeholder meeting in August to bring together representatives from the following groups to learn more about the individual projects planned and how our TIF dollars are allocated for each project: AAF, WPAC, DFA Group, Keep Winnemac Green, park district

¹ The AAF Field Committee has enlisted and received support from the following groups to date: AHS Baseball, Softball, Girls & Boys Soccer, Football Coaches; Friends of Amundsen; Welles Park Parent Association; Chicago Metropolitan Baseball Association

- Ensure AAF's Field Committee is provided with sufficient ongoing communication, as a key stakeholder, about the process, timeline and hard costs so we can prioritize and have clear understanding of the scope of the project and opportunities to support the vision.
- Recognize AAF as a key collaborator with the park district, CPS and the Cubs, thereby allowing all to start mapping out a working agreement for long term solutions for maintenance of the fields. This is to ensure those who use the field are safe and this project maximizes our tax dollars.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to continuing these conversations in an ongoing effort to provide a safe field for all that use Winnemac Park in our community. Please respond directly to fieldcommittee@amundsenathleticsfoundation.org to confirm receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

Amundsen Athletic Foundation, Field Committee

Elvia Heneghan
Heidi Hoffmann
Suzanne Kaplan
Margaret O'Connor
Mike O'Keefe
Jason Wentworth

Cc:

David Rosengard, *CPS ED Sports Administration*
Principal Anna Pavichevich, *AHS*
David Chinchilla, *AHS Acting-AD*
Michelle Grunfeld, *AFF Board President*
Stephen Reynolds, *AHS LSC Board President*
Tim Jefferies, *CoC Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Planning & Development*
Alderman Matt Martin, *47th Ward*

Chicago Park District:

Rosa Escareño, *Superintendent & CEO*
Tiffany Sostrin, *Director of Dept. of Legislative and Community Affairs*
Anastasia Anti, *North Region Director*
Lisa Ragucci, *Winnemac Park Supervisor*