

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING AGENDA
MAY 18, 2021**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. This meeting has been properly advertised according to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, in the Press of Atlantic City on January 9, 2021.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), and N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 - 1.7, this meeting will be held in-person and as a remote public meeting (live-streamed) using Zoom conferencing service. Due to social distancing requirements related to Covid-19, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public. Visit the event calendar page for May 18, 2021 at www.cityofnorthfield.org to determine current seating availability. Face coverings and social distancing will be required for in-person attendance. To reserve an available seat, contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 609-641-2832, ext 125, no later than 4:00pm on May 18, 2021. Once all available seats have been reserved, virtual attendance will be required using a web-browser to Join the Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84050504498> or by telephone using one tap mobile +13126266799,,84050504498# or direct dial +1 312 626 6799 using Meeting ID: 840 5050 4498. For those wishing to comment during the dedicated public comment portion of the meeting, but who may be unable to attend (in person or via Zoom), public comments may also be submitted in advance via email to mcanesi@cityofnorthfield.org or by written letter to the Office of the Municipal Clerk, 1600 Shore Road, Northfield NJ 08225, or by hand delivery to the drop box in the parking lot at the south corner of the municipal building, addressed to the attention of the Municipal Clerk. Comments shall contain the name and address of the author, will be read aloud and addressed during the remote public meeting, and must be received by 2:00pm on May 18 2021.

FLAG SALUTE

COUNCIL ROLL CALL: Dewees, Madden, Notaro, Perri, Smith, Utts, Polistina

MAYOR: Chau

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF NORTHFIELD (FAN) – PRESENTATION

- Request for Improvements to Recreation Facilities at Birch Grove Park

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri	Public Works: Roads, Engineering, Sewer Operations; Senior Citizens
Councilman Utts	Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning Technology / MRHS Channel; Planning Board
Councilman Notaro	Fire Department/EMS; Northfield Sports (FAN); Cultural Committee / Veteran Liaison; Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce
Councilman Dewees	Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields; Birch Grove Park, Bike Path 1 st Street Playground, Veterans Park
Councilman Smith	Court / Violations; Little League and Babe Ruth Northfield Community School; Shared Services
Councilwoman Madden	Insurance and Safety; Library; Mainland Regional
Council President	Finance and Collections; Municipal Alliance

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WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Zion Road Pump Station Easement – *Sub Division Plan is Pending*
- Northfield Avenue at Rt 9 Drainage – *Update* from Engineer Nassar*
- Lease Agreement, Parking Spaces at Jackson and Fuae Avenues – *Update* from Committee*
- Shared County Court – *Update* from Mayor Chau*
- Recreational Marijuana – *DRAFT Ordinance Pending*
- Sump Pumps discharging into Storm Drains – *Discussion Ongoing*
- 2021 Local Road Program – *Update* from Engineer Nassar*
- 2021 Municipal Aid Program – *Update* from Engineer Nassar*

** if available*

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

PUBLIC SESSION/ FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

ADJOURNMENT

THE FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF NORTHFIELD



Who is F.A.N.?

The Family Association of Northfield is a non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of the youth sports programs at the recreational and travel level, that will teach kids the fundamentals of athletic sports, including sportsmanship and teamwork.

F.A.N. Board Mission

Our mission is to help raise responsible young individuals by instilling in them, a sense of teamwork and leadership, while participating in football, cheer, and basketball. We are committed to building strong, unified teams where student athletes, coaches, parents and members of the community work together, as partners, to provide a positive and fun life experience for all of our children.

We need your help to improve our community!

As partners of a community gathering place, we aspire to create a destination where families and friends can enjoy. We believe our ideas on these multiple projects will move our entire community forward. Our plan will not only offer residents of the area a safe place for recreational and competitive sporting events, but also promotes an active and healthy lifestyle for our entire community. These projects will also help generate buzz and enthusiasm as Northfield enhances its reputation as a family friendly destination for not just our community members, but visitors near and far! This in turn will help generate revenue in ways of our snack bars, local eateries, and small businesses. Truly a gateway to the shore!

Northfield Community Sports Complex in Birch Grove Park

- 1. Double basketball courts**
- 2. Field Turf**
- 3. Replace/Repair tower at the football field**
- 4. Snack bar and bathroom repairs/upgrades**

Basketball Courts Parking Lot



This was the original plan presented to a few city council members, but after receiving feedback the project was never fully approved or agreed upon. The building and zoning was an issue for the entry and exit of the parking lot and upon further conversations it was understood that the city would be happy to put up courts just in an alternate location.....

Basketball Courts Birchgrove



- Partnering with the City in supporting the idea of placing the basketball courts in the back of Birch Grove Park, tucked away from the main thruway of traffic
- Utilize the space as well as the snack bar and bathrooms
- Support health and well-being to our children by providing a space they can meet friends, play basketball, enjoy the playground, and nature trails that Birch Grove offers but has been severely under-used.
- Run clinics and summer/fall leagues for the children of the community

FIELD TURF



Multiple sports venue

- Football
- Soccer
- Lacrosse
- Cheerleading
- Miscellaneous

Revenue

- Sponsors/signage
- Brick Fundraiser
- Turf rental
- Snack Bar
- Local restaurants

REVIEW OF BENEFITS & ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH NATURAL GRASS & ARTIFICIAL TURF RECTANGULAR STADIUM FIELDS

PREPARED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY WORK GROUP

20 YEAR COST SUMMARY						
20 YEAR NET COSTS		Artificial Turf	Bermuda (Sand Base)	Kentucky BG (Sand Base)	Bermuda (Native Soil)	Cool Season (Native Soil)
	Initial Capital Cost	1,125,000	530,000	580,000	150,000	75,000
	20 Year Replacement Cost*	1,280,000	150,000	175,000	100,000	60,000
	20 Year Maintenance / Other Costs	206,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	900,000	500,000
	20 Year Total Costs	2,611,000	1,680,000	1,755,000	1,150,000	635,000
	20 Year Revenue – MCPS**	1,600,000	–	–	–	–
	20 Year Net Cost – MCPS	1,011,000	1,680,000	1,755,000	1,150,000	635,000

COST PER HOUR OF USE	ANNUAL HOURS OF USE	2,300	600	500	400	300
	20 YEAR NET COST PER HOUR OF USE - MCPS	21.98	140.00	175.50	143.75	105.83

*Assumes two artificial turf carpet replacements (after years 8 and 16) and one major natural grass rehab after year 12.
 **No revenue assumed for natural grass fields since MCPS would reserve these fields only for MCPS team games and practices.

HERE'S WHAT INDEPENDENT REVIEWS OFTEN FIND WHEN COMPARING NATURAL GRASS AND ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELDS:

"Despite the higher up-front and future replacement costs, an artificial turf MCPS Stadium field provides a substantially lower net cost per hour of use than any of the natural grass options because of the substantially increased hours of use and additional revenue generated from that increased use."

- MONTGOMERY COUNTY WORK GROUP -

Yes Turf is a high upfront cost and has future replacement costs, but it's lower cost per hour of use and increase hours of use would be generating revenue for years to come. Year after year the Northfield playing fields are deemed unplayable with a major draining issue and increased costs of replacing grass.

****By missing the opportunity to host playoff and championship games this year FAN took a hit of at least \$10,000****

A consideration of turf can help alleviate these issues as well as provide our community with a state of the art athletic facility where families will travel for youth sports and in turn enhance our economy!

****FieldTurf will be happy to provide a more in depth presentation should city council consider this as a realistic option for Northfield****

Repairs and Upgrades to Football Tower, Snack Bar, and Bathrooms

- The tower is extremely old and has become a safety hazard.
- The snack bar and bathrooms all could use some renovations and clean up
- FAN members and volunteers could do the labor or help with whatever is needed.
- Please consider allocating funds to help replace or rebuild this tower.



How can any of these visions become a reality?

What FAN will continue to do:

FAN Fundraisers- Our next scheduled event is on June 24th @Vagabonds

Coin Drop- Scheduled for July 9th

Sponsorships

- This can include signs on scoreboard, snackbar, tower, as well as an option to install a tall fence in between the football field and practice fields, displaying multiple businesses within our community (We have created a sponsorship/fundraising committee to solely focus on this venture)

Organize and staff multi sports tournaments, games, leagues ect

- These events will generate revenue through “field rental”, snackbar, and overall enhancement of the community as people will visit our town and is also a “Gateway to the Shore”

Brick fundraiser

- Fundraiser to sell engraved bricks to community members, past and present, to be used as a memorabile in addition to laying a beautiful landscape to surround our fields

What we hope our city can commit to:

- Submit paperwork for grants made available through Covid relief programs, specific to the health and wellbeing of our children
- Fund the projects deemed approved through various grant opportunities
- Allocate funds each year for the betterment of all youth sports programs and facilities
- Work with FAN on having full access to bball courts to allow for organized clinics and leagues to be run.
- Open snack bar and bathrooms in back of Birch Grove Park

What does FAN currently pay for ?

- **All sporting equipment**
- **Uniforms & Safety Equipment for all sports**
- **Refs for games (football & basketball)**
- **Field Supplies (Paint, scoreboard parts, etc.)**
- **Janitor Fees (NCS)**
- **Snack bar supplies**
- **Covid related items**
 - **Thermometers/Cleaning Supplies/Porta-Potties**
- **Recertification of equipment**
- **Misc. awards, trophies, and graduation awards for our athletes**
- **Coaching shirts**



***Thank you Northfield City
Council
for your time and
consideration!***