
Prospect Heights Youth Baseball & Softball PHYBS

October 25th, 2019

Brian Rominski - Director of Buildings & Grounds
brominski@d23.org
Prospect Heights School District 23
700 N Schoenbeck Road
Prospect Heights, IL 60070

Dear Brian:

Prospect Heights Youth Baseball & Softball (PHYBS) Board Members Mike Mabry, Paul Nawrot, and Neal Patel met with the District 23 Committee (D23) about rehabilitating the Lou Johnson Field (baseball field behind Betsy Ross) on September 13th, 2019. D23 heard the rationale for the growing need in the program and was open to hearing about the improvements, however, D23 asked PHYBS to coordinate with Arlington Heights Park District (AHPD) given the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between AHPD & D23, which covers the use of all green space on District property.

On October 10th, 2019, Neal Patel and Paul Nawrot met with Steve Neill and Brian Meyer of AHPD. It was a very productive discussion and a variety of considerations were vetted regarding the maintenance of the field. In general, AHPD seemed supportive of rehabilitating existing Lou Johnson Field which PHYBS appreciated.

On October 18th, you confirmed that AHPD was able to regroup after our meeting and seemed comfortable with PHYBS rehabilitating the field. As a next step, we have been asked to outline PHYBS intended improvements for Lou Johnson Field below.

Proposed Field Rehabilitation of Lou Johnson Field

PHYBS and Prospect Heights Park District has historically used Van's Enterprises Ltd. for improvements to our fields, and we were hoping to use the same organization to rebuild Lou Johnson given their reputation and credibility. Van's has shared several proposals at this point and our PHYBS Board has come to consensus on the following preferred improvements to the existing field.

\$19,960 – Regulation Grass Infield Total Renovation

- 80 foot basepath grass infield
 - o Please note this approach replaces dirt basepaths with grass
 - o More aesthetic and easier to maintain
 - o Lions Field was transitioned to this approach in 2019 and it has worked well for the park district and the teams
- Remove all weeds and turf from outer arc to backstop
- Apply 50 tons TopSoil to turf areas of infield
- Apply 75 tons of Screened Infield Mix
 - o Material investment in higher quality dirt that drains well in rain
 - o Used higher quality on Lions and McDonald this past year
 - o Looks great and less dusty
- All turf areas will be prepared for sod
- Finish grade with a light weight motor grader to provide uniform surface

\$ 8,029 – Install Big Roll Sod

- Approximately 12,950 square feet of brand new sod
 - o Should make field look aesthetically pleasing
- PHYBS may need access to water for a period of a couple weeks until established

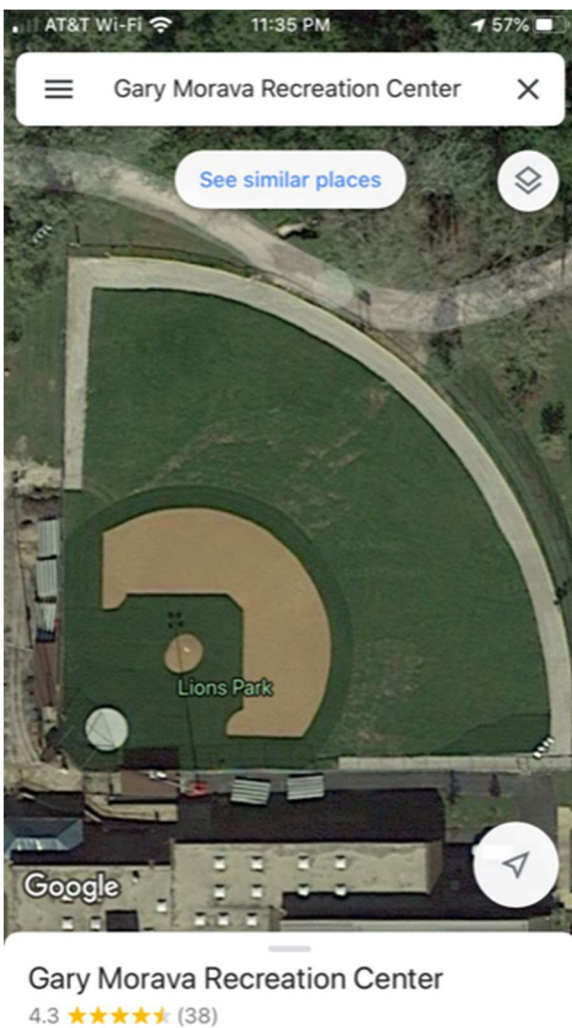
\$1,507 – New Home Plate & Mound

\$10,000 – Approximate cost for Fence Repair and Concrete Dugouts

- Any fencing that is unstable or discolored will be replaced or painted black
- Concrete will be poured into dugout sections only

\$39,496 – Total Cost for Renovation

Sample Picture of Basepaths with Grass Infield (Lions Field at Gary Morava)



Ongoing Maintenance Plan

The regular lawn maintenance would continue as it does today. Given the basepaths would be converted to grass, it dramatically reduces the ongoing maintenance needs for Lou Johnson.

When speaking with the AHPD, they offered to turn the infield dirt on a regular basis prior to games for \$6,000 per season (annually). They were also open to having Prospect Heights Park District do it as well.

Given the grass basepaths and the area of dirt being significantly smaller, PHYBS will either maintain the dirt with human effort by coaches each week or we will simply ask AHPD to do for the quoted fee above. We are hoping D23 is open to PHYBS discussing it further this winter and then making a decision by March 2020. PHYBS is aware that chalking lines would be PHYBS responsibility.

Outfield Fence To Be Determined

There are several options to an outfield fence:

1. Play with no fence
2. Play with a temporary snow fence (flexible and safe for kids)
3. Play with a seasonal outfield fence that could be removed at end of season

Given our focus is rehabilitating the infield for the grass to take hold for spring, PHYBS proposes to evaluate the fencing options during winter and propose options for D23 to consider. Worst case, PHYBS teams would play without a fence in 2020.

Access for Van's

Van's has requested for a small area in the parking to store equipment temporarily until the field is complete. We would work with D23 on appropriate protocols required of Van's to complete the work. The timing of the work would depend on weather, however, they seem to complete work relatively quickly once it is started.

Thank You D23

Our PHYBS Board has the funding and we are ready to begin the work once approved. Our PHYBS Board would like to sincerely thank D23 for their continued support of our kids and our program. We look forward to hearing from D23 as to whether we can move forward. Ideally, the weather holds up and we are able to complete the work in late October / early November. Van's is awaiting approval from D23 to start the work.

Sincerely,

Paul Nawrot, Mike Mabry, Neal Patel

PHYBS Board Members & District 23 Parents / Residents