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Subject: Support for the Lights at Butler Field
Date: June 14, 2019 at 10:48:49 AM EDT
To: "Mayor@Scarsdale.com" <Mayor@Scarsdale.com>
Cc: "rpappalardi@scarsdaleschools.org" <rpappalardi@scarsdaleschools.org>

Dear Mayor and Village Board of Trustees –

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the meeting on June 19, so I am writing this letter to express my support for the turf lights at Butler Field. I have heard that there is a very small group of approximately 14 families that are opposed to this project that live in close proximity to the field. I am sure that the majority of them live farther away than I do. I reside at 13 Harcourt Road, which is 3 houses from the back side of SHS. In the fall and spring when I have my windows open, I can hear the ref's whistles and the cheering crowds in my home office during afternoon football, field hockey, soccer, and lacrosse games. I can tell you that this sound is a thing of beauty. Out my 2nd floor windows, I can see the lights of the paddle courts on and I can tell you that this does not disturb us at all as it is a wonderful thing for community residents to be able to partake in a winter sport at night after work. And, blackout shades do the trick when it comes time for my two daughters to go to sleep.

The opposition to the lights, in my opinion, is misguided. The fact is, these residents bought homes in close proximity to a public high school. A school that prides itself on its academics, clubs, athletics, and community. We are falling sorely behind in these last categories in recent years. We need to be able to provide a place, at least one in town (but preferably more!), where the athletes can practice and play and where the community can come out to support them. Having lights on to a reasonable hour in the evening of 9pm, if needed for practices or games, would allow our community to train our athletes and support them. This is not to say that the lights would always be on to this hour. But, our Athletic Dept. and sports organizations deserve the ability to regulate this as they see fit and not be constrained by an absurdly early shut off time. Did you know that JV field hockey games often get cut short and called because it is too dark to finish them? Did you know that practices are often canceled because fields are wet and so only a small few of the SHS teams get to practice each day on our lone turf because we run out of daylight on that field? Did you know that the youth programs are at the mercy of the Recreation Department constantly and consistently pulling the fields because of wet weather and that one of our lacrosse programs (which I run) didn't even get on the fields this season until MAY 7th!?!? And even after May 7, had many, many times when we were not able to practice because the grass fields were closed? Did you know that we are one of a very few towns in close proximity to us that does not have permanent field lights in their town? The fact is, Scarsdale is falling behind. We are not practicing as much, we are not playing as many games at home (sometimes we have had to give us home field advantage because our facilities were subpar), and it's simply not fair to our athletes or to the community.

Please understand that the concerns you are hearing are overblown. Traffic and noise are negligible for the majority of the time that the lights will be in use (i.e. for

practices). For the few games that take place, the only noticeable traffic and noise events will be from extremely well-attended football games (and we should be encouraging the community to come out and participate in these wholesome events which are great for all ages from the very young to the very old). We are not looking to keep our athletes out to all hours of the nights during the weeknights. However, requests for shut off of the lights at 8pm, are unreasonable. During the Spring sports season, the sun sets between 730pm and 8pm. If we can't have the lights on past 8pm, then what is the point of them? I think 9pm is a reasonable curfew that respects neighbors (of which I remind you I am a very close one!) and the student-athletes, as well as maximizes the functionality of the field and the investment that will be put forth by Maroon and White and many caring and generous neighbors and community members.

Please improve our community spirit, our athletes, and our facilities by voting to install permanent lights at Butler Field and by approving a usage policy that is reasonable and not too restrictive.

Thank you,
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