



c/o Janet Way
940 NE 147th St
Shoreline, WA 98155

July 11, 2016

Mayor Chris Roberts
Shoreline City Council
17500 Midvale Ave N
Shoreline, WA 98133

Subject: Twin Ponds Athletic Fields Replacement – Agenda Item #7-c

Dear Mayor Roberts and Council:

We are writing today because of our concern for the Consent Agenda Item #7-c regarding “Twin Ponds Field Turf Replacement.” We understand this item is meant to accept grant funding to undertake the field turf replacement.

“Motion to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Grant Agreement with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for the Twin Ponds Field Turf Replacement Project”

We believe that for Council to automatically authorize this grant funding without discussion or review of alternatives would be a mistake. Even though the field already has a “synthetic turf” which may indeed need replacement, the concerns raised by the media and experts recently about environmental safety are alarming.

As I mentioned in another recent letter to you regarding a project that has now been approved by the Shoreline School District, there have been many, many serious issues raised nationally and locally about toxics and many other types of impacts to the environment and to the public who use these fields.

These are just a few of the serious concerns we have:

- Impacts to childrens’ health through inhalation or ingestion of crumb rubber particles
- Cancer causing chemicals and numerous toxics in crumb rubber including benzene,
- Asthma related reactions to inhaling crumb rubber
- Synthetic Fields harboring dangerous bacteria
- Concussion rates are much higher than on natural grass

- “Turf burns” rates are much higher on artificial turf
- Heat stress reactions caused by synthetic turf in warm weather
 - quote from TURI Fact Sheet: *“Measurements taken by sports managers at Brigham Young University found that the surface temperature of synthetic turf was 37°F higher than asphalt and 86.5°F hotter than natural turf. The hottest surface temperature recorded during the study was 200°F on a 98°F day. Even in October, the surface temperature reached 112.4°F.”*¹⁰
- Environmental stormwater runoff and leaching of toxics into waterbodies (Thornton Creek, a salmon bearing stream) is prohibited under new stormwater codes
- Potential Liability for environmental damage or health impacts
- Safer alternatives are readily available.
- Many local cities and school districts have banned these crumb rubber fields, including City of Edmonds and Seattle School District. Many cities across the nation are reversing proposals to develop these fields. Some are even replacing with natural turf.
- The US EPA is now conducting an intensive study of the actual health impacts of these crumb rubber fields.

Request: When the Council gets to the approval of the actual project point, we request an EIS be undertaken.

Pull the item from Consent in order to report to the public the upcoming process of review. Request a SEPA review and study of less toxic and environmentally damaging actual alternatives.

We expect to testify to this whether or not Council chooses to pull the Consent item tonight. We ask for your cooperation on working to find the safest possible solution to this Athletic Field Replacement project.

Our first obligation in carrying out projects should be public safety.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Way, President
Shoreline Preservation Society