

BOWEN ISLAND MUNICIPALITY

Minutes of the **Public Information Meeting regarding the Synthetic Grass Field** held by Municipal staff on Thursday September 24, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at the Bowen Island Municipal Hall, 981 Artisan Lane, Bowen Island, B.C.

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Hendrik Slegtenhorst, Chief Administrative Officer
Christine Walker, Community Services Manager

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Florrie Levine, Project Manager, FHL Consulting Services
Stacy Beamer, Project Coordinator
Domenic Carapella, Managing Director, GeoTurf by Limonta Sport
Mayor Turner, Councillors Frinton, Hooper & Wrinch
Approximately 12 members of the Public
Gayle Ferguson, Minute Taker

CALL TO ORDER

CAO Slegtenhorst called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

Christine Walker, Community Services Manager, provided an overview of work completed on the synthetic grass field. She noted the following:

- June 8, 2009 - Cedarcrest Lands Ltd. awarded contract for excavation fill and levelling;
- Volunteer support – By way of labour and donations received for electrical equipment, supplies and time ;
- Rationale for choosing “Limonta, supplier of the turf and its installation.

Florrie Levine, Project Manager, FHL Consulting Services, provided the following information:

- Review of Cedarcrest work - over 700 cubic meters of materials were removed;
- Installation of the drainage system ;
- Construction of rock wall is a partnership between West Vancouver School District and the Municipality. There is still landscaping work outstanding to complete this project. All rock was donated;
- Concrete Forms were constructed, then permeable aggregate was installed. This aggregate is free draining allowing for large volumes of water to drain off the field;
- As a result of this project, some grass field improvements were also completed to assist with drainage.

Domenic Carapella, Managing Director from GeoTurf by Limonta commented on the following:

- GeoTurf is the highest performing, safest, and environmentally responsible synthetic turf available. The infill contains coconut fibre and cork. All recycled post industrial materials are used. Main benefit naturally high in tannins resistant to fungus and mould;

- History of product - the "Geo" has been on the market now for two years;
- Product is guaranteed for eight years ;
- Company has been producing turf and infill continuously since 1981 with over 17,000 installations;
- Heat is an issue – the "Geo" is 60 degrees cooler than traditional turf systems. Entire system was tested and is clean of lead;
- In ten years when the turf will need to be replaced, the infill can be returned to the land;
- Bowen Island is their first installation in Canada and they are proud to be chosen for an environmentally sensitive area.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Key comments/queries from members of Council and the Public included the following:

1. Use of chemicals? *Mr. Carapella: Absolutely none. Have highest permeability in the industry so allows the field to be flushed and cleaned by water*
2. Suggest that, since the installation of a synthetic playing field has been a very contentious issue, that Mr. Carapella consider his choice of words when referring to the field;
3. Materials and disposal:
 - *Mr. Carapella: Polyethylene has no lead chromates. Material can be recycled and reused;*
 - *Polyurethane is backing of the fabric -is it recycled or new? Mr. Carapella: New material; entire system can be recycled.*
 - *Off-gassing from the plastic materials? Mr. Carapella: Usually refers only to crumb rubber materials. As far as polyethylene have not see any data;*
4. Cost and Warranty:
 - *Did Bowen Island receive a better price as a first for you in Canada? Mr. Carapella: This was not a promotional price. We bid the job and won the tender. Ten years from now the cost will be approximately half as you have the sub base and you will just be replacing the turf. Community Services Manager: Was part of the tender process;*
 - *Is the project on budget? Chief Administrative Officer: Yes. Chief Administrative Officer/Community Services Manager: There is the possibility of an additional grant of \$250,000;*
 - *Volunteer labour and materials have just about offset the cost of the turf itself. Chief Administrative Officer: Actual numbers will be public in a few weeks;*
5. Useable life? *Mr. Carapella: The eight-year warranty is based on professional installation. Your installation will get at least ten years. Temperature affects the system - if balanced and turf stays cool, it could last longer;*

6. Do you have authority certification related to health and safety?
Mr. Carapella: We have the testing of the components for heavy metals and volatiles. We do not have the same guidelines in North America as elsewhere in the world. We have done independent testing for heat and safety. We will apply for any specific studies that do come out in future. Mayor Turner: There is tremendous controversy regarding health and safety issues – am reassured by the information provided here today;
7. Does the field need to be fenced?
Community Services Manager: While not a requirement, we'd like one for ball control. The field will be open to the entire community, once completed. Pre-booked times will also be available;
8. Longevity - Would fencing affect the turf field in the future as far as longevity (to preserve the field?)
Mr. Carapella: Sweeping the field of leaves is needed. The only factor affecting longevity is keeping it clean;
9. Why does this field not need to be sterilized?
Mr. Carapella: Studies from the University of Pennsylvania were conclusive that for the mercer virus, blood, and saliva, laundry detergent effectively kills bacteria;
10. Outflow functioning?
Project Coordinator: Minimal flow through the outfall pipe - usually takes about two weeks. When building the outflow system, a thick layer of crushed rock was laid down. It would appear that water is all going back into the ground but will keep monitoring throughout fall and winter when rains are heavier;
11. Appropriate footwear for the field?
Mr. Carapella: Any non-metal cleat shoe is appropriate.
12. Opening date for the field?
Community Services Manager: Will have an opening celebration on October 23,2009;
13. Are there any statistics that address compactness/hardness?
Mr. Carapella: Gmax of 145 is guaranteed and it should not exceed that over the life of a field . There is a need to add to infill to top it up, but no issue with migrating. After approximately three years you may want to top it up;
14. Contaminants?
Mr. Carapella: Bristle brushes are adjusted for a certain depth, penetrating only the pile - does not go into the infill. The more often sweeping occurs, the longer it will last.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Hendrik Slegtenhorst
Chief Administrative Officer