

lack of facilities state wide for these meets, MIAA might possibly overlook the track slope and wind issue.

The preliminary cost estimate for the construction of a track and field and miscellaneous work allowances: \$1,450,000.

FOOTBALL FIELD/FIELD HOUSE

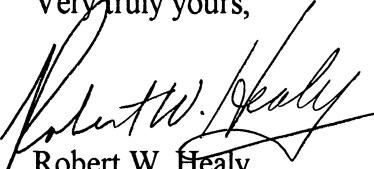
A study was completed in October, 1996 by Brown & Rowe, Inc. to develop a plan to incorporate a Field House, tot lot and community garden into Russell Field, without displacing existing uses. The Field House could be used by football, soccer and little league teams and would include public bathrooms and a food concession stand. The Plan also includes pedestrian and bicycle circulation improvements, a new irrigation system, football field lighting, a reconfigured parking lot and landscape improvements. The total cost was estimated at \$3,600,000.

Last month, the City was notified by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services, that we are the recipient of an Urban Self Help Grant; \$330,000 has been awarded to us for FY2000 as a match for the construction of a Field House at Russell Field.

With the acquisition of the grant and the use of Licensed Site Professional (LSP) services to address environmental issues during construction, we believe Russell Field is the best site for the Field House and Football program. We will continue to aggressively pursue environmental issues to ensure the safety of the community.

Next Steps: We will be holding community meetings and meeting with user groups to discuss the development of a track at Danehy and the development of Russell Field. Funds for the development of Russell Field are currently in the 5 Year Capital Plan for FY2001. Based on the FY2000 grant award mentioned above and the need to encumber the funds for construction in the same fiscal year, I will be making a recommendation in the FY2000 budget to allocate these capital funds in FY2000. A recommendation for funds for the track will be included in the 5 -year capital plan submitted in the FY2000 Budget.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
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November 23, 1998

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report # 9 regarding a status report on a new football/track facility, please be advised of the following:

TRACK

A preliminary study has been completed by Camp Dresser & McKee on the requirements for developing a track and field facility at Danehy Park. The study indicates that it is feasible to develop a 6-lane 400 meter track on Danehy on Field #4 (the large football/soccer field) and to incorporate field events in the track vicinity. As Danehy Park is the site of the former municipal landfill, site settlement is a key factor in determining the construction. CDM Geotechnical Engineers recommend a system of asphalt based latex including geogrids to reduce settlement impacts on the track surface. Settlement will still be expected to occur and therefore will require a higher level of track maintenance and repair.

The current field area at Danehy is graded for sheet flow drainage across the field. The recommended design for competition tracks is for flat tracks which recross slopes to accommodate track drainage. This is not possible at Field #4 without significant regrading (3+ feet cut or fill of the entire area). This regrading would add approximately \$300,000 in cost to the track, cause major site disruption, and cause potential settlement problems for the track. Placement of the track within the current grading would create a track with a longitude grade of approximately 6 inches in 100 feet. This slope is not perceptible to the eye but could impact running times. In discussions with the President the State track coaches association (a subgroup of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association -MIAA), it was noted that they would not have a problem with a sloped track as outlined above for high school or dual meets. According to Tracklite Systems, a major track supplier, several tracks have been constructed in Massachusetts that are not flat, but the owners requested that the locations remain undisclosed. The slope issue might be considered a problem should Cambridge desire to host a regional or State meet. The State track coaches association noted that wind was also a consideration and because of its exposed location, this site can be quite windy. Due to the advantages this site offers and

Consent Agenda #6

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Relative to AW #9, regarding a
report on a new football/track
facility.

In City Council November 23, 1998

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