

**Boosters General Meeting Minutes**  
**May 15, 2024**  
**[summitboostersnj.org](http://summitboostersnj.org)**  
**[shsboosters15@gmail.com](mailto:shsboosters15@gmail.com)**

Call to Order/Introductions 7:35 pm

Attendance: Jill Morris, Adonis Morris, Regina Walsh, Stacy Grimaldi, Gwen Franco, Andrea Vasady-Kovacs, Julie Broderick, Dan Healy, Catherine Liguori, Keryn Nomellini, Carolyn Kiley, Paul Formicelli, Maggie Bauman, David Guida, Kelly Iacovelli, Bob Pawlowski, Jocelyn Modesto, Teresa Solano, Michelle Kalmanson, Eileen Kohaut, Nick Curiale, Oliver Brown, Leonor Fonseca, Carlos Hernandez, Judith McCarthy, Krista Witkowski, Blair Kimmel, Kathryn McKeever, Laura Heil, Marme O'Conner, Don Nelson, Al Dill, B. Fevelo, D. Hoad, Leslie Salcedo, Gail Seymour, Joe Gaspard, Ed Fitzpatrick, Ana Quintero, Bevy Yu, Josh Reimold, Heather Johnston, Dennis McKeever and others who didn't sign in.

Approval of April 2024 meeting minutes: Julie Broderick made a motion to approve, and Keryn Nomellini seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Co-Presidents Report – Broderick

- Boosters Boast – what we do for ALL student-athletes - our mission is to promote interest in athletic programs in the middle school and high school, foster spirit, support grant requests, fund \$8,000 worth of scholarships for graduating seniors, and engage and build our Summit sports community. We support Hilltopper Weekend, the Senior Athletic Celebration, and the Meet the Coaches event.
- Re-Cap of the Senior Athletic Celebration – Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to celebrate all the senior athletes, statisticians, and managers.
- Mr. Chi Shirts update – Net profits to be split between Mr. Chi and the Boosters. Organizers are looking to come out with a hoodie for the fall.
- Proposed Slate for the Boosters Executive Board for the 2024-25 school year:
  - Co-President - Allison Fagan
  - Co-President - Bonnie Park Reimold
  - Treasurer - Keryn Nomellini
  - VP, Publicity - Reshma Shah
  - Corresponding Secretary - Kim McGovern
  - Recording Secretary - Catherine Liguori
  - LCJSMS Liaison - Andrea Vasady-Kovacs

Since there are no other nominations, Catherine Liguori made a motion to approve the slate and Keryn Nomellini seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Keryn Nomellini

- We're doing great with merchandise sales at Mondo. They're perfect for teacher and graduation gifts.
- We've funded grants this year for Unified uniforms and the sound system for the turf field used for senior nights.

#### Hilltop Shop at Mondo – Julie Broderick

- Lavender & Sage / Booster Event - 5/22, 5:30-7:30 PM Sip n Serve event where a percentage of sales will be donated to Boosters.

#### Athletic Director Report - Dan Healy

- Mr. Healy attends most Booster's meetings and discusses the grant requests, of which there are none this meeting.
- He's also available at most meetings for Questions and Answers. He's happy to have a dialog at every meeting.

#### Introduction of Booster's guest Councilman Kevin Smallwood and explanation of the purpose of tonight's meeting – Julie Broderick

- Tonight is not a DCP meeting, it's not a Common Council meeting, it's not a forum to decide on lighting Tatlock, it's not a platform for the Boosters to be either for or against lighting Tatlock. We're here tonight to share information to our membership and community at large. Tonight, will hopefully benefit people who have not been able to attend council meetings. We would like to ask everyone who speaks to limit their questions/statements to 3-minute limits to help move things along.

#### Opening Remarks - Councilman Kevin Smallwood

- In 2021 the DCP met with the heads of the athletic communities who expressed challenges to find field space. Within this past year, Union County notified DCP that they are taking over scheduling at Glenside Field. They told DCP that Summit isn't losing field space but will be losing control of the scheduling. We're just not sure if we'll continue to have the ability to move practices and games around with ease after the change.
- In 2021, after there had been requests for more field space and more field time, Common Council approved a \$50,000 budget to do a light study for Upper Tatlock (the old lights were installed prior to 1999 and the tennis courts got updated lighting in 2016). Upper Tatlock only lights up half the field and Lower Tatlock has never had lights. The 2021 lighting study has been on the DCP radar for many years and was on their annual wish list. Councilman Smallwood has promised the Tatlock neighborhood that he'd meet with them and listen to their concerns. Since February to last Monday, they had 5 meetings with the Tatlock neighbors, keeping the meetings small to listen to the residents' concerns. Tonight's handout (in the yellow section) lists the major concerns brought up at every meeting.
- DCP has developed a 4-step process for the lights at Tatlock. We are still in step 2. We are not presenting a plan tonight. We will be completing a comprehensive traffic study during graduation, then another study during a football game in the fall.
- The only conversations we've had up until this point have been with the Tatlock neighbors.

#### Highlights of Neighborhood Concerns – David Guida

- David has attended all the small group meetings and has been taking minutes. He highlighted the neighbors' concerns (refer to the handout)
  - Issues surrounding trust and transparency about the project.

- Issues about how to reach a compromise.
- Existing problems with speeding and road blockages, neighborhood parking is already limited.
- Concerns about drinking and drug use, effects of artificial lights on health, the environment, local wildlife.
- Uncertainties about park hours and how long the lights will remain in use each evening.
- Questions about necessity vs. desire, justification for a \$1.6 million expenditure, and concerns about potential decreases in home values.
- David gave more background history – the field restoration committee and the DCP advisory committee in both 2014 and 2018 identified lights at Tatlock as a priority. Every council person on the committee has been part of making this recommendation and was aware and ok with including lights in the capital plan projection. This process is still currently within committee work and the project hasn't been brought to Common Council. We are trying to listen and going forward hope you trust us. There are many work items to be done over the summer to see if lights are really a need.
- This is not delaying the Tatlock playground project. All these studies will be completed throughout the summer - a comprehensive traffic study and on-site environmental impact study.
- Every neighbor within 400 feet will be given notice of the studies' results and they will also be shared at a publicly advertised meeting. This meeting will discuss the findings and potential next steps.
- There's a new flag football program and this fall has the largest ever kindergarten program. We want to make sure Summit is offering the children the best possible youth programs. The HS and MS programs practice immediately after school, but the youth programs practice is mostly parent coached and practices don't start until after 6pm. Lights could potentially extend the practice times available.

#### Questions and Answers -

- Teresa Solano – 2 questions – field restoration committee –they met last February for the first time in 5 years. How often does that committee meet? Dan Healy answered– it's a discussion of various stake holders and he's only been involved 2 or 3 times during his tenure here. Next question – there are 43 pages of neighbors' community feedback full of valid and complex questions – is the DCP confident that they will have the answers in the fall for a potential vote? Kevin Smallwood answered – the biggest thing we need is to show a need to justify even bringing it to Council. That's why its staying in committee. We will not bring it to Common Council until we have the answers to the studies. The track relay event, Summit Relays, was different from past years. In the past, when an event was done, bus pickup was staggered. This year all events ended at the same time causing a traffic jam – we will work with BOE to try to figure out a better way to stagger bus pickup. Dan Healy commented – issues with Summit Relays departure was the result of numerous successful measures. 40 schools shrunk to 25 schools, more police were involved, causing all events to run smoothly and it all ended at the same time, on time. We did things so well that we caused another problem. We will continue working to

improve this for next year. David Guida answered the first question– it’s a once-a-year meeting, but yes, it didn’t meet for 5 years.

- Brian Solano – Q: Can we get confirmed yearly usage of the HS field that currently has lights? Is it being proposed to upgrade upper HS field lights? A: HS lights are maybe 15 or 20 years old. Kevin reached out to BOE to look into upgrading HS lights as the HS is BOE run. Will try to work with BOE to look into upgrading. Dan addressed field usage – HS turf is used all but 5 or 6 evenings a year – it is used by DCP or other Summit sports leagues when there is no scheduled district programming. Similarly, the school district uses city fields. When the HS field was re-turfed years ago it was not cost effective to upgrade the lights as they were still under warranty and were recently serviced. Kevin - field usage will be communicated through a comprehensive field usage study.
- Neighborhood Resident (she didn’t give her name) She’s a Tatlock neighbor and has lived in Summit for 26 years. Lives 3 blocks away on the corner of Wade and Hartley. During events at Tatlock she has difficulty getting out of her driveway, gets rerouted, hears sounds of announcing during events. She has concerns that the 400 feet radius is not large enough to address neighbors’ concerns. Concerned the studies will not be broad enough to get the neighborhood impact to include Aubrey, Lewis, River, Morris, Butler. David answered – DCP wants to study all the way to route 24 and wants to get the studies done correctly. Block 400 lot 1 is all of Martins Brook Park to Washington School (the massive green area all the way to River Road.) Discussion ensued regarding the 400 feet radius and that the area being studied is broader than that. The 400 feet radius is the area that will be directly notified of the meeting when the studies are complete. David and the resident agreed to speak later about these specific concerns to ensure that her street is adequately studied.
- Barbara – Q: Wants to know how the decline in property values will be addressed. A: Kevin – we’re in the process of speaking to a few realtors. It’s difficult to put a dollar amount of up or down, but it could affect the pool of people interested in the sale of the property and lights could potentially lower the number of people interested. Will be looking at other towns that did put in lights and will look at home values pre-lights and values post-lights.
- Kelly Iacovelli – Q: When they installed upper Tatlock lights and tennis courts lights was anything questioned about property values – Kevin answered – that’s something they’ll look into as well.
- Krista Witkowski – Lives in the neighborhood. Loves the football field but doesn’t want the lights. Q: Concerns about parking. What other towns are we looking at? A: Kevin – Springfield, East Hanover, New Providence, Millburn, South Orange
- Katie Sacovich, Butler Parkway resident – Q: Question about the current ordinance – the maximum height of all light fixtures should not exceed 15 feet. How have we gotten this far? A: Kevin – private organizations need to abide by ordinances, the city does not have to abide by their own ordinances. If it is city funded and maintained, the city doesn’t have to abide by its ordinance. The HS lights are on until 9:45pm or until events are over. With new technology, they can start dimming at 9:30. Whatever ordinance this Council puts in place does not bind future Councils. There will be a timing ordinance in place. A: David – there will be two separate light ordinances – one for building of the lights and one for park hours.

- Leslie Salcedo – Q: Will field study include HS lower turf field? A: Kevin - Yes – it will be part of the comprehensive field study. A: Dan – the lower HS field was previously minimally used because there is very little demand for grass fields. Youth programs don't want to use it. Turfing makes that space more versatile. Glenside was used by the district for boys' soccer tryouts in August, but it's not a one-to-one trade. The DCP will be using the new lower turf field more than the district uses Glenside.
- Josh Reimold- Q: Work needs to be done around the solving piece. There are questions around the need side, but as a youth coach I can say that field space is an issue – all I hear are objections but there are lots of things to discuss for the greater community. I wanted lights at Tatlock when I lived on Lowell. And I want lights now. How do I get involved in articulating the need because there is one? A: Kevin – We are in step 2 of 4 steps– we're engage the neighborhood. Next is to get the studies done and then come up with master plan. Josh – the lights at upper Tatlock don't work well. I'm offering to help.
- Ana - Butler Parkway resident– Q: Regarding upper Tatlock lights and the HS fields - are you open to fixing problems on existing fields before jumping into a new problem? Comments from members of the audience who didn't approach the microphone - on brightness, quality of lights, athlete safety concerns, quality of life for neighbors at other fields. A: Kevin – There's old technology at upper Tatlock and there aren't enough lights to illuminate the whole upper field. Please come up to the microphone to express comments to keep the conversation civil and neighborly. Dan – regarding questions about driving past a field and seeing it unused. He discussed the intricacies of last-minute scheduling, rescheduling, team displacements, cancelations due to weather that an observer may not be aware of is going on behind the scenes.  
Ana second question – Q: Clarification of Glenside field space A: Kevin -once we lose control of scheduling to the county, makeups due to grass field conditions could potentially be harder to schedule.
- Patrick – Q: On the handout - anticipated cost of \$1.6 million, but what are the incremental costs? Parking changes? Additional costs? A: Kevin – lots of things included in that budget that we won't need which will lead to that number most likely decreasing. For example, we already have an electrical conduit under the turf. And we will be utilizing JCPL to reduce about \$300,000 in the \$1.6 million budget. Anticipate the \$1.6 million cost coming down. We will have a complete, updated budget available in the fall. Discussion continued briefly about incremental costs and maintenance costs.
- Dennis McKeever – Memorial Field resident, 20+ year Summit youth sports volunteer and multi-sport board member - commented that during his entire tenure as a youth sports volunteer there have been fights and discussions over field space and usage. He's explored many different options and concepts, and he loves the ideas of renovating existing fields. He feels he has a unique perspective and he offered himself and his experience to help with any committee. Exploring other spaces in town is what he encourages the town to do. Happy to participate in a committee.
- Oliver Brown – Thank you to Julie Broderick and Boosters for hosting tonight. Gave his background and history as he's a longtime Summit resident. He spoke about the congestion in the Memorial Field neighborhood and the privilege it is to live in Summit and have the quality of life that we have. He expressed concern for the Tatlock residents and would like to see a compromise be made with the lights.

Dan Healy closing comments – thank you all for coming out this evening and expressing your concerns. Thank you for caring and for investing in our community.

Julie Broderick - thank you all for coming. Please consider donating to Boosters or become a Boosters member and get involved. Thank to David and Kevin for joining us tonight.

Julie Broderick made a motion to adjourn at 9:35pm and Catherine Liguori seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 @ 7:30 PM

*Note: An “active” Boosters Member (able to vote) is defined as: 1) Booster Contributor of at least \$10; and 2) been a Boosters volunteer or attended two Boosters General Meetings in the past 12 months.*