

Public Comments for PC 22-02: OPRF High School South Field Light Standards Special Use Application

As a resident directly affected, I categorically oppose both increasing the lighting of the Lake St. field 33% along with extending of the lighting ordinance to 10:00PM. 10:00 PM really?

We have to live with ridiculously loud football play calling Friday nights. No, closing windows doesn't help. How about the high school turns the volume 50% after 8:00 PM.

We live here and a couple of "good neighbor" passes to sporting events doesn't alter the fact that this is our home.

It is time residents most affected be listened to.

Mark Bloomberg

132 Frank Lloyd Wright Ln.

July 19, 2022

RE: Public hearing on Changes to the Southfield Special Use Permit for lighting

Dear Planned Commission Members:

It is my understanding as an affected resident and member of the Euclid Place Townhome Association that changes requested to the Special Use Permit on the Southfield only involve changes to the lighting and extension of time per the filing by OPRF High School, therefore all other provisions within the Special Use Agreement remain intact. Any additional requests for changes must be brought separately to the Planned Commission for consideration. This protects the existing resident agreements against unauthorized changes to the Special Use Permit which have not been presented for public comment and review.

At the June 1st D200 Bd of Education -Joint Special Bd meeting (D200 & PDOP) it was shared that the High School intentioned to pursue a change in the Special Use Permit on the Southfield requesting new lighting and an extension of the lighting hours from 8 pm. to 10 pm..

At this meeting it was clear that plans were proceeding without having the light ordinance addressed. Talk was occurring as if the light issue was a done deal. According to the parties involved, success of the joint field sharing venture is dependent upon receiving authorization to extend the lighting period on the Southfield. Neighbor input at the two community meeting made it clear that we were not in favor of extending the time that lights would be on at the Southfield. Proceeding with construction plans, etc., as if this were not a priority and is easily remedied made it clear that the filing parties were not acting in good faith. The high school and Park District could care less about the neighbors and their input; they just want lights and fields at all costs. We resent the fact that neighborhood agreements seem to break down every time

someone gets a bright idea. Residents are not simply pawns in a game who are sacrificed and lost so that others get it their way. My neighbors and I simply want to enjoy the same peaceful and quiet environment at night afforded to other tax paying residents of Oak Park. We do not want the additional noise of music, whistles, loud speakers, scoreboard announcing and cheering; additional limitations on parking in which the Village already limits our access to parking in front of our residents and refuses to provide residential zoning or parking resident passes, nor more hours of light no matter how tamed. We are already dealing with light pollution from Ridgeland Commons, train noise often in the middle of the night, loud groups, of the park district users on the Southfield early on Sunday mornings. Often on Saturdays during games tailgaters are parked on East Ave in cars playing loud disturbing music; you cannot even conduct a meeting on zoom in the quiet of your home.

Not to mention the plans to put a baseball field on the Southfield with the batter's box located at the northeast corner of East Ave, steps from our homes.

If all of these changes go forward we should be compensated by having \$0 tax dollars assessed on our properties or be provided with installation of sound proof windows. We did not buy our homes to live next door to a light filled noisy stadium! This is a residential community and we seek to protect our property values as taxpayers and quiet time. We ask that parties seeking changes to this agreement, find alternate ways to address their needs in ways that do not disenfranchise neighbors.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Marsha Borders, 108 Frank Lloyd Wright Ln resident and
Member, Euclid Place Homeowners Association

Dear Plan Commission, Village of Oak Park,

We are property owners within 300 feet of the Oak Park and River Forest High School's South Field, also known as property at 501 Lake Street.

We have concerns about the impact the changes planned for the South Field will have on us in our home and on the other homeowners in our Euclid Place Neighborhood.

An important concern is the hours the field will be allowed to be used with the lights on which is planned to be from 8 pm to 10 pm. When the South Field was first installed, we were promised that the lights would be turned off at 8:00 pm. This has happened with no exceptions, which we really appreciate. We are not happy with the prospect of lights on at the later hours. Many of the bedrooms in our townhouses face directly on the South Field. That plus the activity on the field would have an adverse effect on quality of life in our homes.

Another concern about the use of the field for baseball is the possible damage to our windows from an errant flying ball. There is not much distance from the field to our homes facing East Avenue.

We are asking the Village of Oak Park's Plan Commission to oppose allowing a change in the Special Use Permit because it does not promote "harmonious and integrated" planning in our village.

Sincerely,

Judith and Lyle DeGarmo
102 Frank Lloyd Wright Ln
Oak Park

I would like to express my opposition to the increased lighting and hours at the south OPRF HS facility as it would overburden the facility and create great inconvenience to those living nearby.

Thanks

Gary Fox

Hello, Hi Graig. Could you forward this along to Ronald Anderson too?

Has the village and highschool considered:

1. Dimmers for the lights for the 8 to 10 time period? Several commercial companies offer transformers with dimmers.
2. Has the commission looked at maybe not all the lights being on from 8 to 10? Or for when events are not occurring maybe lights not being on, or is this an all or none light usage?
3. Has seasonality been taken into consideration so the winter months when the activity will be less and it gets colder after 8 pm, that when weather doesn't permit use the lights will be off after 8pm, or will they always year round be on? Are there additional exclusions beyond the Sunday exclusion being considered?
4. I don't see any study as to the glare and if filters are available to address glare? It's one thing to get spillage of light, and another to get the glare coming in your bedroom windows every night until 10 pm. Are filters or some other method for addressing glare being considered or part of the study?

I wish there was a written summary included with the illumination study as to the impact on the surrounding neighbors. Am I overlooking this? No where does the study state what the net impact /change will be on neighbors within 300 feet. Could this be answered in Thursday's meeting?

How do the total for the wattage and amount of lumens on the new system compare to what is there today? How does for this field on what is proposed compare to the adjacent field run by the park district?

Has the planning commission considered conditions for approval to maximize public safety, common good in terms of usage by the community, and impact from glare and light spill on the neighbors? On the stretch on South Blvd. between Scoville and East, there is a parking lot, not a building. The fact is this stretch is open and the first structure is my business and residence. I'm concerned and wanting to better understand the glare associated with this proposal as anyone who has a bedroom window impacted by glare would be.

Is the color or warmth of the bulbs changing from what is there today?

How overall do the fixtures differ from what is existing? It is pointed out that they are lower. Am I overlooking in the study other than them being lower how the existing compare in terms of color of light, number of bulbs, # of wattage, etc? Did the study state the impact on quality of life as well as impact on property value for residences within 300 feet of the lights proposed?

The number of existing lights coupled with the existing height variance (literally double what the code allows) is already having an impact on properties within 300 feet. With the potential to increase the actual illumination and amount of light, even if the lights are lowered, in addition to now proposing the number of lights be increased, and that the lights now stay on until 10 pm, it is essential the study results are shared with those within 300 feet so that an informed decision is made with input from those affected.

Kind regards,

Beth Harvey, Owner, Harvey House B&B, 107 S Scoville Ave.

(708)955-7254 cell phone

I am a property owner at 137 Francisco Terrace. Right across from the football field and one block away from the outdoor track. I own my own home. I pay HIGH property taxes. I absolutely do not want

more lights, lights every day, expansion of fields in an already congested, high traffic area. NO NO NO.

I am asking the Village of Oak Park's Plan Commission to OPPOSE allowing a change in the Special Use Permit because it does not promote "harmonious and integrated" planning in the village.

Leisa Marthaler

137 Francisco Terrace

Oak Park, IL 60302

We are property owners and live in a property within 300 feet of the Oak Park and River Forest High School's South Field, also known as the property at 501 Lake Street.

Light spillage and noise as well as foot and auto congestion are major concerns related to the project planned for this field. Extending the constructed density and lighted use with a noisy sport such as baseball will greatly and negatively impact the homeowners in this neighborhood and we oppose the plan.

It is our opinion that the request to extend the hours of lighted field play be denied. Furthermore, we fully oppose the change in use with new construction of a baseball diamond with 2-story dugout and press box!

Tina Mingo & Chris Tedin

103 Frank Lloyd Wright Lane

Oak Park, IL 60302

tmingo19@yahoo.com

708-227-4913

As owner and resident of a property on East Ave adjacent to the OPRF High School South Field, I do not think the request to extend the lighting ordinance beyond 8pm is reasonable. Organized and semi-organized sports naturally make significant noise - clapping, whistles blowing, shouts of encouragement from those on and off the field, etc. This field is directly across the street from our homes - our bedrooms. Each night at 8:30pm, I read my little one a story as I settle him down and put him to bed. The thought of trying to do that with a ball game outside the window is deeply upsetting.

Please consider the nightly disruption to the residents on East Ave and do not extend the lighting ordinance to 10pm.

Steve Myers

116 Frank Lloyd Wright Ln, Oak Park IL 60302

myerssv@gmail.com

Additional Comments received Thursday, July 21, 2022

Plan Commission
Village of Oak Park
Village Hall
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, IL 60302

July 20, 2022

Re: PC22-02: Special Use Permit – 501 Lake Street

I am a property owner and resident within 300 feet of the Oak Park and River Forest High School's South Field, known as the property at 501 Lake Street.

The Oak Park River Forest High School was not forthcoming regarding their plans for the above referenced property in the letter dated July 1, 2022 they sent to neighboring properties. I now understand that the soccer field would be replaced by a baseball stadium which would be used by OPRF High School and the OP Park District. This stadium would be located in a heavily populated residential neighborhood. Given that OPRFHS wants to extend the time the lights would be operational from 8 PM to 10 PM, it will increase the usage of the field and the traffic in the neighborhood. That in turn will add to the noise and congestion, especially with limited parking available.

I'm asking the Village of Oak Park's Plan Commission to oppose allowing a change in the Special Use Permit because it does not promote "harmonious and integrated" planning in the Village.

Martha Yount
102 Bishop Quarter Lane
mayount@msn.com

Dear Oak Park Plan Commission,

I am writing in support of the special use permit requested by OPRF HS for lighting at 501 Lake Street. This request is part of a collaborative field-sharing proposal between the Park District of Oak Park and District 200. I believe approving this request is part of an important larger effort designed to improve curricular and extracurricular experiences of students at the high school while also providing many benefits to our community as a whole.

I am hopeful new lighting will minimally impact neighbors and that newer technology can even reduce spillover outside of field boundaries. Updated lighting will also provide the benefit of better energy efficiency compared with current equipment.

While being sensitive to concerns of close neighbors or those with other critiques, please consider the many positive developments enabled by approving this permit and the multitude of groups beyond the scope of this particular field who stand to gain by its approval both near term and in the future.

Thank you for your time, service and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pete Ryan
Oak Park, IL

Dear Planning Commission,

This letter is in response to the proposal to “tear out” the soccer field and replace it with a baseball stadium. As an Oak Park resident and taxpayer, I write this letter in **strong OPPOSITION to the Plan.**

Currently, the area is **flexible in its utilization**, and available for multiple purposes that include soccer, yoga, lacrosse, track, volleyball, field hockey, sports training, general exercise, 4th of July community celebration, selection of OPRF high school sports teams, and spontaneous gatherings which are all-inclusive, diverse, and accessible to the citizens of Oak Park.

Baseball is an organized sport that requires equipment, uniforms, and management of teams, as well as a playing field that will not allow other activities in the entire space given the need to maintain the baseball field. This will essentially limit access even when the baseball season is over. **This makes a baseball field the most ‘expensive’ use of limited public space.** Curiously, there is already a baseball arena in the adjacent field, which is well embedded in the sports facility.

The proposal invites a **transient population** to be active along the main routes of high school students, as they come and go from school, and thus takes away from the overall **protection of the high school environment.** This is further compounded by the proposal to bring commercial vendors and concession stands that is not acceptable in a high school environment.

The proposal to allow additional flood lights operational until 10pm is also quite unacceptable in a residential area where **school children are trying to do their homework**, and are expected to be in bed well before 10pm. The noise pollution from the spectator crowd is by itself not acceptable.

Finally, the diversity of the population, i.e, availability for seniors, young parents, and children cannot be sustained in this **commercial environment**. This plan essentially destroys a very unique space that is open to all Oak Park citizens and creates a space that excludes the majority of the population except for baseball players.

The track field has served generations of Oak Park students, families, and seniors so **why “tear out” this community space** from the residents of Oak Park.

Respectfully,

Cherise Rosen

I am submitting the following for public comment at tonight's meeting, regarding the proposed partnership between OPRF/D200 and the Oak Park Park District to substantially upgrade the playing fields and athletic facilities for the community and OPRF. These upgrades are a once-in-a-generation opportunity. I urge the members of the planning commission to support and defer to the agreement struck by its sister public agencies; both OPRF and OPPD are on board and the village of Oak Park should be, too.

I am particularly delighted that a full-sized competition track and field will be constructed. Track and field is the largest, most diverse sport at OPRF; a no-cut activity, and without this partnership, the team will be left without a facility a year from now. It is long past time that our community, the park district, and D200 enabled all students at OPRF to pursue their interests on campus. A standard 400-meter competition track will also be an enormous benefit to the wider community. Residents of River Forest frequently use Concordia's 400m track for personal workouts. Such a facility benefits the entire community. I urge the planning commission to allow this plan to move forward.

Tim Brandhorst

D200 Parent, Resident of River Forest

timbrandhorst@gmail.com

312-852-0296

Dear Plan Commission:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the OPRFHS application for the Special Use Permit to update lighting on the current Lake Street Field. I am a parent of a rising sophomore and rising fifth grader. We have lived in Oak Park for 14 years.

This request is not an outlier. It is being made within the context of well thought out, community involved planning effort for the multi-year modernization of the high school's educational and extracurricular facilities. These six new lights will be shorter than existing lights (80-90 feet versus existing 98 feet) and will have little to no light extending outside the field when on. Making a decision to approve this feels like a no-brainer to me.

Enabling the high school to transform the Lake Street field into a baseball field is a necessary component of achieving the broadly beneficial transformation of the existing grass fields between the football and tennis spaces along Linden into a full sized track with interior field. What incredible assets all of this land will become not only to all OPRFHS students, who will use them daily for PE and other activities, but also to the larger community - assets that will contribute directly to the mental and physical health of Oak Parkers of all ages.

Thank you for hearing my comments, and I truly hope the Commission approves the special use permit request.

Sincerely,

Alison Welch

I am writing in support the OPRFHS application for the Special Use Permit to update lighting on the current Lake Street Field.

I'm a parent of a recently graduated senior and a current junior at OPRF. The lights will be an excellent component of the high school's long-term facilities plan. As others have noted, the six new lights will be shorter than existing lights (80-90 feet versus existing 98 feet) and will have little to no light extending outside the field when on.

The lights will have a positive domino effect, enabling the school to transform the Lake Street field into a baseball field, which is necessary to transform the existing grass fields between the football and tennis spaces along Linden into a full sized track with an interior field. These can be used by all OPRFHS students as well as the larger community.

Finally, I'm very happy to see this project as a partnership between OPRFHS and PDOP. I hope it's just one of many successful future endeavors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erika Gimbel

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in support of extending the outdoor lighting at the OPRFHS south fields.

Athletics and extracurricular activities have been proven time and again as beneficial to students academically, socially, and physically. The extended lighting hours will also benefit community members who may want to use the facilities as a safe area to walk or exercise.

The fact that our high school is in a residential area makes it unique but our students' opportunity for experiences outside the classroom should not be limited by OPRFHS' neighbors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--

Steve Matticks (OPRFHS Class of 1979), Mary Catherine Matticks

Drew Matticks (OPRFHS Class of 2016) and Amy Matticks (OPRFHS Class of 2020)

639 Forest Ave

708/280-9317 cell

mcmatticks@gmail.com

Dear Plan Commission:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the OPRFHS application for the Special Use Permit to update lighting on the current Lake Street Field. I am a parent of a rising sophomore and senior. We have lived in Oak Park for 10 years. My sons run track and play baseball.

Currently they can not hold any hone track meets and baseball has had so many cancelled games due to poor field conditions.

This request is not an outlier. It is being made within the context of well thought out, community involved planning effort for the multi-year modernization of the high school's educational and extracurricular facilities. These six new lights will be shorter than existing lights (80-90 feet versus existing 98 feet) and will have little to no light extending outside the field when on. Making a decision to approve this feels like a no-brainer to me.

Enabling the high school to transform the Lake Street field into a baseball field is a necessary component of achieving the broadly beneficial transformation of the existing grass fields between the football and tennis spaces along Linden into a full sized track with interior field. What incredible assets all of this land will become not only to all OPRFHS students, who will use them daily for PE and other activities, but also to the larger community - assets that will contribute directly to the mental and physical health of Oak Parkers of all ages.

Thank you for hearing my comments, and I truly hope the Commission approves the special use permit request.

Sincerely,

Paula O'Connor

Plan Commission
Village of Oak Park
Village Hall
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, IL 60302

Date 7/18/22

RE: PC 22-02: Special Use Permit – 501 Lake Street.

I am a property owner and/or live in a property within 300 feet of the Oak Park and River Forest High School's South Field, also known as the property at 501 Lake Street.

Light spillage and the quantity of light poles is less of a concern with the lights on the South Field than the hours the field is allowed to be used in a heavily populated residential neighborhood.

Once the lights are installed and turned on, the additional activity they bring will increase the noise, traffic, commotion, etc. in the neighborhood. It is my opinion, that the request to extend the hours of the lighting ordinance from 8pm, to 10pm, will have an adverse effect on the quality of life at my property or place of residence. Therefore, I am asking the Village of Oak Park's Plan Commission to oppose allowing a change in the Special Use Permit because it does not promote "harmonious and integrated" planning in the village.

[Signature]
Signature

Deborah Meneses
Printed Name

106 Frank Lloyd Wright Lane
Street Address

(708) 247-6600
Email Address or Phone Number



I am a property owner

(check)

Plan Commission
Village of Oak Park
Village Hall
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, IL 60302

Date July 17, 2022

RE: PC 22-02: Special Use Permit – 501 Lake Street.

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Rogette S. Patterson
Signature

Rogette S. Patterson
Printed Name

133 Frank Lloyd Wright Lane, Oak Park, IL 60302
Street Address

patterson.db4450@gmail.com 708-848-1653
Email Address or Phone Number



I am a property owner Since Fall, 1978!

(check)

Plan Commission
Village of Oak Park
Village Hall
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, IL 60302

Date 7/17/22

RE: PC 22-02: Special Use Permit – 501 Lake Street.

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Joan Winston
Signature

Joan Winston
Printed Name

601 South Blvd # C
Street Address

708-386-3280
Email Address or Phone Number

☒ I am a property owner
(check)

Plan Commission
Village of Oak Park
Village Hall
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, IL 60302

Date July 18, 2022

RE: PC 22-02: Special Use Permit – 501 Lake Street.

I am a property owner and/or live in a property within 300 feet of the Oak Park and River Forest High School's South Field, also known as the property at 501 Lake Street.

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Shari Filoni
Signature

SHARI FILONI
Printed Name

135 FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT LANE OP 60302
Street Address

shari@filoniwear.com
Email Address or Phone Number



I am a property owner

(check)