

**South Haven Area Recreation Authority (SHARA)
Workshop Session**

**Monday, February 21, 2011
5:15 p.m., South Haven City Hall**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Meeting Opened at 5:15 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Mr. Ross Stein, Mr. Dennis Fitzgibbon, Mr. Robert Black,

Absent: Mr. Mark McClendon, Mr. Dana Getman,

Guests: Mr. Gary Gross
Mr. Dale Lewis
Mr. Steve Flood
Mr. Dene Hadden
Mrs. Nancy Kneeland
Mrs. Suzie Fitzgibbon
Mr. Brian Dissette, City Manager, City of South Haven

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Fitzgibbon, seconded by Stein to approve the agenda of the February 21, 2011 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

4. Interested Citizens in the Audience Will Be Heard on Items Not on the Agenda

5. SHARA BOARD DISCUSSION:

The Board was joined by members of the South Haven Area Recreation Park (SHARP) committee and members of the South Haven Public Schools Bond (SHPS) committee to discuss the SHPS proposed school and field improvements.

Mr. Flood presented the SHPS planned improvements and bond proposal. The proposed plan seeks to construct new class rooms, improve fine arts facilities, provide new parking areas, improve existing athletic fields and develop new athletic fields. It was noted that the total project budget is \$47,500,000. Flood described the proposed plan as focusing largely on academics but also providing funds for improvements to the field at Ratcliffe and the practice fields located along Aylworth. The group discussed the plans for the practice fields on Aylworth and whether these improvements will have an impact on the proposed SHARP development plans.

Mrs. Fitzgibbon expressed concern that the SHPS improvement plan may have a

negative impact on the SHARP field development. Mr. Black noted that he anticipates that if the bond funding is approved, and the practice fields are improved, the community need for the SHARP project will still exist. Black noted that the practice fields will primarily benefit student athletics, but would be available for the public's usage.

The group discussed the total number of fields to be constructed as part of the proposed plan, and noted that due to the building plan's footprint, the number of fields is not likely to increase. Black reiterated that the SHARP development will provide an overall benefit as the additional fields will ensure scheduling of the school's athletic fields can be properly handled, while meeting community needs.

Mr. Fitzgibbon noted the importance of encouraging community groups to continue using the fields but clearly communicating a long term strategy for all of the public fields. Mr. Flood expressed appreciation to the group for the feedback on the SHPS project proposal and noted that the discussion should help the committee improve their communication strategy.

6. Adjourn

Workshop adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brian Disette
City Manager, City of South Haven