



Newsletter



Prairie Planning Committee Being Formed

The GMW Association Board recently approved establishment of a Prairie Planning Committee. The purpose of the committee is to seek input and support from residents for the Prairie’s management/maintenance. The committee will bring recommendations to the Board for consideration and funding.

“Our prairie is a valuable and unique asset of our Association. That said, the prairie needs management. The Board’s hope is we can develop a long-term management plan,” says Steve Halterman, GMW Association President.

An informational meeting is planned for March 8, 6:30 p.m. at the Johnston Library.

GMW Erosion Issue

Area behind Weybridge Ct. tagged a city priority

The issue of erosion in the creek behind Weybridge has caught the attention of Johnston City Hall. Considerable creek bed erosion has occurred, resulting in fallen trees and loss of backyard for several residents. Erosion further downstream also uncovered a sewage manhole pipe .

These issues were reviewed as part of a citywide watershed assessment.

The City of Johnston has tagged the area a priority during a storm water management assessment. However, funds have not been yet been allocated for the repair work.



For more information, go to:

<http://www.cityofjohnston.com/projects/?id=65>

PRAIRIE BURN AGAIN BEING PLANNED FOR SPRING

Feedback from last year’s prairie burn has been positive, so the Board is moving ahead with plans to burn another portion of the prairie this Spring. Efforts are underway to hire the same licensed burn firm to manage this year’s effort. GMW residents will be informed of the schedule burn date once it’s determined.



Little League Seeks To Light Two Fields at Lew Clarkson Park

Johnston Little League and Johnston Girls Softball Association representatives held an informational meeting recently with the Green Meadows West Homeowners Association Board presenting their proposal to light two baseball fields at Lew Clarkson Park. They also held informational meetings with the Johnston City Council and the Johnston Park Advisory Board.

When Pioneer Hi-Bred/Green Meadows, Ltd leased the land now known as Lew Clarkson Park to City of Johnston, a stipulation was included in the agreement that prohibited the use of lights past 9 p.m.

The Little League/Girls Softball Association representatives stated in their informational meetings that they would seek to use the lights until at least 10 p.m., or possibly as late as 10:30 p.m. Thus, changes to the original agreement between Green Meadows Ltd (Pioneer), and the City of Johnston would need to be made and approved by both parties prior to installation.

The GMWHA Board has not taken a position in this matter. The board encourages homeowners to not make up their minds on the proposal until they have heard the facts, and learned about the new style of MUSCO lighting that is being proposed.

The GMWHA Board, Green Meadows, Ltd, the Johnston City Council, and the Johnston Park Advisory Board are all very interested in hearing feedback from the homeowners in Green Meadows West pertaining to the lighting proposal.

Informational Meeting

An informational meeting for Green Meadows West residents will also be held. The meeting is planned for March 29, 6:30 p.m. at the Baptist Church in the subdivision. Representatives from the GMWHA, the City of Johnston, the Johnston City Council, the Little League/Softball Association, and the Johnston Park Advisory Board will be on-hand to explain the plans and to answer resident's questions. We also hope to have a representative from Green Meadows Ltd. at the meeting. The GMWHA Board will continue to communicate with Green Meadows Ltd, the park advisory board and the city council. The GMW Board will try to keep residents informed through newsletters and a survey, if deemed necessary.

What types of lighting?

League representatives emphasized to the GMWHA Board their willingness to identify and address resident concerns. For example, to minimize impact they have chosen fields furthest from the residential development, and will use new light heads that reduce light spill and glare. A final feature is putting the lighting systems on controllers, whereby the lights automatically shut off. The League representatives said





they would like to be able to leave the lights on until 10:15 or 10:30. Most games would be complete by 10:00.

Will More Lights Be Added in the Future?

While lighting approval is being sought for only two little league fields, a Johnston Girls Softball Association representative stated that sometime in the future that they would also like to add lights to two of the four girls softball fields located in the southeastern portion of the park.

Who Is Going To Pay For The Lights?

Little League representatives stated in the informational meetings that they would pay all costs involved in the installation and upkeep of the lights. A member of the city council stated in the meeting with the little league that the city council might be in favor of contributing to the cost. The Little League has not asked for money from the city at this time.

SPECIAL MEETING

March 29

6:30 p.m.

Baptist Church

in our development

Why Are Lights Needed?

Continued growth in the numbers of youth wanting to participate in both baseball and softball is the reason behind the lighting request. Since 2000, the Little League program has grown by over 600 youth. To accommodate, game schedules only include 12 games instead of the 16 games that the national organization recommends, and the league has needed to play some games in Saydel. Had the Sports and Recreation Complex referendum passed last August and the girl's softball fields moved, there would have been room to build baseball fields. But with the referendum's defeat, the baseball and softball leagues are seeking other fixes.

Which Fields Would Be Lit, And How Late?

The fields that would be lit would be two fields nearest Beaver Creek. Not only are these two fields furthest from the housing development, they also support the 10 and 11/12 year old age groups, which are among the most popular. The League representatives said they would like to be able to leave the lights on until 10:15 or 10:30. Most games would be complete by 10:00.

Resident Input

Following the input meeting, the GMWHA will send out another newsletter containing contact information for the stakeholders in this matter. These stakeholders include Green Meadow West Homeowners Association Board Members, Green Meadows, Ltd, the Johnston City Council, and the Johnston Park Advisory Board.



Sandbox Safety Alert



Sandbox season will soon arrive. Because your Association has a sandbox within our parks, we

wanted to issue a safety precaution to parents and grandparents: While experts consider the risks quite low, a few simple measures are worth mentioning to keep children free of germs and .

- Try to prevent children from putting their hands, or other objects, in their mouths while playing in a sandbox (and in general!).
- Don't give children snacks or drinks while they're playing in the sand.
- Wash (or make sure they wash) children's hands after they're done playing in the sand.

Calendar

March 8, 6:30

Prairie Planning Committee Meeting
Johnston Public Library

March 10, 7:00 p.m.

GMWHA Board Meeting
Dahl's on 86th

March 29th, 6:30 p.m.

Ballpark lighting meeting
Baptist Church

Knapp Properties, Inc.
4949 Westown Pkwy. Ste 200
West Des Moines, IA 50266

Addressee Name
4321 First Street
Anytown, State 54321