

TESTIMONY RE: PROPOSED CONVERSION OF NPCC SOCCER FIELD TO GRASS SURFACE

The proposed budget for the County includes money to convert the existing turf field at the North Potomac Community Recreation Center (NPCC) to natural grass. As a senior citizen, country resident since 1999 and regular user of the field, I would like to express my opposition to the proposal and urge the Council to replace the current and badly deteriorated surface with a new and improved artificial turf cover.

Although a newly-laid grass field may look more pleasing to the eye in its pristine condition, a turf field will be cheaper for the County to maintain and will be playable in atmospheric conditions - for example in or after a rainy weather or in the coldest months of the year –where a grass field will have to be closed lest its surface be damaged and become dangerous for future play

Moreover, the existing turf field at the NPCC is now the main draw for Montgomery County senior soccer players who play there regularly, not only over the weekend in the Spring and Fall Leagues, but year-round on most days of the week through frequent, regularly scheduled, county-approved pick-up sessions. This frequency and ease of use of the facility by seniors would be impossible to maintain if the surface of the field would be changed unwisely to natural grass.

Please vote to replace the existing turf field at the NPCC with a new turf field. That would be the best way to spend our tax dollars for the greatest benefit of the community.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Gianfranco Corti