

**Croton-on-Hudson
Recreation & Parks**



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Schmidt and Village Trustees
Rick Herbek, Village Manager

FROM: Susan Menz, Superintendent *sm*

CC: Recreation Advisory Committee

DATE: December 7, 2005

RE: Croton Point Park Ballfields

I wish to make a few points regarding the ballfields at Croton Point Park:

- 1) Current costs for the temporary permit from August 29 through November 30 are attached. Please note that the total of \$9,051.96 does not include utility costs from Westchester County as we have not yet received any invoices. Additionally, it does not include regular work hours spent on administration and maintenance of the ballfields.
- 2) Costs to consider should the Village sign an I.M.A. with the County include material costs and time costs (many in addition to current costs) such as:
 - a. Maintenance employee overtime including supervision, opening and closing of facility
 - b. Increased daily routine duties such as garbage pick-up, litter removal, and recycling
 - c. Bathroom cleaning and purchase of toiletry supplies
 - d. Ballfield clay purchasing
 - e. Outside contracting for pest management, fertilization, core aeration
 - f. Outside contracting for top dressing, seeding
 - g. Outside contracting for irrigation services
 - h. Outside contracting for mowing, spring and fall clean-up
 - i. Tree trimming
 - j. Fence maintenance
 - k. Parking lot maintenance
 - l. Increased fuel costs
 - m. Vandalism repairs
 - n. Incident reports for vandalism and injuries
 - o. Increased liability to Village
 - p. Scheduling by administrative staff
 - q. Fee collection
 - r. Record keeping for user-groups

- s. Purchase of dual language signs
 - t. Lights maintenance and electric costs
 - u. Purchase of turf blanket
- 3) With the Recreation and Parks Department being responsible for new trails in the Village, and working towards a new ballfield at Croton Landing, the Village Board cannot expect us to administer and maintain these sites, plus provide programs, at our current full-time staffing levels. Our full-time professional staff must be increased to handle the increased work load.
 - 4) Although we may charge user fees to recoup some our costs, the user fees would be too high if we planned to cover all of our costs; therefore, the remainder of the burden will be felt by Croton Village taxpayers. Either way, the cost is still being felt by the community of Croton through the community groups and school district user-fees, and resident tax dollars. If the County were to manage the fields and bathroom, only the users are paying fees, while the remainder of the costs are being felt by all of the residents of Westchester County, not simply Village of Croton residents. Remember as County ballfields, they must be made available to all County groups who request permission to use them; therefore, Village residents would be paying for the wear and tear that these groups have on the fields too.
 - 5) Moreover, when listening to the public's comments regarding the fields at Croton Point Park, I'd like to suggest that the Village Board clarify whether those comments are coming from Village residents or not. Specifically, there was a recent letter to the editor in the Gazette (Nov. 24 – 30) from Jonathan Weinstein, misleading people to believe he is a Village resident. He actually resides in Ossining. Mr. Weinstein asks the Village Board to change our residency requirements from Village resident to school district resident and also asks to reduce the % required to prove residency. This would be financially beneficial to him and other non-residents but not our Village tax payers.
 - 6) Finally, we know the Croton community groups and School District need field space, yet these two re-furbished fields at Croton Point are available whether the County or Village manages them. These groups could go directly to the County to get permits for these fields without creating a burden on the Village government.

attachment