

History of the Bedford Community Stadium Committee

November 20, 1995

After several persons had shown an interest in making a change in the present stadium on Douglas Road, Denzil Bell, assistant superintendent of Bedford Public Schools, called a superintendent's stadium advisory committee meeting to discuss the possible alternatives. The meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Bedford High School Media Center. The following people were present at this meeting:

Ron Herr	Bedford Board of Education
Randy Krell	Bedford Board of Education
Bill Regnier	Bedford High School Athletic Director
Rob Flessner	Bedford High School Principal
Joe Kennelly	Bedford Public Schools - Director of Buildings and Grounds
Denzil Bell	Bedford Public Schools - Assistant Superintendent - Business
Ed Mazur	Bedford High School Track Coach
Lew Horn	Bedford High School Track Coach
Gene Stock	Bedford Athletic Boosters Representative
Don Wiles	Bedford Band Boosters Representative
Liz Gray	Bedford Football Moms Representative
Ron Koch	Bedford High School Band Director
Phil Swy	PTSA Council Representative
Mike Minges	Community Member-At-Large
Keith Holmes	Community Member -At-Large

Denzil Bell acted as facilitator of the meeting. He explained that the stadium is part of Bedford Public Schools long range plans for the Athletic Complex Development that began with the construction of the all weather track in 1990. Several concerns were raised by committee members regarding the condition of the current stadium. Some of concerns raised were:

- a. The old bleachers are in need of repair and do not meet Federal ADA specifications.
- b. The seating capacity is well below the average attendance creating additional safety and crowd control concerns.
- c. The old outdated lighting system currently has several lights already out of service and maintenance costs continue to soar to keep the system patched together.
- d. There are no locker room or rest room facilities available.
- e. The lack of paved parking space makes parking very difficult in bad weather.
- f. The lack of community pride in the stadium because of its location and current condition.

At this meeting the committee discussed many different possibilities for the stadium: Some of the ideas discussed were:

- a. Should we renovate the current stadium located on Douglas Road?

- b. Should we move the current stadium fixtures (lights, bleachers, concessions stands, scoreboard) to the track complex behind the high school on Jackman Road?
- c. Should we construct a new stadium facility as part of the sports complex that houses the track, behind the high school on Jackman Road?

Denzil Bell went over a document called "Athletic Complex Development" which listed various project phases, potential time-frame and cost estimates based on a August 1989 study prepared by Di Geronimo and Associates (An Engineering, professional design, site planning, consulting and athletic facility planning company used by Bedford Public Schools when the track complex was constructed.) This gave the committee an idea of what the costs of the various components of stadium project would be.

Also discussed was the concern of what effect, if any, this project would have on future millage votes. All members present agreed that whatever approach we took it should **not** be funded by Bedford Public Schools. All committee members agreed that this project should be **privately funded**. The idea of starting an alumni association was also discussed at the meeting.

Committee members present decided that we should discuss the different ideas with other community members to see if there was enough interest to pursue a stadium project with funding from private sources. The next meeting date was set for December 6, 1995 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bedford High School Media Center. Committee members were encouraged to invite other persons from the community to attend this meeting.

December 6, 1995

The following people were present at this meeting: Denzil Bell, Debbie Brescol, Rob Flessner, Ron Herr, Keith Holmes, Lew Horn, Jeremy LeStock, Bill Regnier, Mike Regnier, Gene Stock, Don Stump, Phil Swy, Mike Woolford, Jerry Brescol, Jerry Costell, Graig Trychel, Don Wiler, Joe Kennelly, Ron Koch, Mike Minges, Phil Gregory, Ron Hurley, Randy Krell, Randy Sehl and Don Sloan.

Denzil Bell acted as facilitator of the meeting. After talking with many different people, the committee decided that they would like to pursue the idea of not moving the existing stadium or renovating it, but to build a new stadium on the present track complex behind the high school. Committee members agreed that the focus of the stadium project should be a Bedford Community Stadium. The committee also decided to start getting some prices on the various components of the stadium complex to get an idea of present costs.

At this meeting we decided to break down in to various sub-committees:

Fund Raising (Chair - Gene Stock)	Meeting January 3, 1996
Pressbox (Chair - Jerry Brescol)	Meeting December 20, 1995
Grounds (Chair - Joe Kennelly)	Meeting December 20, 1995
Lighting. (Chair - Phil Gregory)	Meeting December 13, 1995

The committee also discussed the idea of selecting a chairman for the committee of the whole. Members were asked to seek out persons who may be interested in serving as chairman.

The idea of starting a Bedford Alumni Association was also discussed. Committee members looked over

various samples of Alumni Associations from the area: SMCC, St. Francis, St. Johns and Whitmer and decided to pursue the idea of starting a Bedford Alumni Association at our next meeting (using Whitmer as a guide). The committee felt that after the community stadium project there would be other worthwhile projects and activities that the Bedford Alumni Association could sponsor. The next meeting date was set for January 11, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bedford High School Media Center.

January 11, 1996

The following members were present: Randy Krell, Myles Holliday, Denny Hubbard, Ken Kaczorowski, Sylvia Lennex, Mike Regnier, Gene Stock, Phil Swy, Craig Trychel, Denzil Bell, Debbie Brescol, Norb Feldman, Rob Flessner, Keith Holmes, Ron Koch, Mike Koschik, Dan Koschik, Ed Mazur, Mary Ann McBee, Bill Regnier, Meg Smith, Rick Swick, Don Wiles, Karen Daggett, Chris Etts, Kevin Stock, Jerry Brescol, Sue Burzynski, Tim Burzynski, Joe Kennelly, Don Sloan, Lew Horn, Mike Woolford.

Sub-Committee Reports were given:

Fundraising: Cheryl McIntyre, executive director of The Community Foundation of Monroe County explained how the Bedford Foundation could assist us (501c3). She explained that for a cost of \$100.00 per year a pass-through account could be established. An endowment account at a cost of 1/2 to 1% of the earnings could be established to receive the maximum tax benefit.

Grounds: Joe Kennelly reported on information concerning moving the existing bleachers from the current stadium. He also reported on current bleacher costs and said a representative from a major bleacher company will make a presentation at our next meeting..

Pressbox: No report

Lighting: Randy Krell stated that cost estimates from various companies will be presented at the next meeting.

At this meeting the Bedford Alumni Association was established and elected the following officers:

Steve Lennex	President
Mike Regnier	Vice President
Denise Swy	Secretary
Deb Brescol	Treasurer
Bill Regnier	Executive Board Member
Gene Stock	Executive Board Member

The Bedford Alumni Association named the Bedford Community Stadium as its first fund raising project. Co-chairman wereelected: Gene Stock/Phil Swy. The following sub-committees were established: Fund Raising, Buildings, Lighting and Grounds. Also at this meeting the alumni association voted to have a booth at the Bedford Trade Fair for the Bedford Alumni Association and Bedford Community Stadium Project. The next meeting date was set for February 8, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bedford High School Media Center.