Progress Report: Grant FY01-61, Richard J. Benjamin Soccer Complex - 10/29/01

Preliminary work through October 29, 2001

On October 6, 2000, the Oswego Youth Soccer Association purchased slightly more than 17 acres of land for development as the Richard Benjamin Soccer Complex. This land is adjacent to the Oswego Middle School fields on which our games and practices are currently located. This purchase came after numerous meetings with the Minetto Town Board, the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Neighbors’ concerns about noise were addressed by adding restrictions to the special use zoning permit that:

1. restricted the use of the land to soccer related activities, and
2. required the construction of an earthen berm, a continuous fence, and an evergreen barrier along the side of the fields that face residential property.

During October and November of 2000, Oswego County cleared the trees, brush, and other vegetation from the land and stripped and stockpiled approximately 7-9 inches of topsoil (and vegetation). In April and May of 2001, the county continued clearing the remaining large trees from the area that would become the parking lot and entrance to the field complex.

A soil analysis of four 18-24 inch borings was performed by Hummel and Associates. It was found that the nutrient mix in the soil was well suited for soccer fields. Given the relatively high clay content, it was noted that the fields should be pitched at a reasonable slope to encourage runoff since this type of soil tends to shed rather than absorb water. Peripheral drainage was recommended, along with a particular grass mixture that suited the field use, climate, and soil type.

Preliminary field drawings were provided by Jim Astoria, a local engineer who performed this work on a volunteer basis. These plans were reviewed and additional construction details were added by the engineering firm of Stearns and Wheler.

During the summer of 2001, Russell Kurtz (a bulldozer operator) donated his time to shape the earthen berm along the side of the fields facing residential property. Roger Adydan (another volunteer bulldozer operator) cleared, cut, filled, and leveled the area that was to become the parking lot.

While we had initially hoped to rely on donated labor to perform much of the grading, by August 2001, the large scope of the project and the relatively slow rate of progress using volunteer services convinced us that it was necessary to contract out some of the construction. We requested bids for two parts of the project from local contractors:

1. installation of water and sewer lines from Mark Fitzgibbons Blvd to the field complex, and
2. rough and final grading of the fields using a cut/fill balance method, sifting of the
top six inches of topsoil to remove rocks and any remaining vegetation, and construction of a parking lot using a fabric barrier and 8 inches of gravel.

After a review of these bids, Vickery Construction (with a bid of $19,000 for labor and equipment only) was selected as the contractor for the installation of water and sewer lines to the fields. Tug Hill Construction (with a bid of $242,000, including materials for the parking lot) was selected as the contractor for the field and parking lot construction.

Installation of approximately 1,000 feet of a 6-inch water line and a 2-inch pressurized polyethylene sewer line (attached to a grinder pump station located adjacent to the future site of the concession stand/rest room/storage building) began in late August and was completed in the first week of September. Both lines were placed in a trench under approximately 5-6 feet of cover (safely below the frost line). A hydrant was installed near the entrance to the fields (in reasonable proximity to the parking lot and the building).

Rough grading was completed by Tug Hill Construction on all field surfaces and peripheral areas by October 12. The fields have been graded to a 1% slope from the center along both the length and the width of the fields. Topsoil has been sifted and has been placed on all field surfaces. A minimum of 6" of sifted topsoil was placed on all field surfaces.

After grading of the parking lot area, a fabric barrier was installed on top of the rolled soil. Five inches of bank-run gravel was used as a base for the parking lot. Three additional inches of crusher-run gravel was placed as the top layer. Construction of the parking lot was completed by Tug Hill Construction on October 17.

After soliciting bids from local and regional companies, a contract for drainage installation was awarded to Isbell and Sons, Inc. and a seeding contract was awarded to Murphy Installations, Inc.

Isbell and Sons completed the installation of the field drainage by October 11. The drainage system consists of a system of 4" and 6" perforated pipes set in approximately 2' of #1 pea gravel. These drains run lengthwise underneath the full-size fields and in the low areas around the periphery of the fields and at the base of each slope (the fields consist of several tiers, with approximately a 12.5' drop from the highest end to the lowest end). Isbell and Sons received a payment of $20,192 for the installation of the drainage, not including the cost of the gravel. Lazarek Sand and Gravel provided the gravel to us at a substantially reduced cost. A portion of the drainage installation (installation of a new manhole and a 24" sewer line to connect to the nearest storm sewer system) was provided by Tug Hill Construction at a cost of $4,750.

A mix of 50% Kentucky Bluegrass, 25% Creeping Red Fescue, and 25% Delaware Dwarf Perennial Ryegrass was used for the initial seeding of the fields. Murphy Installations planted this using a brillion seeding method. An initial fertilization of 18-18-18 was used to begin the germination process. Seeding was completed on May 12. The seeding contract provides that re-seeding will be performed in any areas in which this is necessary next spring. It also provides for
a re-fertilization of all seeded areas in Spring 2002.

To reduce erosion, jute mesh was installed along all slopes for which there was a high probability of runoff. A total of 8325 linear feet of 4' wide mesh was installed by a group of approximately 15 volunteers on October 12 and 13. The cost of the jute mesh and field staples was $2,234.