

CECIL SMITH BALLFIELD UPGRADES

THE CITY OF PRAIRIE DU CHIEN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT HAS CONSULTED WITH PAUL ZWASKA OF BEACON SPORTS AND RACHAEL VOLKENING FROM VOLKENING CONSULTANTS WHO BOTH HAVE DEGREES IN SOIL SCIENCE, HORTICULTURE, AND TURF MANAGEMENT FROM UW-MADISON AND EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE AT MILLER PARK AND CAMDEN YARDS WITH BALL FIELD MAINTENANCE AS GROUNDSKEEPERS.

AFTER ATTENDING THEIR WORKSHOP AND SPEAKING WITH THEM AT LENGTH ABOUT THE NEW UPGRADES AT CECIL SMITH FIELDS IT IS THEIR OPINION THAT THE OUTFIELD GRASS UPGRADES ON THE A FIELD INSTALLED IN THE FALL SHOULD WAIT ONE FULL YEAR BEFORE ANY TYPE OF USAGE OCCURS.

WHILE WE KNOW DURING THIS TIME PERIOD THE FIELD MAY APPEAR LIKE IT MAY BE PLAYABLE AND THAT ALL PARTIES INVOLVED "CAN'T WAIT" TO UTILIZE THIS NEW FIELD IT IS OUR RECOMMENDATION THAT IF WE REALLY WANT A FIELD THAT WILL BE PLAYABLE FOR LONG RANGE USAGE IT WOULD BE IN EVERYONES INTEREST THAT THE FIELD BE ALLOWED TO BUILD UP ITS DENSITY OF TURF AND CREATE A THATCH LAYER TO PROPERLY TAKE HOLD AND BECOME THE FIELD EVERYONE ENVISIONS.

I KNOW THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF TIME AND COMMITMENT MADE AT THE FIELD AND IT IS WITH THIS DEVOTION THAT I WOULD HOPE WE CAN CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER AND RECOGNIZE WHAT WILL BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF FUTURE USERS OF THIS FACILITY IN THE LONG TERM.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE AND SUPPORT AND HOPE YOU WILL PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION TO ALL INVOLVED AS A MEANS TO EDUCATE EVERYONE ABOUT THE GOOD THINGS COMING AT CECIL SMITH FIELD IN 2011!

MIKE ULRICH, CITY OF PRAIRIE DU CHIEN PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR