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Subject: Proposed revisions for PRC text on artificial play surfacing

Please see below for the original text and our suggested revisions to the July 1, 2019 Policy document:

1. Original text:

Here is a link to the original Text:

<https://www.stamfordct.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/2607/637578051675870000>

Read Page 41 under Environmental Health, from the second to last paragraph.

In 2014 The Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously against the use of artificial turf fields in the City of Stamford. The paragraph after explains why.

Per our Policy Document the Parks and Recreation Commission already has a stance on Artificial Turf (not allowing it); therefore, at the next meeting we do not necessarily have to take a vote. We can reaffirm we stand by the policy document. If the City decided to move forward with the replacement, we do have the power to implement rules and regulations for the use and conduct of all parks and public recreation areas per City Charter.

A direct implication of the discussion above is the Parks & Recreation Commission policy on artificial turf for recreational fields. Environmental concerns and implications for public health were the overriding arguments for the Parks & Recreation Commission to vote unanimously in 2014 against the use of artificial turf fields in the City of Stamford. See Section on Conservation 7.3 for details

2. Proposed revisions:

In 2023, the Parks & Recreation Commission added a policy against the use of poured-in-place rubber surfacing for parks and recreational spaces in Stamford based upon research studies showing chemicals of concern, environmental concerns, and heat concerns. While the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) released findings from their field observation studies, they have not completed the exposure modeling or risk assessment studies to determine if the product is safe for children.

The Parks & Recreation Commission feels there needs to be much more supportive information to counter the personal health, environmental, and economic questions that presently exist before it can permit the installation of any additional artificial turf or poured-in-place rubber surfacing in Stamford's parks and recreational spaces. The discussion of artificial turf and poured-in-place rubber installation should occur in as neutral an environment as possible.

Products, public opinion, aesthetics, economics, and more importantly, scientific research and product safety, are subject to change as new products are introduced to the market. A well informed public and their input at a Public Hearing will most certainly be part of the discussion with regard to any future applications for the use of artificial turf or poured-in-place rubber surfacing.

Thank you!

Jessie Katz
Commissioner
Parks & Recreation Commission
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