



CITY OF WASILLA

290 E. HERNING AVE.
WASILLA, ALASKA 99654-7091
PHONE: (907) 373-9050
FAX: (907) 373-9085

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM No. 97-56

DATE: September 2, 1997

TO: City Councilmembers

FROM: Anthony Leoni *awl*
Parks Maintenance

RE: Fencing Around Old Airport

I was asked to write a memo justifying the need for a fence at the Old Airport Site. I am addressing some of the concerns that Council had about said fence at a previous meeting.

From a maintenance stand point a fence would stop vehicular and ATV traffic. This should be a priority because of child safety and to protect the City's investment in volley ball courts and Wonderland landscaping. The drivers of ATV's like to run from one end to the other at full speed, or use our volley ball pits to spin donuts and jump the berms separating them. They also like to jump the landscaping at Wonderland. Vehicles are now using the site as some kind of short cut to Wendys or the Chevron station. They drive through the shoulder or Nelson or Lucille and go all the way down to the other end, which causes real problems for the roads. The City has had to rebuild that shoulder twice this summer to stop pavement breakdown. With this type of freedom for the speeders, it has caused our crews to go in and remove rocks from the volley ball pits and Wonderland landscaping on a daily basis. All of this traffic causes an abundance of dust and a potential safety issue with the children that use this area.

The reason the fence is placed where it is at this time is because it uses existing fencing as much as possible, keeping the cost down. It effectively encloses Wonderland and the volley ball courts and encloses enough of the Old Airport to start doing some more improvements like planting grass around the volley ball courts and putting some acreage into grass. The one thing for sure is there can be no improvements without a fence all around.

This project would fence off a big enough area to start making this area into a park. Because we don't know where Weber Drive and Weber's lot will be and the roads are surveyed out with curbs and sidewalks, we can't anticipate a

permanent fence for possibly 2 or more years. It's the same situation on the Lucille end where the site plan shows parking lots and a cul-de-sac.

Which brings us to another question. What kind of fence? It matters not whether we put balustrades, cement barricades, rocks or whatever else, as long as it's safe and takes little or no maintenance. That is the reason I chose chain link. It takes zero maintenance and it is heavy enough to do the job we need. It is also reusable and with the Bumpus expansion coming up, 5 ft chain link is perfect and matches the existing fencing. The edge bordering Nelson Avenue should stay chain link because of child escapement from a high use play area to a high traffic street. We have the same issue at Nunley Park along Swanson Avenue. Why would we elect to take down existing, low maintenance chain link fencing in this area just to replace it with high maintenance solid wood fence.

This brings us to the issue of barbed wire. I furnished a packet to Council to see what was proposed. It was the same packet issued to the contractors which were bidding on the project. In that packet was a picture of a typical fence showing all hardware that could be used in the construction of that fence including barbed wire which was just a generic spec picture. All specs pertinent to this project were on the following page. Barbed wire was never even a consideration. In fact, the contractor was to remove existing wire as part of the project.

Furthermore, looking at the site plan, some of the proposed fence could be permanent. Following or surrounding the edge of an existing parking lot the contractor can install a 2 rail split cedar fence or something similar so it wouldn't have to be done twice.

In summary, all this fence does is delineate an area. It doesn't change boundaries. There is a site plan on how the park is supposed to look, there is not a plan on how to go about it. When the City decides to do something with Weber Drive and Weber's lot, then we can do something with that end. Then what to do at Tommy Moe and those parking areas, that is when something can be done with the Lucille end of this project. In the mean time lets start on the middle section. This is a project we can do, call it Phase 1 and make it work.

If you have any questions please contact me or Ken Langlois at 373-3854.