



Proposed are three phases with anticipated costs and timing:

**Phase 1**

Phase 1 will include improvements to ball field infield drainage and installation of grass infield and irrigation, replacement of backstop, replacement and extension of ballfield fence, replacement of dugouts with added fabric shade cloth, new decorative concrete plaza pavement and concrete walks, initiation of Tryon All-Stars bas-relief plaque, initial work on sculpture, replacement of bleachers with added stone columns and wrought iron screens, new stone walls and seat walls, new pedestrian lights and electrical service, new landscape boulders (vehicle barriers) and landscape plantings and grass. Phase 1 is estimated to cost approximately \$256,000 (inclusive of design and administration).

**Project 1 phases and estimated timing**

1. Design, Permitting and Bid Phase – *June-July 2017*
2. Contract Award and Groundbreaking – *August 2017*
3. Construction Phase – *August-November 2017*

**Phase 2**

Phase 2 will include a new ball field scoreboard, the installation of the Tryon All-Stars bas-relief plaque, concrete walks connecting to restrooms and concessions areas, improvements to vehicle parking area, new stone walls and seat walls, new benches, landscape plantings and grass, and completion and installation of sculpture.

Phase 2 is estimated to cost approximately \$200,000 (inclusive of design and administration).

**Project 2 phases and estimated timing**

1. Design, Permitting and Bid Phase – *December 2017-February 2018*
2. Installation of Tryon All-Stars feature – *June- August 2018*
3. Contract Award and Groundbreaking – *March 2018*
4. Construction Phase – *March – June 2018*
5. Installation of Dallara sculpture – *September – November 2018*

**Phase 3**

Phase 3 will include a new exposed aggregate concrete multi-purpose plaza surrounding a new interactive ‘Splash Pad’ water feature, aesthetic improvements and pergola attachment to the existing restroom building, a new equipment building, a new pergola structure with shade cloth and stone columns, benches, new pedestrian lights and electrical service, new landscape boulders (vehicle barriers) and landscape plantings and grass.

Phase 3 is estimated to cost approximately \$460,000 to \$560,000 (inclusive of design and administration).

**Project 3 phases and estimated timing**

1. Design, Permitting and Bid Phase – *Late 2018*
2. Contract Award and Groundbreaking – *January 2019*
3. Construction Phase – *February – June 2019*

Will Behrends stated there are two sculptures to be done. He is very excited about the Tryon All-Stars bas-relief. The original sculptor is about a man who has a deep fondness of Harmon Field. When he thinks about a figure like this, he thinks about who is being portrayed and what it is about. The qualities

in Harry Dallara is what he has brought to Harmon Field, his family and passing along the joy of sports to another generation.

Gordon Hamilton stated there are many people that are going to have the opportunity to see the bas-relief. He gave some background on the All-Stars. They were local young men all from Tryon that loved to play baseball. They studied the mechanics of baseball and played from 1946-1968. They were organized as a semi-pro Negro team. Competitors were from other Negro teams throughout the Carolinas. They played for the chance to be in the big leagues. They didn't have the supplies, funds or support that they should have had, but put their whole hearted effort into playing. They were trying for a shot at being a professional ball player in the Negro league. These young men would have known their role models such as Satchel Page, Josh Gibson, Buck O'Neil and Buck Leonard. They would have also known about Jackie Lee Robinson being signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1946 and Willie Mayes for being signed with the Giants a few years later. We are fortunate to have Will Behrends who made statues of those mentioned and are displayed in prominent places.

There was a restrictive covenant that didn't allow blacks to play at Harmon Field, even though they did play there. This wasn't always enforced. We only know a little about the All-Stars. Ulysses Counts, James Payne and Cleo Booker are the only ones left. The late Fred Counts talked to him about Harmon Field. They played at Harmon Field, even though we weren't supposed to, but the white kids wanted to play us. Cleo Booker also told him, they all played together white and black, during segregation. Everyone got along. They were all role models. They were first class athletes. He supports the recognition of the Tryon All-Stars and this project for Harmon Field.

James Payne spoke on segregation. He remembers a time when blacks were not allowed to go to Harmon Field. They had to sit on the back of the bus. He knows, that is the past and this is a new day. We are all God's children. He is glad things are changing. They had no playground. A group of volunteers got together and built one at Roseland Center. He supports the project.

Charles Dallara stated Mr. Payne captured a sense of humanity in ways that others have not. They would like to spread that sense of humanity around. This project hopefully will play a small part in the future.

Steve Dallara stated they had met with Rotary today and they were very keen on the project. They also met with the President of Converse College to see what she could recommend. Converse has an equestrian program and would love to be involved with Harmon Field. They have met with several different representatives from Converse College. They would be interested in offering clinics for children. They show excitement and want to help with programs.

Ollis stated that we have another meeting starting in seven minutes and asked that the boards and Travis have time to ask questions.

Mr. Payne made a few more comments about Mr. Hawthorne. Mr. Armbrust stated he thinks everyone knows this is a fine project and the phasing is good. This allows Harmon Field to become a destination venue and would make it a greater facility than what we have.

Ollis stated we have heard good stories and background information. There are some technical and financial issues. Being time is running out he asked if anyone had questions to e-mail him or Travis. He would then e-mail those to the Dallara's and copy everyone to carry an open dialogue.

Mr. Armbrust asked if the meeting could be extended for 15 minutes. Chairman Smith and Mr. Covil stated they couldn't stay, both have other meetings to attend.

Mr. Dallara stated they remain fully committed to all three phases of this project, and with the support of the Tryon Town Council, the Harmon Field Board and the Tryon and Polk County communities, we are confident that we can bring this project to fruition and make a lasting difference to future generations to enjoy a significantly enhanced Harmon Field.

Commissioner Ingham stated he was skeptical earlier, but now he is on board.

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Ingham made a motion to adjourn the Board of Commissioners. The motion carried unanimously.

Rick Covil made a motion to adjourn the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors. Mr. Patterson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

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Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk

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Benny Smith, Chairman

Attest:

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Carolyn West, Secretary