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Syosset Baseball Association Announces \$100k Pledge to Stillwell Woods Park Renovation Project

SYOSSET, NY – The Board of Directors of the Syosset Baseball Association has approved a pledge by the SBA of \$100,000 to support the renovation and maintenance of fields at Stillwell Woods Park. The pledge is conditioned on the approval of the acquisition of the park by the Syosset School District, which must be approved by voters on May 18, and the satisfactory planning of turf fields, lighting, parking and comfort stations in the baseball area of the park. The Board will also consider annual maintenance payments following construction and consistent with other park stakeholders to ease the burden on the school district’s taxpayers. This pledge continues the community commitment of the SBA, having donated \$10,000 during the Covid-19 pandemic to local food banks.

The funds will be drawn from the SBA’s field maintenance and improvement funds, and the Board is pleased to dedicate these funds to the common goal of improving the player and spectator experience at Stillwell. Adding turf baseball fields at Stillwell will reduce rain-outs. It will also mitigate the cost of maintenance equipment, including old and dangerous vehicles, pallets of quick-dry sand, field chalk, other equipment and paid maintenance companies. Adding lights will greatly increase field availability and allow for more baseball games to be played in an exciting central hub, rather than in remote parks across the town. By having multiple fields visible from a central hub, parents with children in multiple games can keep up with all the action.

The SBA has a long history serving the Syosset, Woodbury and surrounding communities. The SBA recently joined Little League International, and runs an intramural baseball program for children of all abilities ages 3-17, with an enrollment of nearly 1,000 children. The SBA also runs a competitive travel baseball program, with children at various skill levels competing with teams

from all over Long Island and the Eastern U.S. As part of Little League, the SBA also fields teams for the Little League World Series tournament.

In addition, the SBA enlists the help of approximately 30 middle and high school students as umpires, scorekeepers and field maintenance crew, teaching the values of commitment, leadership and accountability. The SBA also awards three honorary scholarships to graduating seniors who have dedicated significant time to the SBA mission and its values. SBA does not end at graduation - many Board members and coaches are SBA baseball alums.

A major weakness of the SBA program, however, especially compared to other towns, is the present condition of Stillwell Woods Park.

The SBA Board stated, “Stillwell Woods Park is the home to the majority of SBA games. The unmanaged partnership between Nassau County and the Town of Oyster Bay has led to decrepit conditions including insufficient parking, a horrific pothole-strewn access road, absence of restroom and comfort facilities within walking distance to the baseball fields, and most importantly with no on-site park staff, the inability for emergency vehicles to access the back of the park. In a given weekend, the park sees thousands of people attending baseball, soccer, lacrosse, flag football and the bicycle trails that lead from the back of the park. Besides being completely inferior to baseball facilities in all neighboring towns, the inability to access medical attention in the back fields for players and spectators creates a genuine life and death safety hazard.”

“We look forward to working with the school district and our friends from Syosset Soccer and other park stakeholders to make Stillwell a facility in which our community can be proud,” the Board continued.

The SBA urges all interested residents to attend the final information meeting hosted by the Syosset School Board on May 4 at 7:00 pm at South Woods Middle School, 99 Pell Lane, Syosset. The meeting will also be livestreamed, and the link can be accessed on the Calendar tab at Syossetschools.org.

The SBA encourages all residents to learn about the project and vote for the acquisition. We look forward to continuing to serve our community, and hope that this gesture is a token of our willingness to partner with the community to share some of the costs.

For More information/media contact:

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