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Lopez, Donna

From: Julie Croston [juliecroston@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 11:27 AM
To: Lopez, Donna
Cc: teller@mit.edu
Subject: Plastic turf at Danehy

To the City Councillors:

I am the parent of two soccers players, ages 6 and 12. Though neither are, as of yet registered Cambridge Youth Soccer players, my older daughter plays on the existing artificial turf with her school team in the fall, and my younger daughter has just aged out of Cambridge Family Microsoccer which uses Raymond Park.

Here are some critical questions that must be answered about the artificial turf currently used, or proposed to be used. It is incumbent on the city to answer these questions for field end-users and parents of children who use the fields. Until they are answered I feel a hold should be placed on any further turfing of grass fields in the city.

1 What are the origins and components of the turf products proposed or already in use in Cambridge; how do they degrade, and what are the byproducts of its degradation? Are the materials used at risk of becoming airborne or volatile, absorbed through contact, and if so under what conditions?

2 What are the variables—maintenance, weather, wear and tear—that affect degradation?

3 Have the products being used/proposed to be used in Cambridge been evaluated in situ (not just in a lab) by health and environmental researchers for impacts on soil, birds, and habitats, and human end-users? Are these studies reliable? Are they published in peer-reviewed journals? Are the companies that produce and install these products self-policing with regard to environmental and health impacts?

4 What are the experiences of other cities, towns, or private entities in using the **particular** products proposed to replace the grass at two soccer fields this year, and additional fields in subsequent years? And If the product is new, how reliable are the extrapolations of environmental and health impacts?

I also ask: is there an appropriate role for the city's public health officials in offering their professional opinion towards the formulation and addressing of the above questions?

Children need opportunities for organized sports and outdoor experiences of all kinds, and good playing fields for their sports, but at what cost? Our parks in Cambridge need to be oases for humans, birds, and plants—**in the best interests of those very same children.**

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