

Proposal for a Seven-Week Pilot Program for Portable Light Posts at Darien High School

Presented September 29, 2008

To the Board of Education:

Executive Summary

The youth sports of Darien is requesting the Darien Board of Education (BoE) approve a seven-week pilot program to provide portable light posts to the Darien High School stadium field at Darien High School (DHS). The program will be funded by Darien youth sports and is an addition to the one portable light post currently permitted.

The purpose of this pilot program is to provide a safe environment to a variety of DHS and youth sports programs for their practices by re-creating the sunlight available the first week of September throughout their entire season. This proposal would be in effect October 13, 2008 through approximately November 29, 2008. (The exact date will be determined by Darien High School participation in state tournaments.) Currently four sports programs -- Darien High School boys football, Darien High School field hockey, Darien Junior Football and girls youth field hockey -- practice daily on more than five fields (both turf and grass) throughout Darien from 2:30 to 8:30 pm. In October, as the sun sets earlier, coaches must begin their practices earlier as well as shorten them. The result is congested fields. The same number of athletes who used to practice over a span of five hours in early September only have two hours in November.

This proposal, which would be exclusively for practices, would allow these sports programs an opportunity to continue to practice in the same designated time slots each week in November that were available the first week of September. Additional benefits of the portable lights include:

- Providing a safer environment for practices in days where “flat light” occurs due to cloud cover;
- Providing a safer environment for car congestion that occurs at drop off/pick up;
- Maximizing the use of the stadium turf field, a precious asset for the community, for all parties.

At the end of the calendar year, the Board of Education would evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program, soliciting feedback from all parties, and determine if it would want to extend the program to the fall of 2009.

Background

Currently two DHS and two youth one-season sports programs are affected by the earlier sunsets in the fall. Many of these programs begin their practices the first week of September when the sun sets at approximately 8 pm. By late October, the sun sets around 5:53 pm. Daylight saving ends on November 2 this year and thereafter sunset occurs at 4:50 pm. On days of heavy cloud cover or rain, the amount of available of light is even less. **This means that these sports programs**

have 2 ½ - 3 fewer hours of available practice time near the end of the season compared to the beginning.

This results in overcrowded turf fields and car congestion during drop off/pick up times as well as many practices being canceled for one or more of these three primary reasons:

- Limited field space;
- Weather-related closures of the town’s grass fields;
- Limited availability of volunteer coaches who work in Manhattan and can’t leave work until 4 pm at the earliest.

The impact of the shorter hours of daylight is great. We estimate these four sports programs have over 1,175 players participating:

DHS boys football (all teams)	115
DHS girls field hockey (all teams)	60
YMCA girls youth field hockey	325
DJFL football	<u>575</u>
Total	1,175

Proposed Solution

We are proposing that the Board of Education extend the number of portable lights, currently grandfathered at one light, ideally to an additional five portable lights posts at the DHS stadium turf field.

A subcommittee made up of Darien Junior Football League (DJFL) Board members and concerned parents for safety have crafted this proposal that should meet all critical issues:

- Provide a *safe* environment for both DHS and youth sports to practice when daylight is poor or non existent;
- *No* change in athletes’ normally scheduled September practices;
- *Increase* the utilization of the stadium field in the fall by simulating the sunlight available to these sports at the beginning of their season *but* no longer;
- *Decrease* the car congestion in the fall from pick up/drop off due to the same number of athletes practicing on the fields in a two hour time frame rather than four or five hours
- Pilot program to be *only* used for practices Monday thru Friday;
- Position lights so that they face towards fields and *away* from neighbors;
- Utilize new technology for portable light posts with generators that are *quieter* than previous models.

The cost and maintenance of the pilot program for the stadium field would be funded by youth sports with an expected cost to be approximately \$10,000. The DJFL and youth groups will be responsible for maintenance of the lights with consultation from the Board of Education. At the end of the pilot program, the DJFL will be responsible for the removal of the portable lights.

Proposal

The proposal is to supplement the one grandfathered portable light post at the DHS stadium turf field with five additional portable light posts so that these sports programs can utilize the majority of the field. The specifics:

Type of Lights:	Magnum MLT3060 Light Posts with four 1000-watt bulbs per unit. (See Appendices A - C for details.)
Location:	Light posts for the stadium turf will be positioned on the north and east side of the field <i>only</i> so that lights would be facing away from any neighbors. (See Appendix D for a layout.) The lights will be located on the track near the turf field.
Restrictions:	Although the light posts can be raised to 30 feet, they would be <i>limited to 20 feet</i> to comply with existing P&Z ordinances.
Hours of Operation:	The lights would be utilized only on weeknights. <i>No weekend use will be allowed and lights would be turned off by 8:30 pm.</i>
Light Spillage:	The proposed light posts allow for a directly-focused beam of light and will be pointed only to the field. (The track will not be lit.)
Noise:	Each light post is powered by a generator with sound output described by the manufacturer as equivalent to an “idling GM Suburban truck” due to extensive insulation. <i>No</i> amplified sound will be allowed during these practices.
Usage:	DHS athletics would have use of the field until 5:30 pm and youth sports would have access shortly thereafter and until 8:30 pm. The lit field would be <i>only</i> for practices. Games are not permitted.
Limits on Usage:	The DHS would have access to the lit field until December 1, 2008 or thereabouts in order to provide an appropriate practice environment for any state playoffs. In November, the DJFL’s need for field space dramatically decreases because the flag football program will have finished and tackle teams begin to be eliminated in the playoffs. (In past years the number of teams that practice after the first week in November has been approximately four to six, not all 16 currently using the facilities.)
Maintenance:	The DJFL will take care of the maintenance and fueling of the portable lights. As the specifications outline in Appendix C, the lights will run for approximately 64 hours before they need refueling. Assuming three hours per day of operation, each unit will require a refueling every 20 days or four weeks. It is therefore expected that each light post will need to be refueled once during the seven-week pilot program.
Insurance:	The DJFL carries a limited liability policy that provides a \$1,000,00 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 general aggregate insurance policy for any claims arising from its football programs. In conjunction with insurance coverage held by the Darien school system, all liability issues pertaining to the light posts should be covered.
Traffic:	There would be an additional benefit of less traffic at peak times as the number of cars dropping off and picking up players would be spread out over a greater period.

- Trash:** As is currently the policy, each team and its head coach would be responsible for trash collection after each practice.
- Security and Theft:** Youth sports will provide theft insurance of all portable light posts.

Additional Issues

In order to be prepared for the time frame outlined in this proposal, the sub committee asks that the Board of Education study this proposal and implement as quickly as possible so that the sub committee working with youth sports can immediately locate and secure the necessary portable light posts. If approved, this proposal will put Darien High School and youth sports on par with every other town in Fairfield County. It will also dramatically increase the safety of the children participating since it will replicate the light of early September.

This proposal is submitted by the following individuals:

- Guy Wisinski & Lou Gesualdi on behalf of DJFL
- Peggy Barthold & Debbie Coley on behalf of the concerned parents and supporters of youth sports.

MLT3060 Light Tower

6 kW Mobile Lighting in a Narrow-Bodied Package

The Magnum MLT3060 Light Tower is our most popular model; just the right amount of power with the right amount of illumination. The 4 - 1000 watt light assemblies' offers complete flexibility with 360 degree rotation, steadfast in winds up to 65+ mph, sturdy outrigger stability along with five to seven acres of light on the site.

Call our sales team today and see how this light tower package can be in your yard tomorrow.

Features

Tough

- Full tubular steel frame trailer
- 30 foot all-steel mast
- 4 - 1,000 watt metal halide lights
- 4 point outrigger stance withstands 65+ mph winds

Reliable

- 4-stroke diesel engine
- Marathon generator
- Low oil/high temperature automatic shutdowns
- Protective start limit breaker
- Individual light breaker switches & ballast boxes
- 2 year - 2,000 hour warranty

Easy to Use

- Adjustable 360 degree mast rotation
- 120V and 240V convenience receptacles
- Lockable cabinet
- DOT running light package on trailer
- Fork guides on the mast and under the trailer

Appendix B: MLT3060 Pictures



Appendix C: MLT3060 Specifications

Specifications

Engine

Make/Brand	Mitsubishi
Model	L3E-W461ML
Aspiration	Natural
Type	Diesel, liquid cooled, 4-stroke
Power - Prime hp (kW)	10.5 (7.8)
Power - Standby hp (kW)	12.2 (9.1)
Operating Speed rpm	1800
Displacement cubic in (L)	57.97 (0.95)
Cylinders	3
Fuel Consumption - Prime gph (Lph)	0.47 (1.78)

Generator

Make/Brand	Marathon Electric
Type	Brushless
Insulation	F

Generator Set (Engine/Gen)

Output - Standby kW (kVA)	6.0 (6.0)
Output Voltage V	120/240
Output Amperes 120V (240V)	50 (25)
Frequency Hz	60
Power Factor	1.0 (1 Phase)

Lighting

Lighting Type	Metal halide
Ballast Type	Coil & core
Lumens	440,000
Coverage acres (sq. meters)	5 - 7 (20,234 - 28,328)

Capacities

Fuel Tank gal (L)	30 (114)
Coolant (incl. engine) qt (L)	4.5 (4.3)
Oil (incl. filter) qt (L)	3.8 (3.6)
Maximum Run Time hrs	64

Size and Weight

Maximum height of tower ft (m)	30 (9.14)
Length w/ mast stowed in (m)	170 (4.32)
Width in (m)	49 (1.25)
Width w/ outriggers extended in (m)	98 (2.49)
Height w/ mast stowed in (m)	68 (1.73)
Dry Weight lbs (kg)	1640 (744)
Operating Weight lbs (kg)	1853 (841)

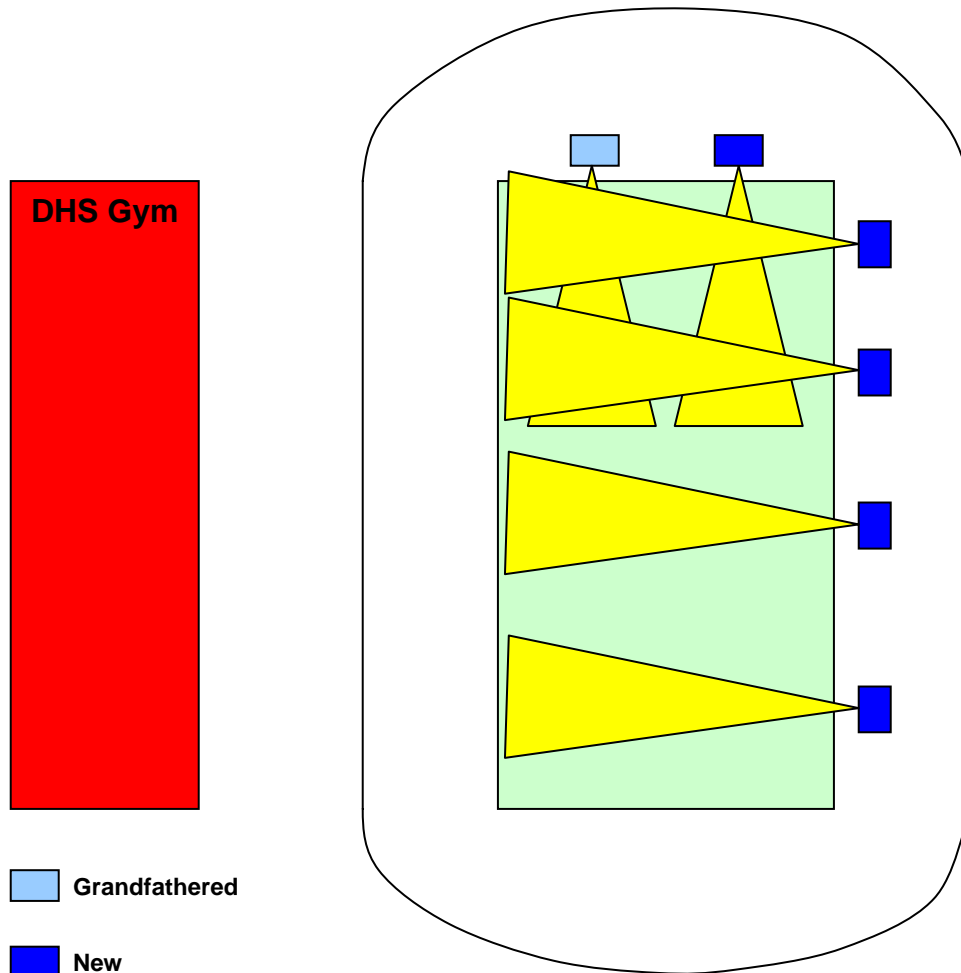
Electrical Distribution

Circuit Breaker Size	30
Voltage Selection	N/A
Voltage Regulation	Capacitor +/-6%
AC Voltage - 1 Phase	120, 240
Battery Voltage (qty per unit)	12V (1)
Battery Rating	440 CCA
120V-20 amp GFCI Duplex - qty	1
240V-30 amp Twist Lock - qty	1
240V-50 amp Twist Lock - qty	N/A

Trailer

Number of Axles	1
Capacity - Axle Rating lbs (kg)	2200 (998)
Tire Size in	13
Brakes	N/A
Hitch	2" Ball
Maximum Tire Pressure psi	50

Appendix D: DHS Stadium Turf Layout



Note that this is just a layout and not drawn to scale. The light projections are only to provide a rough idea of which way the lights will be projecting.