

Rader, Jeff

From: Acklin, Tim [TPACKLIN@southernco.com]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 10:56 AM
To: Rader, Jeff
Subject: FW: Plans for PATH to cut through baseball field at Medlock Park
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Monday, January 28, 2008 12:00 AM
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Mr. Rader & Ms. Gannon,

My name is Tim Acklin and I am the President of Druid Hills Youth Sports, the youth baseball organization serving the needs of children in DeKalb County and Decatur at Medlock Park since 1962. I know you are familiar with our organization and I certainly appreciate the support you have given us over the years. However, I write to you today somewhat perplexed as to why we were not notified of last night's oversight committee meeting for the implementation of the PATH project @ Medlock Park, especially since it appears the trail plans have changed based on information provided at a PATH meeting just two weeks ago. At that previous meeting, the plans appeared to 'skirt' the outside fence of the existing ball field, I believe to be Field 6 at Medlock Park. In fact, Carol Sbarge, who I succeeded as President of DHYS, was in attendance and was told by representatives of PATH that the trail would have no impact on any baseball fields at Medlock Park nor the interior parking lot. Based on that information, we were satisfied that we could go ahead with our plans to operate a baseball league . @ Medlock Park for DeKalb County youth for the 46th consecutive year.

As you can see from the email received below late yesterday afternoon, finding out about this meeting a mere 25 minutes in advance from an organization strongly attempting to halt the project is not the way we would like to learn about proposed changes to County projects affecting the park. We would like to have enough time to digest the information presented and have the ability to form our own opinion. Perhaps there is a way to stay in touch with County projects affecting Medlock Park and Kittredge. If so, I would appreciate knowing where to find that information and will make sure we are represented as an organization with a vested interest.

Additionally, I attended a Dekalb County Baseball Association President's meeting the same night of the previous PATH meeting and received the facilities use agreement for use of the fields @ Medlock Park. There was no mention of any potential disruption of the fields. As a result, we are set to start our season with player evaluations next Saturday, February 2 and plan on the use of all fields at Medlock. If this is not going to be the case based on the proposed changes, we need to know.

With that said, I would like to know your availability so we can sit down and discuss the project and how it will affect the fields. We continue to grow as an organization and expect that over 800 children will be registered to play baseball @ Medlock this Spring. Marvin Billups and his group have been very supportive of our needs to make Field 5 at the park usable after a number of years of inactivity. We need Field 5 to address the wait list situation we are experiencing with the younger age groups in the program. The last thing we want to do is turn a child away from playing. We appreciate your continued support in addressing this issue and look forward to discussing the PATH project in an attempt to find a workable solution for all affected @ Medlock.

Thank You.

Tim Acklin
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