



*"Today We Touch Tomorrow"*

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**Community Recreation Center  
Public Meeting  
Tuesday, August 13, 2019  
Sehmel Homestead Park  
Volunteer Vern Pavilion  
10123 – 78<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
6:00-7:30 p.m.**

**Welcome and Introductions** (EG)

Please sign in including legible e-mail address

**Background/Meeting Purpose** (EG)

PMP Overview

FAQ sheet (EG)

**Site Overview (+Park Elements)**

**General Questions**

**Ideas & Comments**

**Next Steps**

Distribute comments

Share updates

**Adjournment**

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# Sehmel Homestead Park Lighting – FAQ

## 1. **Why are lights being considered as Sehmel Homestead Park?**

PenMet Parks has received comments at Board meetings since Sehmel Homestead Park (SHP) was built, identifying the difficult situation with recreation field availability for the growing youth recreation programs in the community, while school use of fields continues to increase. Besides building new fields, one solution for finding additional field time is to add lights to existing fields, especially fields with synthetic turf such as Sehmel Homestead Park.

During Standard Time, from November into March, the SHP field is unusable to the community users during weekdays because it is dark by the time most teams would practice.

The user groups asked PenMet to consider adding lights to SHP to meet growing field demand.

## 2. **We thought there weren't going to be lights at SHP.**

In the late 1990's, when the idea of Sehmel Homestead Park began, grass fields were typical. Grass fields do not stand up to extensive use during the wet weather of winter, from November through February; grass fields need to rest and rejuvenate.

When the discussion of lighting the fields or not arose, winter use of grass fields was not expected, so lights wouldn't be worth the investment.

By the time the park was designed and built in 2010, synthetic turf was more common, more affordable, and the surface recommended by experts.

The SHP soccer/football field cost approximately \$700,000. During winter's four months, for the 5 weekdays of a 7-day week, the expensive field is unused due to darkness.

With the field time for community users declining, adding some hours during the winter through the use of field lights is a logical and economical option.

## 3. **What would lights look like?**

Athletic field lighting technology has significantly evolved, and continues to evolve.

Current technology with LED directed lighting minimizes light spillage, both horizontally and vertically (dark sky).

The proposed lighting system meets IDA (International Darksky Association) requirements for sky glow. Lights are directed down onto the field only.

Lights would be turned off on the field after activities have concluded, and then parking lights would be turned off after the park is closed.

The hours the fields would be lighted would replicate the hours fields are available during the summer with activity ending about 9pm.

## 4. **What are other considerations?**

a. **Noise**-Weeknight activity on the field is typically practice time. There is very little cheering nor loud noise. The playground and courts are not being considered for lighting to further minimize noise and after dark park use.

b. **Parking lighting**-To assist pedestrians safely returning to their vehicles and general security, parking lights are planned for the turf parking area and the amphitheater parking area. The amphitheater parking is the overflow parking area for the turf, and amphitheater parking lights will also provide safety and security for events such as movies in the park or theater productions.

## 5. **What are the next steps?**

PenMet plans to evaluate comments from the public meeting to assess future direction.

