



**Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board**

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Secretary to the Board
Jennifer B. Ringold

February 24, 2017

Cam Gordon
Minneapolis City Council
350 South 5th Street, Room 307
Minneapolis, MN 55415

RE: Proposed resolution on waste tires

Dear Council Member Gordon:

Thank you for being in contact with us about the resolution on waste tires that you plan to bring before the Health, Environment, and Community Engagement Committee on February 27. As I am sure you understand, this proposed resolution could have a significant impact on MPRB's ability to provide high quality and community desired recreational facilities. MPRB is following the waste tire dialog closely and its staff participated on the Waste Tire Subcommittee you asked to be convened. We, too, put the health of the recreating public as our highest priority, but we feel an outright ban is premature at this time.

MPRB operates eight premier artificial turf sports fields with crumb rubber infill (we do not use rubber mulch in our playgrounds). Those sports fields allow us to extend the season and playing time for active sports, and we have recently completed a planning process that identifies additional premier facilities in our parks. We are continuing to research alternative materials to crumb rubber and to study our options, and we expect to carefully consider materials upon implementation or renovation of premier fields.

The science, however, is not settled. Two ongoing studies will provide additional guidance on the health effects—or lack thereof—of recreating on crumb rubber fields. We believe that any City ban prior to the completion of these studies is premature. A ban may limit our ability to build the kinds of facilities the public has asked for through years of community engagement. Though we have also heard community concerns about crumb rubber and will proceed carefully with new or refurbished facilities, the proposed resolution will limit our flexibility to implement projects on budget and may reduce the total amount of amenities we are able to build.

MPRB would prefer any action to be more in line with the Waste Tire Subcommittee's recommendations, which specifically recognize the ongoing studies and address upcoming MPRB projects.



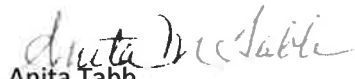
MPRB always appreciates the City Council's collaboration on matters that overlap our two agencies. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Jayne Miller
Superintendent

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board



Anita Tabb
President

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Cc: MPRB Commissioners
Minneapolis City Council Members

From: [Gordon, Cam A.](#)
To: [Menshek, Peggy Y](#)
Subject: FW: Resolution on Monday about waste tires in playgrounds, plus video link
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:23:00 PM

For the public record

From: Nancy Doyle Brown [mailto:nancyjdoyle@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 8:14 PM
To: Gordon, Cam A.; Cano, Alondra; Bender, Lisa; Elizabeth A. Glidden; Frey, Jacob; Johnson, Andrew
Subject: Resolution on Monday about waste tires in playgrounds, plus video link

HECE committee members,

Thank you for your attention to the issue of waste tires installed in kids' playgrounds in Minneapolis.

Play it Safe Minneapolis was founded in 2015 by parents and health advocates with the goal of removing waste tires from Minneapolis public school playgrounds.

We believe that the city also has an important role to play on this issue, as there are waste tires in private school playgrounds, child care centers, and other locations.

In addition to the health concerns related to toxins coming out of the tires and into kids, these materials also create heat islands in the warmer months and migrate into our waterways.

Play it Safe Minneapolis strongly endorses the resolution that Council Member Cam Gordon plans to offer on Monday, February 27, at the HECE meeting. We urge you to support this resolution.

For those who haven't seen it, I also wanted to pass along a link to this new video featuring Harvard School of Public Health epidemiologist Dr. Stuart Shalat. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEVeAmqHTSM&feature=youtu.be>. There are more good stories and links on the Play It Safe Minneapolis Facebook page too, <https://www.facebook.com/playitsafeminneapolis/>

Thank you! Please don't hesitate to call me at 612-227-1291.

Nancy Brown

From: [Karlie Cole](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Tire Mulch should never be used especially near children
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017 6:20:09 PM

I fully support the resolution to prohibit the use of City funds for the installation or replacement of any facilities or amenities using waste tires and encouraging others to discontinue the use of waste tire materials as ground cover and infill in Minneapolis.

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-194284>

Please pass this!

Thank you -

Karlie Cole
Kingfield Resident

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Karlie Cole