



Businessman questions park district's decision

By Lisa Wakeland • lwakeland@communitypress.com • October 15, 2010

A planned sewer expansion project on Round Bottom Road has started, but the location of the line as it runs through Anderson Township remains undecided.

Mark Schmidt, president of Blue Chip Pavement Maintenance Inc., said he wants to get sanitary sewers to his business on Mt. Carmel Road and that it appears the Anderson Township Park District is holding up the project.

The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati approached the Park District in 2009 for a 20-foot permanent easement for the sewer line in front of Riverside Park, but negotiations stalled.

Schmidt said he understands there are new considerations with the recent installation of the synthetic turf fields, but asked why the Park District was resistant to giving the easement.

Park Commissioner Duffy Beischel said they've had a number of issues with the project, primarily the loss of field use.

Beischel said that installation construction would take some fields out of commission and it would take time to get those fields playable again.

While the fields at Riverside Park were unused, Beischel said the Park District would lose income.

And even if they moved teams to other parks it would create more wear and tear on those fields, Beischel said.

He added that the sewer line would come close to the water well and the Metropolitan Sewer District could not guarantee the well would not be damaged.

Schmidt asked if the Park District would agree to the easement if the price was right, but Beischel said the amount of money offered is not as big of a concern as the loss of use in the park.

Park Commissioner Dale Bartholomew said the project was engineered years ago, before Riverside Park was developed, and the Sewer District hasn't brought updated plans to the Park District in nearly a year.

Tony Dick, who works for the Sewer District, said they have agreed to investigate moving the line to the east side of Round Bottom Road, across from the park.

If the sewer line was installed on the Riverside Park side of the road the Park District would not be able to install any permanent structures, including lights or additional trees, on the easement.

Beischel noted that because of erosion issues along the banks of the Little Miami River development of Riverside Park over the past decade has moved closer to Round Bottom Road.



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