

Rec park

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them," Griffiths said. But once the land is secured, "we would sit down with all of them about making a permanent home for them."

In addition to fields, the recreation committee foresees walking paths, mountain bike trails and picnic areas on the property.

"There are a lot of opportunities here," Griffiths said. "It's not that anyone will be closed out of it."

Griffiths said he is unsure what the school board will want to do with the 12-acre site of the present baseball fields. But he's sure the land won't be used for a recreation park. "It's too small for us," he said. That raises another question: Would the Little League rather buy the land they've already developed?

Back Mountain Baseball has paid a \$1 yearly lease for the property, and has made all improvements at its own expense. Through the years, the league has rebuilt the grounds, added lights, fences, a scorer's booth and concession stand, and maintained the area. But there was no lease last year, and that has Jack Snyder, beginning his third term as league president, concerned.

Even when there was a signed lease, it contained a 90-day cancellation clause. "I hold my breath until April 1, then I know we can get the season in," he said.

Snyder said the league would like to make more improvements, such as adding dugouts to the upper fields, which he sees as a

"If they want to talk, we're ready to talk any time."

Jack Snyder
President, BMT Baseball Inc.

safety item. But the district has resisted adding anything permanent beyond what is already on the site.

The league placed a small advertisement in December 9 issue of *The Dallas Post*, seeking 15 to 20 acres of land, should it become necessary to move the fields. They received two responses, but haven't yet looked at the property. "We really don't want to move," said Tom Dougherty, who serves as vice president for fundraising. But he said the only figure they've heard for the present 12 acre property is \$1.2 million, which was an appraisal the school district received a few years ago when Wyoming Valley Health Care System was looking for land for the new Dallas Family Practice. The health care facility ended up being built off Upper Demands Rd.

Snyder said BMT Baseball had made an offer of "several hundred thousand dollars" not long after that, which was rejected. But he's not ready to give up, and hopes negotiations may still establish a fair value. "If they want to talk, we're ready to talk any time," he said.

Survey shows wide support

The survey sent in mid-September by the Back Mountain Recreation Center Ad Hoc Committee brought overwhelmingly positive responses. The committee sent 13,976 survey forms, and 1,826 (13 percent) were returned. That is a large response for this type of questionnaire. Highlights of the results:

- 1,621 (89%) respondents thought there was an overall need for a regional recreation center.
- Responding households contain 5,495 people. Of those, 3,149 are over age 18, 1,468 are under age 12 and 878 are ages 12-18.
- A swimming pool topped the indoor use choices, (1,398), followed by a walking track (1,220), a weight room (1,073), a gymnasium (921), a coffee house (891) and a whirlpool (863).
- The leading outdoor use was parks (1,558), followed by walking trails (1,529), biking trails (1,008), fields (922) and roller skating/skate boarding (833), tennis courts (625) and outdoor basketball (601).

They sing of Christmas joy

Members of the congregation at Dallas United Methodist Church walked the town Saturday evening, stopping to sing Christmas carols for appreciative residents. Joining in song were Jason, Bob and Donna Jolley; Dave, Wendy and Mallory Carey; Kevin, Adam and Bruce Cottle; Sharon, Ethan and Rev. William Lewis; Amy and Jennifer Withers, and Cathy Palfrey.



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