February 8, 2010

Stoughton Baseball Improvement Organization

Stoughton Baseball Improvement (SBI) was started in 1992 by a small group of concerned citizens desiring to make improvements to the SHS baseball field. Over the years this group has raised and donated monies for upkeep and various projects at SHS. Due to the groups early and on-going efforts, the SHS faciltiy is considered among the best fields in Dane County.

In 2005 SBI had an influx of new leadership who decided to expand the scope of SBI to include other baseball diamonds in Stoughton. Among the projects completed in the last 5 years are:

- Funding and installation of an underground irrigation system and new infield at Norse Park – valued at about $18,000
- Funding of the batting cage expansion at SHS – valued at about $11,000
- Purchase of riding lawn mowers at SHS and Norse Park - $2,500
- New storage sheds at Norse and Lowell Parks - $2,000
- Material and to raise the infield level at SHS - $6,000
- New pitching mounds built at SHS, Norse and Lowell - $1,800
- Safety fence topping at Norse Park - $500

These projects are in addition to diamond materials and maintenance labor provided at SHS and Norse Parks at an annual cost of about $5,000. SBI also provides hundreds of hours in volunteer labor in conjunction with City projects.

SBI funding has come for concession revenue, donations and an annual baseball banquet. These funding sources are thinning and SBI has a need for a new revenue source to keep providing support to the City for diamond upkeep.

We are looking to expand into a traditional baseball revenue source in outfield fence advertising at Norse and Lowell parks. This form of advertising revenue is commonplace at all levels of baseball and evident at parks all over Dane County.

The partnership between SBI and the City of Stoughton is dependent upon a strong SBI financial base and we need this revenue source.