

February 19, 2015

Larry Tomec  
Director of Business Services  
Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools  
6638 Mill Road  
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

**Re: Bid Summary and Recommendations  
Renovation of Synthetic Turf Playing Field**

Dear Mr. Tomec:

On Thursday, February 19, 2015, five (5) bids were received for the Brecksville-Broadview Heights Synthetic Turf Field Replacement at the Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools Administration Offices. The bid were opened and publicly read at 12:00 PM.

Base bid prices for this contract ranged from \$33,600 to \$110,698. Three bids were under the base bid estimate of \$60,000. Each of the synthetic turf surfaces were bid as alternates. Alternate Bids #1-A through #1-E were each blended style turfs. Of the blended style turfs, The Motz Group, was the low bid with \$318,611. When added to their base bid amount, The Motz Group remained the low bid amongst the blended style turf with a total bid of \$352,211. Alternate Bids #1-F through #1-J were each monofilament style turfs. Of the monofilament turfs, SCG (Astroturf) was the low bid with \$310,078. When added to their base bid amount, SCG (Astroturf) remained the low bid amongst the monofilament style turfs with a total bid of \$349,211. Voluntary Alternate Bid #3 gave the turf vendors an opportunity to bid a higher end turf product which is a blended turf with an additional thatch layer. Three bids were received for Alternate Bid #3. The low bidder was SCG (Astroturf) with a bid of \$339,197. When combined with base bid, SCG (Astroturf) remained the low bidder with a total bid of \$378,436. Alternate Bid #2 was to pave the south 'D-Area'. The lowest bid amongst Alternate Bid #2 is SCG (Astroturf) with a bid of \$27,131, over double the estimate of \$13,400.

Each turf surface mentioned above has its own individual advantages and disadvantages.

The overall low bid on the project is a monofilament turf submitted by SCG (Astroturf). Monofilament is a second generation infilled turf product and is known for most closely looking like individual blades of grass. Monofilament turf products have only been in existence for approximately twelve years and have had much advancement over this time. Some early monofilament turf products experienced early failure and were known to layover. Monofilaments are also known to have the highest amount of infill 'splash'. This is a condition where the carpet fibers will not keep the infill from coming out of the turf fibers creating a splash-like effect. Your first turf field was an early monofilament product. Since the early monofilaments, turf manufacturers have made several advancements to correct those early issues. The shapes of the carpet fibers have each been modified and the overall weight of the carpet has been increased to help ensure current carpets are more durable. It does seem these improvements have improved current monofilament products, but there are few long term successful examples. The specified face weight of this product was 42 oz./s.f.

The low bid for a blended style turf is The Motz Group. A blended style turf combines the first generation infilled turf product, slit film, with monofilament. The idea of a blended turf is to obtain the longevity of slit

film turf with the appearance of monofilament. Blended style turf products entered the market about five years ago and have been quickly gaining popularity. Blended style turfs are also known for helping reduce infill 'splash' since the slit film turf is known for wide blades and laying over which helps hold down the infill material. The blended style turf is also suggested for fields where there will be a greater use, especially for marching bands which focus their work on the yard lines. The turf industry appears to be moving toward the heavier weight, blended turf products. The specified face weight of this product was 46 oz./s.f.

The third turf option is a blended style turf with an extra thatch like layer or 'rootzone'. The low bid for this option was SCG (Astroturf). This style of turf takes the blended style turf discussed above, adding an extra string like layer which adds additional weight to the turf, as well as creating the best product for holding in the turf infill. This product has among the heaviest face weights of any turf surfaces you will find installed at the high school and collegiate level. The face weight for this product is 52 oz./s.f.

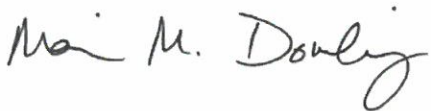
Behnke Associates has worked with both SCG and The Motz Group and have had very positive experiences with both. SCG has worked as an installer with several different synthetic turf companies over the years; most recently have been associated with Astroturf. Our most recent field with SCG, Denison soccer field in Cleveland Heights was not an Astroturf field; however, it was a good experience with SCG. Our most recent experience with The Motz Group was at Orange High School and that field was recently named an ASBA (American Sports Builders Association) 2014 Field of the Year. We are comfortable with either company.

Based upon the carpet face weight and projected long term durability, the blended turf product appears to be the best value. Should the funds be available, Alternate Bid #3, the blended turf with the thatch layer, is the best option of these three turfs. We do not recommend awarding Alternate Bid #2, paving the south 'D-Area'. We feel this work could be done at a cheaper price directly through a paving contractor.

If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

BEHNKE ASSOCIATES, INC.



Marie M. Dowling, RLA, LEED-AP  
Attachments



