

GOCO grant awarded for track project

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Fully funding the Phillips County Community Track Project grant request, Great Outdoors Colorado approved \$350,000 last week for the project located on the Holyoke School District track and football field grounds.

Great Outdoors Colorado board of directors met Tuesday, June 11 to officially award grants, including the Phillips County track project.

Holyoke School Superintendent Bret Miles announced the good news at the school board meeting that night. He said the district is excited to get the construction process rolling for this long-awaited community project.

Scheduled completion date for the all-weather track and lighting project is Aug. 22 so that the field may be used for the 2013 football games.

However, a celebration/ribbon cutting type of dedication ceremony will not be held until next spring in conjunction with a local track meet.

Miles said he's also been asked whether the track will be named. He emphasized that right now the focus is on construction.

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Track, lighting, restroom renovation, exercise station included in project

When completely finished, the community track project will include an eight-lane post-tensioned concrete base with red all-weather polyurethane bound surface track.

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Additionally, the project includes new triple jump, long jump and pole vault runways and pits; a Musco four-pole lighting system for the football field and track; fixtures, partitions and new flooring for restroom renovation; and a 10-piece outdoor exercise station.

Seventy-five percent of the GOCO grant funds (\$259,300) will go toward the post-tensioned concrete eight-lane track, \$45,000 is designated for the Musco lighting system and \$45,700 for the polyurethane bound surface and striping for the track.

Other funding items are the design; performance bond; high jump areas (concrete and surface); pole vault surface; long jump and triple jump lanes; timing system, hurdles/equipment/protective mats; 10-piece outdoor fitness station; restroom fixtures, partitions and new flooring; and buffalo and other native grass seed.

The HHS football field, including goal posts and scoreboard, will not be moved. This is a change from previous proposals and will save much in-kind work on the part of the school district.

The west side of the existing track will be expanded to the east, cutting in to the grass area of the football sidelines. The east side of the existing track will also be expanded to the east, so the visitor bleachers will be moved to the east.

Miles said the high jump pad will be moved from the south to the north to distribute people further across the site for a track meet.

The eight lights that had been used on the field have been removed and will be replaced by four Musco lights that will be placed on the outside of the track. Miles said fewer lights will require less electricity.

The lighting should provide a brighter field and will be focused directly on the field so neighbors in the surrounding area should not see the flooding light as they've experienced in the past.

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