

2009

Dear Friends of Baseball:

The Escanaba Facilities Committee was formed almost three years ago as a subcommittee of the Eskymo Fan Club. Our goal was to build a new concession stand under our 60-year old football stadium, owned by the Escanaba Schools. Because of the support of our community, in the last year we were able to build, not only a new concession stand, but new bathrooms, new ticket booths, a room for the marching band, baseball storage room, a handicapped ramp and handrails on the football stadium, painting and restoration of the facilities all tied together by beautiful landscaping. It is a huge asset to our community. Our committee has raised over \$350,000.00 so far and the value of our project is estimated at over \$500,000.00 because we used all volunteer labor.

When we initially planned our project and set our goals, phase I included the improvements listed in the first paragraph. Now we are in the process of raising funds and will go on to phase II which involves Al Ness Baseball Field. Because we are moving our efforts on to city property, our committee has recently become independent and is no longer affiliated with the Fan Club. We have recently received approval to construct a well in the area between the football field and the baseball field. This well will be able to provide water to the football field, football practice fields, the baseball field and the three softball fields in the same three- block area. We envision a beautiful, plush green landscaped area to accent the playing fields, all kept watered for an extremely low cost. Phase II also includes improvements to the baseball field. We will be leveling the infield and replacing the sod, restoring the pitching mound, replacing the dirt on the baselines, topdressing the outfield, and modifying the warning track. The backstop fencing will also be replaced. Our old rusty, unsafe bleachers will be replaced with a new 200- seat stadium with a new press box.

The Al Ness Baseball Field has been used by the Escanaba Cubs American Legion team since 1945. It is also used by the Escanaba Junior Cubs, The Escanaba Eskymos High School Baseball Team, The Polecats college age team, the newly formed Wooden Bat League for age 30 and over, and occasionally by the Escanaba Little League. It has been meticulously groomed and maintained by The City of Escanaba and volunteers over the past 63 years and will continue to be managed by a proud group of baseball enthusiasts in the future.

I'm sure you have many questions and we would love to talk to you about our ambitious project. Feel free to give us a call with any questions you may have.

We sincerely thank you for your consideration.

Randy Kleiman

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