



Oceanside Collegiate Academy
580 Faison Road
Mount Pleasant, SC 29466

Over the past week, there has been some confusion surrounding an upcoming potential project at Carolina Park. We at Oceanside Collegiate Academy wanted to take the opportunity to clear up any misinformation and present our idea on improving Carolina Park to create a valuable community space. To start, some facts and figures have been incorrectly reported, and we'd like the chance to shed some more light on elements related to funding. To help clarify the intentions and budget of this project, we have listed out the following facts:

- Town of Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation has been using Oceanside Collegiate Academy's Gymnasium for the last 3 years when not in use by the school itself. OCA's Gymnasium is actually used more by outside groups than by its own students.
- For more than a year, OCA has worked closely with Town staff and Councilman Gary Santos to understand the planned and funded development for the next phase of Carolina Park.
- It was explained to Oceanside that the next phase of Carolina Park included a regulation baseball field, two softball fields, a service road, additional parking, and a grass rectangle field in addition to the required site development.

OCA has been independently working with a variety of stakeholders on the development of its own school property, which is adjacent to Carolina Park. Just over a year ago OCA published architectural renderings for an artificial turf rectangle stadium field and an adjacent turf multi-purpose field to be built on its campus.

Through effective partnership with the Town, both parties collectively agreed that there could be greater benefit to the entire Town community if we worked together on a comprehensive solution and eliminated any duplication of effort.

As discussions continued and plans began to develop, it was proposed that the Town of Mt. Pleasant would build a turf rectangle field. Oceanside would pay for the bleachers, press box, scoreboard, etc. to provide the Town and the school with a stadium venue that could be used by both to service and anticipate the many needs of the community at large.

As part of the comprehensive plan, OCA would also build a baseball field on its property with proper dimensions and positioning that the Town would be able to use much like it currently uses OCA's gymnasium. Both the Town of Mt. Pleasant and OCA benefit from a shared use agreement of each other's facilities.

Through all meetings, discussions, and financial models, the *only* incremental cost to the Town from what was originally planned (prior to OCA's involvement) was the cost of artificial turf vs grass. That *total* difference was ultimately determined by third-party engineering firm Seamon Whitesides in a presentation to the Town to be \$600,000.

When Town staff presented the project to Council it was presented with a difference in cost of more than \$3.7 million. This was the first time OCA heard these numbers. The site work, road construction, parking lots etc. were all contemplated prior to changing the baseball field to a rectangle field.

OCA was told that if Oceanside would agree to grass instead of pursuing turf, the stadium field project was fully funded and would move forward without the need for any further meetings or discussion. We at OCA felt that this project would be of far greater benefit to the entire Town if it was built with artificial turf like all other rectangle fields being built in the Lowcountry. Because of this decision, we would have to go through an approval process with the full Town Council.

OCA parents and all taxpayers contribute to the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on Charleston County District schools. Despite their contribution, these spaces are not available for community use. The stadium field project, on the other hand, would be available for public use year round. Oceanside does not take a piece of any facilities funding provided to Charleston County, and has to search for viable facilities.

We are offering to make a donation of over one million dollars in order for the Town to upgrade a capital improvement program, but due to some inaccurate information, it seems our intentions have been misperceived. If you come across any of this misinformation, feel free to direct attention to this updated form for clarification.

Council plans to vote on the finishing up of Phase 3 of Carolina Park during Tuesday's council meeting.

We are passionate about this project for the benefit of not only Oceanside but for the betterment of our entire Town community. We thank the Mt. Pleasant community for their continued support throughout this process.