

January 31, 2023

VIA EMAIL

City of Sheboygan Common Council
828 Center Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081

RE: Lakeshore United FC



Dear Council:

I write on behalf of Lakeshore United FC ("LUFC") in support of the proposed Resolution the Common Council is currently considering. LUFC is Sheboygan County's largest soccer club, serving more than three thousand persons in and around Sheboygan County.

Formed in 1985, LUFC is a non-profit organization created to facilitate and provide the youth soccer experience. Today, LUFC serves more than three thousand athletes from eighteen different communities in and around Sheboygan and the surrounding communities. Our operational budget is over one million dollars and we provide soccer programming to people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds including:

1. Community Soccer (recreational soccer league) is for first grade through eighth grade players promoting participation, sportsmanship, and appreciation for the game, with community-based grade level teams.
2. LUFC's Junior Program provides 4K - 5K children a safe, inclusive, and structured program to introduce them to the game.
3. Academy Soccer (U-7 - U-10 development program) is designed for young, aspiring players seeking more playing time and continue training throughout the year.
4. LUFC's Select Soccer is for the committed soccer player seeking more intensive and comprehensive development and involves competitive league and tournament play on a year-round basis.
5. TOPSoccer is LUFC's soccer program for ages four through eighteen having special needs. TOPSoccer is organized by community volunteers and is designed to provide anyone who has a disability with an opportunity to learn and play soccer and develop a love for the sport.
6. Futsal is LUFC's winter soccer program, which is a fast-paced, small-sided indoor game played throughout the world.

Additionally, LUFC has special programs such as summer league to keep our kids playing during the summer months, small group training, and camps including Elite Camp, which includes instruction from top college coaches and STARS Camp, which takes place each summer at six surrounding Sheboygan communities, and focuses on not only skills but other fundamentals including sportsmanship, teamwork, and attitude.

LUFC fields more than one hundred fifty teams in various programs, competing statewide at all levels of competition. Since its inception in 1985, LUFC has grown to the fifth largest youth soccer club in Wisconsin. In fact, LUFC's U-19 Girls Select Team became National Champions in the US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup in July of 2022.

LUFC hosts multiple tournaments during the year, including our Fall Classic (formerly known as SAYSO) featuring more than one hundred eighty recreational/community-based teams, our Kickin It Lakeside, which has hosted more than one hundred fifty teams from throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest, and our Shoreline Shootout for U-8 - U-13 teams during the summer months. These tournaments draw many visitors to our community and are a tremendous boost to our local economy.

Our soccer programming is headed by full-time, dedicated professionals, with administrative support at all levels, a strong, active volunteer base, and parents, coaches, and supporters all engaged towards a common goal: Making LUFC's organizational structure strong, stable, and uniquely qualified to meet the needs of our entire community.

LUFC remains committed to providing programming and assistance with programming for not only soccer programming but for any and all sports and any and all other recreational activities for our entire community.

Recently, through the joint efforts of Butzen Sports Complex, LLC, the City of Sheboygan, and LUFC, we have begun and continue the development of the Butzen Sports Complex, a fifty-five acre site deeded to the City of Sheboygan, which contains a restrictive covenant requiring the property be utilized for recreational purposes. Butzen Sports Complex, the City of Sheboygan, and LUFC have been currently developing the property with grass fields, walkways and parking lots, and we are continuing our active development of the property for multisports usage.

LUFC believes in providing a first class athletic facility and complex for our community. The Butzen Sports Complex site contemplates in its original design and developmental plans both outdoor facilities, as well as a dedicated indoor facility onsite to create year-round opportunities for not only soccer, but for any and all sports and recreational activities. LUFC's commitment has been steadfast in its development of the site under these parameters.

Currently, there are design concepts being considered by both the Town of Sheboygan, as well as the City of Sheboygan, for a multi-sport indoor facility to be

developed. LUFC submits that the Butzen Sports Complex site offers the best site for any indoor facility contemplated for multiple reasons, but primarily for the following:

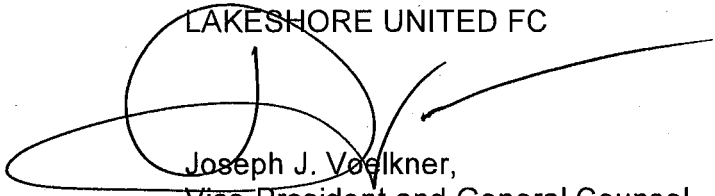
1. The current Butzen Sports Complex site does not require a purchase and the land is currently deeded to the City of Sheboygan;
2. The City of Sheboygan, LUFC, and Butzen Sports Complex's current development of the Butzen Sports Complex site includes grading and does not require additional site preparation;
3. The Butzen Sports Complex site has fifty-five available acres, with additional property potentially available for expansion;
4. The Butzen Sports Complex site is served by full-time police, fire, and ambulance, and is located near existing healthcare and emergency healthcare facilities;
5. The Butzen Sports Complex site has freeway corridor access and close proximity to hotels, restaurants, retailers, and other amenities;
6. The Butzen Sports Complex site has transit/bus service, and;
7. The Butzen Sports Complex site is within a half mile of an existing Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) district, making it eligible for tax incremental financing.

Not only is LUFC committed to the development of the Butzen Sports Complex site but remains committed upon the completion of the Butzen Sports Complex site to remain an active and supportive participant along with the City of Sheboygan in assisting with the oversight of the operation, maintenance, and administration of the complex.

As Sheboygan County's largest sports group, and given its already existing organizational structure and expertise, LUFC is uniquely qualified to assist the City of Sheboygan in development, operation, and support of a first class indoor and outdoor facility, which includes multi-sport athletic programming and securing large, high profile athletic events to be held at the site. LUFC believes Butzen Sports Complex is the best location in the County for this facility and strongly supports the City of Sheboygan in its proposed Resolution. We look forward to future development at the Butzen Sports Complex.

Very truly yours,

LAKESHORE UNITED FC


Joseph J. Voelkner,
Vice-President and General Counsel

JJV/sas

cc: Lakeshore United FC (via email)
Butzen Sports Complex, LLC (via email)