

To the Mayor and City Council of Berlin,
March 9, 2017

A while back we lost Tony Urban, and this past week Maurice Wheeler passed away. Both these men were instrumental in the realization of a dream to have a first-class Track and Field facility in Berlin. When I began coaching in Berlin in the Spring of 1986, Steve Enman and I ran our one home meet of the season on Memorial Field with a 300 meter track painted on grass. It was confusing and we had a hard time keeping track of laps, especially when we had runners like the Bergeron-Rasmussen duo lapping the field a couple of times. In the late 80's a plan for a track was drawn up, politicians showed up for a ground-breaking ceremony, and things stood still for a while. I stepped Maurice and with volunteers a stone dust track was literally carved out of a mountainside. I remember seeing Maurice there many evenings and Saturdays working and surveying.

For the next several years, we ran on stone dust and when we had home meets, the rec department would paint the lanes. One day, I ran into Tony Urban and discussed the track and possibly trying to get it paved and rubberized. He told me he would look into it. A few days later Tony had me meet him at the track and along with Laura, we discussed where the pits would go, along with the discus and shotput circles. I really didn't think at the time that it would really happen, but anyone who knew Tony knows that he was a doer and knew how to get people involved. He also was one who would not take "no" for an answer. He enlisted Mayor Grenier to find funding and got hold of Pike Paving and an outfit to rubberize and line the track, along with installing the pits and throwing circles. He wheeled and dealt on prices, along with mats, hurdles and fencing, and in the end got it done for \$200,000. It was a huge undertaking but got done.

I am asking that the Mayor and Council consider honoring these two men by dedicating the track to them for the work they did in making a dream come true. We now have had the opportunity to train and compete on the most picturesque track in the whole state. I bet that close to two thousand young athletes have benefited from this facility along with countless walkers and opponents. I want anyone who uses or visits that facility to know that Maurice and Tony, along with many volunteers were the one's who brought this to fruition. The field honors Mike Gaydo, and having the track surrounding that field being known as the

Wheeler-Urban oval would be a fitting tribute. I also want the council to consider resurfacing the rubber surface in the near future, as use and weather wear it down, and the work Maurice, Tony, and many others did needs to be preserved for future generations of kids to enjoy and see their athletic dreams realized. Every time I step out on that track, coaching, I appreciate what these men and others did for both myself and my athletes. I also appreciate those who worked on the buildings and ground improvements all us coaches enjoy.

My final request is to get that "Hockey Town USA banner up. With excellent high school teams, the River Drivers, and Berlin's storied hockey history, it is time to bring back the pride, because Berlin is Hockey Town USA. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully, Bob Lord

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Lord". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.