

June 17, 2021

MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to approve a park amenity improvement at Stearns Champions Park, at Huntly and Buckle Fields and to issue all documents necessary for a right-of-entry permit to Long Beach Little League, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 with the option to extend for one (1) additional year at the discretion of the Director. (District 4)

DISCUSSION

On November 19, 2020 the Parks Recreation Commission approved the Field and Court Improvements Toolkit (Toolkit), a comprehensive overview of steps, roles and responsibilities, of the applicant and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (Department) and an inventory of available sites for ongoing needed improvements. Long Beach has 102 fields and 55 sports courts. To keep these valuable amenities playable and modern, the Department partners with the community for periodic and seasonal improvements. The development of the Toolkit included documenting the Department's existing processes and was presented to youth and adult sport groups for their feedback.

The requesting partner, Long Beach Little League (Little League) has brought baseball for over sixty years to youth 4-16 years old. The Little League is committed to providing a family-based community that promotes a safe and positive environment for everyone that participates in our program regardless of ability by developing character and integrity in their coaches, officers, volunteers, and participants through baseball. In preparation for this improvement, the Little League distributed flyers to the surrounding neighborhood informing the community of the intention to upgrade the scoreboard and hosted a town hall to ensure that the proposed improvement does not negatively impact other park users. The expected cost for the scoreboard upgrade is \$21,000. The Little League will be responsible to cover all costs associated with upgrading and maintaining the scoreboard. The proposed site location (Attachment A) will be located at the Huntly and Buckle Fields. The right-of-entry permit is limited to minor improvements and upgrades that do not require environmental studies, design or major constructions.

It is requested that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the proposed improvement and authorize the right-of-entry permit to the Little League with the following terms:



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- Authorize Use: Use of City-owned property at 4520 E. 23rd St. to upgrade the scoreboard at Huntley and Buckle Fields at Stearns Champions Park (Attachment A). The storage facilities will have a concrete pad base placed below. Anything brought on site for the improvement such as: recycled materials, structures, storage unit, building materials, etc., will be the responsibility of the Little League and will be removed upon the completion of the improvement and/or at the termination of the agreement.
- Term: Three (3) year term, July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.
- Options for Renewal: One (1), one-year renewal.
- Hours of Operations: The Little League shall operate during Park hours, Monday-Sunday from dawn to dusk, or after the last permitted activity has ended. Should the Little League hold an event past normal Parks hours, depending on the scope of the event, the Little League shall pull a separate permit through the Department Reservation's Office or the City's Special Events and Filming Office, with a request that the fees be waived.
- Improvement: The upgraded scoreboard 20'x 8'19" (Attachment A).
- Funding: All demolition, site preparation, and improvements shall be provided by the Little League. Any additional funding needed to complete of the improvements shall be secured by the Little League. The Department shall not provide any funding, supplies or staff support, other than review of the proposed site work, and a liaison for communication purposes, unless approved in advance and in writing by the Department Director.
- Programming:
 - Tee-Ball: is for boys and girls 4-6 years old who want to learn the fundamentals of hitting and fielding. There are no evaluations or drafts in Tee Ball. The primary goal of Tee Ball is to introduce children to the fundamentals of baseball and to allow them to experience the value of teamwork and fair play.
 - Farm: is for 7 years old boys and girls who have played at least one year of Tee Ball. Flexi balls are used for play and coaches are allowed on the field for part of the season to help instruct the developing players.
 - Minor A: is for boys and girls ages 9-11. Minor A is "kid pitch." The diamond used is a 60-foot diamond and the pitching distance is 46 feet. It is a competitive division yet local rules allow for batting the entire lineup and limiting defensive innings of rest. 9 players play in the field at a time.

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- Majors and Junior Leagues: are competitive baseball and Little League Tournament Rules for substitution apply for all regular season games. The major league is for ages 10 –12 years old and junior league for ages 13-14 years old.
- Non-Exclusive Use: Any person or group proposing sport field or sports court improvements does so for public benefit. Proposal of improvements does not imply, nor does approval provide, any exclusive use of the improved sports field or court.
- Insurance: The Little League must maintain a policy of liability insurance, with the City and its respective elected officials, officers, employees, agents, and representatives named as additional insureds, in an amount specified by the City that will protect the City from any potential claims which may arise. Certain projects may require that the applicant also obtain policies of automobile and worker's compensation insurance in amount specified by the City.
- Live Scan: Prior to providing volunteer or other services on the premises, the Little League will Live Scan fingerprint all employees, volunteers, and contractors who provide services, maintain the skate park, and lead program who may encounter youth. One-day special event volunteers are excluded from this requirement.
- Operations of Maintenance, Supplies, and Security: All improvements shall be kept in a neat, safe, and sanitary condition and maintained. If improvements are damaged or vandalized, the Little League will be responsible for the maintenance and repair. Permittee will provide at its sole cost all necessary funding for operations, ongoing maintenance, needed supplies, and scoreboard security. The Little League shall be responsible for any and all repairs associated with the scoreboard. The Department shall have no maintenance obligations with respect to the improvements on the premises. The Little League shall keep the premises in a neat, safe and sanitary condition and maintain the scoreboard to the Department's satisfaction.
- ADA Compliance: The Little League may not discriminate against people with disabilities and may not deny full and equal enjoyment of good and services they offer. The Little League shall comply with all Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.
- Laws and Other Permits: The Little League shall apply, pay for, and follow all applicable local, regional, state and federal laws, codes, regulations, requirements, and health orders.
- Liaisons and Communication: The Little League will designate a Department liaison through which the Little League will communicate.

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FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact from the recommended action.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve the recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



GLADYS KAISER
MANAGER
COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICES



HURLEY OWENS
MANAGER
MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS BUREAU



NANCY VILLASEÑOR
MANAGER
PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS

APPROVED:



BRENT DENNIS
DIRECTOR