

office memorandum



DATE: September 25, 2018
TO: Steve Lewis, City Manager
FROM: Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Youth Baseball/Softball Proposals

This is to follow up our previous discussion regarding the Youth Baseball/Softball programs currently being run by our department. Earlier in the summer Mr. Terry Utley with Norman Youth Baseball Academy contacted us with interest of submitting a proposal to run the youth baseball/softball program we are currently offering at Griffin Park. Our staff met with their Board of Directors to discuss the idea in more detail and we indicated to them that we would be interested looking at proposals for evaluation purposes.

The primary benefit that we would see from outsourcing these programs would be the addition of more tournament play, both for the league participants as well as for other teams coming from out of town. Hosting tournaments for out of town teams has been a priority item for many people involved with planning the NORMAN FORWARD projects that have been approved by Norman voters. Providing administrative staff and field crews for weekend tournaments has been difficult to accomplish with our regular employees who are already working full time throughout the week. Another potential benefit may be increasing the number of league games offered to our local players by starting the season earlier and continuing it later than we have been able to. It is also possible that field conditions could improve with volunteer maintenance staff and additional resources to put into field maintenance, which has been the case with the Norman Youth Soccer Association's use of the Griffin Park soccer fields. Finally, we would anticipate an overall reduction in our Recreation Division operating budget of approximately \$30,000 as a result of savings from program and field maintenance costs which are greater than current program revenues.

Assuming we receive an acceptable proposal, we will follow up with a contract similar to those with other sports associations for City Council consideration. Once a contract is approved, our plan is to reassign the Sports Coordinator position, which is currently responsible for the youth baseball/softball programs, to the Senior Citizens Center. This would provide a second full time staff member at that facility which would replace the existing permanent part time position there. The higher staffing level will be tasked with adding new and additional programming for senior citizens in an effort to increase activity at that facility. The existing permanent part time position at the Senior Citizens Center will be reassigned to one of the other recreation centers and eventually fill a position that is currently vacant.

With your approval, we will proceed with a formal request for proposals for the youth baseball/softball programs.

JF

Mary Ann
Approved

10/4/2018

Denied