

**CITY OF ALBANY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: May 19, 2011

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director  
**SUBJECT:** Memorial Ball Field fence and bullpens

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Commission recommend to Council the installation of a fence and bullpens at Memorial Park ball field per the attached drawing.

**BACKGROUND**

Over the years the idea of a fence separating the playing field from a section of grass to the right of right field at Memorial Park ball field has been discussed. To make things simple, **section A** will be the ball field and **section B** will be the grass area right of right field. Please see that attached drawing to clarify section A and section B.

In 2005-2007, during the design phase of the Memorial Park ball field renovations, the idea of the fence was suggested, but was strongly opposed. Again in 2008 when the Parks and Recreation Commission was conducting community meetings regarding sharing park space with dogs and their owners, the idea was again mentioned, but was not pursued.

Several months ago while the Albany Unified School District was renovating the Memorial Park ball field as part of the field switch between the high school softball and baseball teams, a temporary construction fence was installed separating the two sections. Having seen the functionality of a fence in that location, the various users saw firsthand that such a fence could be beneficial for all users.

At the April 2011 meeting, residents requested that the Parks and Recreation Commission agendaize the installation of the fence for further discussion. Since that time, the Albany High School baseball coach and baseball boosters have requested the addition of two single bullpens, one down the first base line and the second down the third base line. This would allow for the portable batting cage in section B to be relocated to the space of the current bullpens, thus, creating more space in section B. Please see the attached drawing and pictures. More pictures will be provided at the meeting.

**DISCUSSION**

The installation of the fence and bullpens does not prevent the City from continuing its programs during non-baseball seasons. Youth soccer and summer camps are conducted at the field and there would be no interruption of the City's traditional use. Additionally, due

to the recently adopted Joint Use Agreement with the School District, the City will have use of Cougar Field for youth soccer in the fall.

The fence would include a pedestrian gate near the Thousand Oaks side and a larger gate near the first base dugout so that equipment such as mowers, etc, can access both sections.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The cost of the new bullpens will not be paid for by the City, but by the baseball users. Staff is recommending that Measure R Ball Field funds be used for the installation of the fence. Although staff is collecting quotes at this time in an effort to get the best price, the cost of installing the fence and gates is approximately \$9,700.













