

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: June 6, 2011  
Reviewed by: BP

**SUBJECT:** Memorial Ball Field fence and bullpens

**REPORT BY:** Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director

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**STAFF AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

- (1) That Council approve the installation of a fence and bullpens at Memorial Park ball field per the attached drawing.
- (2) That pending approval of the fence installation, Council authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract for the fence installation not to exceed \$15,900.

**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.

**DISCUSSION**

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 agendize the installation of the fence for further discussion. In addition to the fence, 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 picture which includes the location of the two proposed bullpens.

At the May 2011 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to Council the addition of the fence and the bullpens.

### **ANALYSIS**

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. The fence would be 8 feet tall which is the same height at the fence that extends just beyond the first base dugout.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

The installation of the fence would provide increased use of the field by offering concurrent use for residents as they could use section B during games and practices.

### **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 and gates. Although staff is collecting quotes at this time in an effort to get the best price, the cost of installing the fence and gates will not exceed \$15,900.

### **Attachment**

Photo image with proposed fence and bullpen locations