

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

Agenda date: June 20, 2005

Reviewed by:_____

Subject: Quarterly report by the Albany Sports Field Use Working Group and the Revised and expanded contract for field maintenance by the Albany Little League.

From: Melinda Chinn, Recreation & Community Services Director

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Receive the quarterly report from the Albany Sports Field Use Working Group and;
- 2) Approve the recommendation made by the Albany Parks and Recreation Commission to revise and expand the Albany Little League's field maintenance contract to include field maintenance at both Ocean View and Memorial fields and;
- 3) Authorize the City Administrator to enter into a revised contact for an amount not to exceed \$22,000 for maintenance of Ocean View and Memorial fields for the period from September 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

BACKGROUND

To address discontent voiced by field users about the condition of the sports fields at Ocean View and Memorial Parks, the Albany Parks and Recreation Commission endorsed the idea of allowing field users groups to maintain the fields and included this as an action in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan which was adopted by the City Council on October 18, 2004. Following the adoption of the Master Plan, staff worked with the field user groups to draft a contractual agreement and scope of work for maintenance of Ocean View field.

On November 15, 2004, the City Council approved the contractual agreement with the Albany Little League (ALL) to maintain Ocean View field in the amount \$1,050 a month for a total of \$12,600 for a one year period. The contract addressed maintenance only and did not resolve other issues regarding the use of the city's sports fields including financial issues, down time and enforcement, field scheduling, capital improvements and future issues. (Staff report from 11/15/2004 and original contract attached for background)

In order to help resolve these other sports field issues, the City Council directed that a Field User Working Group be formed. That group was formed in February 2005 and has met four times since then. The group is currently comprised of Council member Allan Maris, Park and Recreation Commissioners Leif Magnuson and John Kindle, Recreation and Community Services Director Melinda Chinn, Public Works Manager Richard Cunningham and representatives of local field users groups: Roger Carlsen and David Preuss, Albany Little League; Abiud Amaro, Albany Berkeley Soccer Club; Betsy Thomas, Albany Berkeley Girls Softball League; and others.

Due to the high degree of satisfaction with the field conditions at Ocean View Park since the ALL has been doing the maintenance at Ocean View, the Working Group in its quarterly report to the Parks and Recreation Commission on June 9, 2005, recommended that the contract with the ALL be revised and expanded to include field maintenance at both Ocean View and Memorial Fields. (Report attached). The Commission moved to recommend that the Council approve the revised and expanded the contract with the ALL for the period from September 2005 through June 2006.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Issues discussed during the Working Group meetings included the original charge of assessing the performance of the contractor (ALL), options for how to pay for field maintenance costs in the future, how to deal with field downtime and enforcement issues, and issues evolving from scheduling of the Albany sports fields from a regional perspective. Details of some of these discussions are included in the June 2005 report by the Working Group.

While an interim solution to some of the above issues was achieved, there is much work yet to do. The Working Group will continue it's work in the fall of 2005 and bring back additional recommendations to the Park and Recreation Commission for review and discussion.

The goal is to bring additional recommendations to the Council in early 2006 that will address the on going costs of maintaining Albany's sports fields to a standard that is acceptable to field users and the community at large.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The contract will be for an amount not to exceed \$22,000 for the 10-month period of September 2, 2005 through June 2006. In June 2006, construction is expected to begin on the renovation of the parks. Memorial field will not need maintenance due to the construction, however, Ocean View field will most likely be available for use, and thus needing continued maintenance. A modification to the contract would be necessary at that time.

The \$22,000 in funding for the contract during the 10-month period will come from the interest revenue from Measure R for ball field funds. In addition to the estimated \$22,000 that should be available from the interest on the Measure R ball field funds, there is an additional amount of \$3,150 in Measure R Ball field interest revenue that will not be expended for the current contract due to the shortening of the term by three months.

Once construction begins and Measure R ball fields expended, there will be no more interest earnings available for future maintenance contracts. There has been a wide range of discussion at Working Group meetings regarding the charging of rental fees to the various users to be used for field maintenance, including equity as who gets charged and who does not. The Working Group will continue to discuss this and the other unresolved issues at its future meetings.

Attachments:

1. 11/15/2004 Staff Report
2. Current Contract
3. Working Group Quarterly Report
4. Analysis of revenues and expenditures.