



Agenda Item: Discussion Item

Title: Mid-Year Community Partner Appropriation for Laramie Soccer Club (LSC) to Support One-time Irrigation Use for Turf Establishment of New Soccer Field

Recommended Council MOTION:

I move to approve Community Partner award of up to \$30,000 for calendar year 2021 for Youth Sports to the Laramie Soccer Club (LSC) for a one-time irrigation support to establish turf at the new soccer fields located directly south of the Albany County Fairgrounds. The City will directly pay for 75% of irrigation used by LSC water through outside agency funding up to 800 units per month with a maximum award of \$30,000 and appropriately amend the FY 2021 and the FY 2022 budget.

Administrative or Policy Goal:

Partnership with outside organizations

Background:

LSC is working to develop a youth sports complex to be located directly adjacent to and south of the current Albany County Fairgrounds buildings. The project was initiated a few years ago when LSC and Albany County partnered to apply for a Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant to build the first outdoor field. The grant covered \$300,000 of the project with the matching \$300,000 coming from LSC, Albany County Recreation Board grants, and Premier Bone and Joint Center.

During the spring of 2020, LSC and Albany County entered into a long-term lease and use agreement for approximately 20 acres of land owned by Albany County. Buildout of the fields began shortly thereafter, and the field was completed in September 2020. LSC’s current plan for maintaining the field is to initially utilize City water to establish the sod turf, with wells being drilled to provide for long-term irrigation needs. LSC has now acquired the permits from the State sufficient to drill the wells and is working to secure permits from the City. The club is also working on grant funding for the wells and hopes to have the project started before the heat of the summer season in 2021. Future plans include the addition of an indoor field that will be serviced year-round. Four additional outdoor fields are planned and will be planted in a combination of sod and turf that will use the water from the wells.

As part of applying for the City well permit, staff came to understand LSC’s immediate need for irrigation water in Spring 2021 in order to establish sod successfully; staff determined the most appropriate and timely way to address this matter is to treat it as a mid-year community partner allocation.

Staff recommendation: Staff recommends favorably for this allocation of financial partnership with LSC to ensure sod turf establishes effectively this year and, thereafter, will provide decades of opportunity for youth sports in Laramie. A one-time allocation is recommended based on estimated current flow to be approximately 26Tgal per day, or approximately 800 units per month. The City will contribute a 75% discount on irrigation per month starting in May through December 31, 2021, to be reimbursed to the Water Fund from the General Fund/5th penny revenue.

LSC will be responsible for a 25% fee match on irrigation and will pay full cost for any usage exceeding 800 units per month. LSC will also be responsible for meter fees and other miscellaneous fees associated with their municipal services account. If LSC obtains wells, or does not use all the funding requested, monies not spent will revert back to the City.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

BUDGET/FISCAL INFORMATION:**EXPENSE**

Proposed Project Cost.

Project Budget	Amount	Funds
Project Cost	\$30,000.00	Outside award maximum based on usage
Loans on Project		
Grants for Project		
Other/Outside Projects		
City's Amount	\$30,000.00	
Contingency	0%	\$0.00
Total Amount	\$30,000.00	

Amount spent to date (approved and adopted by Council)

Responsible Staff:

Malea Brown, COO

Shawn Klein, COM