



Meeting Date:	February 12, 2020	Division:	Administration	Item:	Other
Title:	Consideration of a partial facility reservation fee waiver for the 2020 USA Olympic Softball Tournament to be held in Laramie, Wyoming – July 9 to 12, 2020 (\$4,150.00 Fee Waiver).				

Recommended Board Motion:

I move that the Parks, Tree & Recreation Advisory Board recommend that the City of Laramie waive partial fees for the 2020 USA Olympic Softball Tournament to be held in Laramie, Wyoming – July 9 to 12, 2020 in an amount of \$4,150.00.

Administrative or Policy Goal:

LMC 2.28.070 I. The board shall review and make recommendations to the city council for fees and charges for parks and recreation programs and facility uses.

Background Information:

The City of Laramie received this email request from Rebecca Pexton, Junior Olympic State Commissioner.

USA Softball of Wyoming is a non-profit organization within Wyoming staffed by volunteers. We are a part of USA Softball, the National Governing Body of Softball, and affiliated with the USA Olympics. We provide the platform for our youth and adults in Wyoming to play softball. Every year we hold a culminating state tournament for our youth females ages 7-18. We typically rotate the location every 2 years and location depends on different criteria such as number of fields, how many registered players in an area, hotel and restaurant availability, and even cell phone signal strength. Since taking over this program my state tournament has went from 32-35 teams to 52-56 teams. This brings in a good amount of revenue for city hotels and businesses. The last calculated numbers were \$750K for the 3.5 days.

Our tournament for 2020 will be held July 9-12th. We may need to begin play on Thursday afternoon due to the number of teams we now have entering although we typically have sign in and opening ceremonies on Thursday afternoon and evening. Play starts at 8 am every day and ends approx. 11 pm. We end about 6 pm on Sunday. We need 8 fields available to complete this tournament although 9 would be ideal. We also could add the City as an additional insured at no charge because of our tournament insurance and the way the players are individually registered in Wyoming.

My first question is would Laramie interested in being our host location? The next questions would be your fees for field, lights, maintenance for the fields and trash pickup? Most of our locations donate the cost or partial cost of those items in exchange for the revenue brought into the city. I do understand everything is tight financially for our towns and cities. If you have any local grants available, I could apply for that would help offset the cost I would be glad to fill out the paperwork. Last year my total cost was just over \$35000 for this tournament. I do not ask anything else of the city in the planning or running of the tournament. That is planned and handled by USA Softball. I do like to have great communication with the Parks and Rec Admin and staff. I cannot be successful unless we keep in contact.

1. Through meetings with Ms. Pexton and staff we feel we can adequately serve the needs of this tournament and that the Laramie Parks & Recreation Department is interested in being the host location for the 2020 USA Olympic Softball Tournament – July 9 to 12, 2020.

2. Through meetings and discussions with Ms. Pexton, staff and Visit Laramie the normal fees for this tournament would be around \$7,500 as described. Visit Laramie is entertaining a grant request for this tournament at their February board meeting to assist with the fee amount requested by Ms. Pexton. Ms. Pexton has requested that the maximum fee for this tournament be \$3,350.

If the board chooses to support this fee waiver the total annual estimated donation would be \$4,150.00 or less. Staff believes this tournament could be an economic boost to Laramie's businesses. We were concerned about conflict with Laramie Jubilee Days however, Visit Laramie has researched local hotels and eased that concern.

Legal/Code/Statutory Authority:

LMC 2.28.070

Fiscal Information:

Revenue:

Source	Amount	Type
Fees/Charges for Service	\$3,350.00	Estimated \$4,150 donation.
Grants for Projects		
Loans on Project		
Other		
Total	\$3,350.00	

Staff Contact:

Todd Feezer, Assistant City Manager, tfeezer@cityoflaramie.org, 721-5304

Attachments:

None.