



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: October 18, 2016
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Director of Community Services
Subject: Interim Use of the Ambassadors to Provide Field Management During City Use of School District Fields
Attachments: 1. None

INTRODUCTION

Due to continued use of the School District fields by unauthorized users, the Ambassadors will begin providing field management at Beverly Hills High School and the three K-8 schools that have available fields. This is a temporary measure until the new Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) goes into effect in July 2017. This report is for information only and staff will proceed with implementation unless directed otherwise by City Council.

DISCUSSION

The JPA between the City and the Beverly Hills School District grants usage of School District facilities, including the fields, during the days/times that school is not in session. These fields are used heavily by the local youth sport organizations such as American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) and Beverly Hills Little League (BHLL).

Since the campuses are open during the hours that school is not in session, unauthorized users have started using the fields. Over the years, these users have become more aggressive and less willing to relinquish the fields to the rightful permit holders. This has led to arguments and on occasion the need to call the Police for assistance. The volunteer coaches from the youth sports organizations have expressed concerns about this situation.

Recently the El Rodeo fields went offline as well as the upper field at Beverly Hills High School. Additionally, two new fields were opened at Beverly Vista and Horace Mann Schools. Staff believes that these factors have contributed to having a greater concentration of unauthorized users trying to use the fields.

The Ambassador program first began in the City in fiscal year 2015-16 as a trial in some of the business areas, and was implemented as a more permanent solution in 2016-17. The Ambassadors provide a blend of customer service, hospitality, and security, when needed. Staff intends to bring the Ambassadors onboard to help with field and permit management only during the times when City programs take place at the schools, and

management only during the times when City programs take place at the schools, and when the permitted users have experienced the most conflicts. The approximate schedule would be to have one Ambassador Monday – Thursday, 5-9 pm, at Beverly Hills High School; and 3-4 Ambassadors on Saturday and Sunday in the mornings at the three available K-8 schools and the high school. The scheduling of the Ambassadors would be based on when and where the games would be played. The current Ambassador team has some part time members who are able to take on additional hours, so these additional shifts would not impact the provision of the Ambassador services in the business areas.

The Superintendent has indicated support for this program and has indicated that he does not foresee issues with the Ambassadors working on City based programs during after school hours.

This program would be an interim stop-gap measure until the final terms of the JPA are complete at which time the City Council can determine if the program should continue.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is approximately \$25,000 in the current agreement for the Ambassador program for “special projects.” This funding can be used temporarily to get the field management program started. Staff will bring a formal report to the City Council at one of the meetings in November to report on progress and to request an appropriation for the remainder of fiscal year 2016-17.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for Council’s information only. Unless directed otherwise, staff will engage the services of the Ambassadors to provide permit management at the School District fields.


Nancy Hunt-Coffey
Approved By