



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: November 15, 2016
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Director of Community Services
Subject: Ambassadors to Provide Field and Facility Management During City Use of School District Property
Attachments: 1. None

INTRODUCTION

As was discussed in a report to the City Council at the October 18, 2016 study session, the Ambassadors started providing field management on November 1, 2016 at Beverly Hills High School and three K-8 schools. This service was implemented due to increasing use of the School District fields by unauthorized users and increasing incidents and altercations between the authorized youth sport organizations and unauthorized users. This report asks City Council to extend the agreement with the Ambassadors for field and facility management at the schools until the new Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) goes into effect in July 2017. The use of Ambassadors beyond July 2017 will be discussed through the budget process, during which time City Council can evaluate the effectiveness of this program.

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 field 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.

As was discussed in the study session C item on the City Council agenda on October 18, 2016, staff initiated use of the Ambassadors at these schools on November 1, 2016 under the provisions of the current agreement which has minimal funding carved out for "special projects. The scope of the Ambassadors in this context is to help with field and permit management only during the times when City programs take place at the schools, which is when the permitted users have experienced the most conflicts. However, an amendment to the agreement and an appropriation of funding is required to continue this service through the end of the fiscal year. There is an item on the formal meeting agenda requesting approval of an amendment and an appropriation.

The general weekly schedule for the Ambassadors would be:

One (1) ambassador at BHHS Monday-Thursday from 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm = 16 hrs.

One (1) ambassadors on Saturdays from 6:30 am-10:30 am = 4hrs.

Three (3) ambassadors on Saturdays from 7:30am -10:30 am = 9hrs.

Two (2) ambassadors on Sundays from 7:30am -12:30 pm = 10hrs.

This scheduling is based on when the games and practices take place for the youth sport organizations.

Mayor Mirisch and Councilmember Gold were briefed on the use of the Ambassadors at the schools to manage permits for City programs, and both were supportive of the proposal.

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

The annual cost to have the Ambassadors provide the services described above would be \$78,457.60. However, since the services started on November 1, 2016, the prorated amount for fiscal year 2015-2016 would be \$52,305.04.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the Ambassadors to provide field and facility management during City use of School District property.


Nancy Hunt-Coffey
Approved By