



CONSENT CALENDAR

City of San Bernardino Request for Council Action

Date: September 6, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: Charles McNeely, Interim City Manager;
Lydie Gutfeld, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services

Department: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services

Subject: **Receive and File Letter of Intent from Los Angeles Dodger Foundation for Renovation of Blair Park Baseball Fields – 5th Ward**

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Bernardino, California, receive and file the attached letter of intent from the Los Angeles Dodger Foundation.

Executive Summary

Department Staff have received letter of intent from the Los Angeles Dodger Foundation to begin renovating three fields at Blair Park. This project would be fully funded through the foundation and its funding partners including San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

Background

The Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation (LADF) builds Dodgers Dreamfields to give families in neighborhoods across Los Angeles safe havens and points of pride. The addition of revitalized baseball and softball fields contributes to existing green spaces, promotes physical activity and increases opportunities for play in underserved communities. To-date, LADF has spent over \$18.7 million building 60 Dodgers Dreamfields and have plans to complete an additional 15 fields to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Dodgers' move to Los Angeles in 2033.

In December 2022, the Parks and Recreation Director completed an application for Los Angeles Dodger Foundation (LADF) to consider a San Bernardino city park site

with baseball fields for the Dodger Dream Field Program. In completing the application, staff were asked to identify three locations that would meet the criteria of the project. First, the site had to have numerous baseball/softball fields. Second, the site had to be used by local youth sports organizations and city programming. Third, the fields needed to be used for both baseball and softball as well as city programming. Staff worked with the Athletics team and the Park Operations team to identify the locations that would work to meet the criteria; Wildwood, Newmark, and Blair Parks were selected as possible sites. Staff provided LADF with demographic data of youth sports groups as well as a maintenance plan that would be implemented should the City's site be chosen by LADF. The maintenance plan would assure LADF that there would be longevity in the use of these three fields for a variety of site users.

In January 2023, a site walk through of each park was completed with representatives from San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and the lead designer for the Los Angeles Dodgers Dream Fields. Additional follow up meetings were completed to discuss irrigation, maintenance, and other needs.

Discussion

In March 2023, the City was notified that Blair Park, located at 1466 W. Marshall Blvd., had been selected as the next Dodger DreamFields site. LADF has committed to partnering with the City to build three (3) Dodgers Dreamfields at the park and will provide an overall rendering of the project to the City. San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Security Benefit, LA84 Foundation, and the Helen and Will Webster Foundation have also agreed to support the project with funding, and the balance will be covered by LADF. Construction of the Dodgers Dreamfields at Blair Park will be led by LADF and its project manager, Jon Mosier of Landmark Sports. Due to LADF's commitment to three fields, the City is required to commit to enhancements to the project that includes a parking lot slurry seal, lining, and the renovations of the restroom and concession building. The City's cost to complete these enhancements is approximately \$130,000. Funding for these enhancements has been identified in the current operations budget and the parking lot slurry is planned with the current asphalt contract.

In July, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians notified the City that it would be providing \$1,296,000 towards this project. These three fields will represent the 61st, 62nd, and 63rd Dodger Dreamfields, working to help the LADF fulfill their promise to build 75 Dodger Dreamfields by 2033 in honor of the Dodgers' 75th anniversary of their move to Los Angeles.

LADF will circulate a draft agreement between our two parties for the installation of the baseball field improvements for review at the October 4, 2023, Mayor and City Council Meeting. The plan is to start construction in November 2023 with an expected unveiling event in May/June 2024.

2021-2025 Strategic Targets and Goals

Strategic Target No. 2 – Focused Aligned Leadership and Unified Community- by

developing enhanced fields, youth groups and adult sports will begin to experience a higher level of play. Strategic Target No. 3.- Improved Quality of Life- by having fields that are designed with quality elements, the experience can develop stronger youth skill sets through sports and provide health and wellness benefits for all ages.

Fiscal Impact

There is sufficient budget in the CIP and operations budget for this item.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Bernardino, California, receive and file the attached letter of intent from the Los Angeles Dodger Foundation.

Attachments

- Attachment 1 Letter of Intent – Blair Park
- Attachment 2 Dodger Dream Fields (Blair Park) Maintenance, Repair, and Inspection Plan
- Attachment 3 Dodger Dream Field League Charts

Ward:

Fifth Ward

Synopsis of Previous Council Actions:

No Previous Council Action