



Date: Oct. 17, 2017

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Tiffany Bushland, Parks & Recreation Department Recreation Supervisor

Subject: Resolution No. 2017-114 Authorizing Grant Application – Hennepin Youth Sports Program Facility Application

Information / Background:

The City of Edina and the Edina Baseball Association would like to apply for a Hennepin Youth Sports Program Facility Grant for facility improvements to Courtney Field baseball complex. The application process requires a resolution for the City authorizing the grant application. The Hennepin Youth Sports Program makes grants to local governments to improve youth athletic and recreation facilities and purchase capital equipment. State of Minnesota law authorizing the construction of Target Field allows Hennepin County to use proceeds from the 0.15% sales tax surcharge to award over \$2 million each year for sports facilities and equipment. Since 2009, the program has awarded over \$19 million to communities throughout Hennepin County.

The Hennepin Youth Sports Program awards allow municipalities, park districts and school districts to create, expand or improve athletic or recreational facilities. The Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission is contracted to serve as the grant administrator for the Hennepin Youth Sports Program. The Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission evaluates the applications and provides recommendations to the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. The City of Edina was awarded a \$250,000 grant from the program in 2014 for the Braemar Sports Dome. In 2010, the City of Edina was awarded a \$60,000 grant from the program to replace hockey rink boards and lights at Walnut Ridge Park and Pamela Park.

Staff is proposing a request for a \$125,000 Grant from the Hennepin Youth Sports Program to help fund the proposed Courtney Park light improvement on field one.

The City of Edina Parks & Recreation Department is pursuing funding support to upgrade and replace lighting at Braemar Park Courtney Field I as well as the installation of new safety netting. This facility was built in 1973 and the current lights have far surpassed their expected useful life and the heavy use of the facility has necessitated the installation of the safety netting to protect fans and participants. The quality of the current lighting on this field has degraded to the point where it impairs play on many evenings and poses

a problem for the highest-level participants such as the high school and American Legion team. Additionally, Courtney Field 1 is part of a classic four field complex and balls are often hit from this field toward the players and spectators on the other three fields. In addition to providing improved lighting, the new poles will allow the installation of netting that will dramatically reduce the number of foul balls hit toward the other fields, improving safety for all.

The other sponsor of this project is the Edina Baseball Association with which the City has had a long and productive relationship not only providing programming for Edina and other Minnesota youth but also through multiple joint projects to maintain and upgrade the baseball facilities in the community.

The Edina Baseball Association currently serves 1,135 Edina participants and hosts twenty tournaments for youth from throughout the state ages 10-18. The Courtney Fields complex is known as one of the premier youth baseball facilities in the state. One of the primary attractions of these tournaments are the first-class facilities and immaculately-maintained fields. While we intend for the park to maintain its 'classic' feel, it is essential that we upgrade the light technology and safety on the largest field.

Partnership:

The City of Edina has had a long and productive relationship with the Edina Baseball Association (EBA) as the EBA has taken a very participative role in helping to upgrade and maintain the local facilities. In 2012, the EBA partnered with the City of Edina and Hennepin County to renovate Garden Park and help turn it into an outstanding senior level baseball field. In 2013, the EBA worked with the City of Edina as the City utilized community development funds to renovate the Countryside Park facility. In 2014, the EBA had a meaningful role in working with the City of Edina and the other youth sports associations to make the Edina Sports Dome a reality and has made a multi-year use commitment for that facility. Most recently, the EBA self-funded the replacement of all six of the batting cages and protective screens at the Courtney Fields complex. Additionally, each spring the EBA schedules an annual 'Field Day' in which hundreds of its participants work with City Park & Recreation staff to perform spring field preparation work. Over the years it has proven to be a positive experience for the kids and a very meaningful example of the close working relationship between the City of Edina and EBA.

Additionally, the City of Edina is studying Courtney Fields as part of the Braemar Park Master Plan. Other recommended improvements to the baseball complex including landscaping, handicapped accessibility, new seating, and playground equipment. This work, in addition to the project outlined in this proposal, will dramatically upgrade this fantastic facility for decades to come.

Timeline:

January 2018 – Upon approval, purchase of equipment will be made

March 2018 – Upon approval, equipment will be received

April 2018 – Upon approval, installation of equipment will begin and take 1-2 weeks

August 2018 – Edina host American Legion State Tournament

Budget/Matching Funds:

New lights - \$200,000 as quoted by Musco Lighting

Safety netting and poles - \$25,000

Total project cost - \$225,000

Edina Baseball Association contribution - \$100,000

Hennepin Country Grant request - \$125,000

Action:

Approve Resolution 2017-114 Authorizing Grant Application- Hennepin Youth Sports Program Facility Application to allow the City and Edina Baseball Association to submit a grant application.

Attachments:

Resolution 2017-114