



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

November 20, 2006

Agenda Item No. 36

Roll Call No. 06-

Communication No. 06-740

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Park and Recreation Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving a three (3) year Amended Maintenance Agreement between the City of Des Moines and the Greater Des Moines Baseball Company (Iowa Cubs) to maintain the James W. Cownie Soccer Park and James W. Cownie Baseball Park, \$150,000 (increase over current agreement) over three years.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of an amended three-year maintenance agreement with the Iowa Cubs for both the Cownie Soccer and Baseball Parks. In March, Council approved an agreement with the Iowa Cubs for maintenance of the Cownie Soccer Park. This action approves an amended agreement with Sam Bernabe of the Iowa Cubs to have their grounds crew also manage the horticultural and custodial care of the James W. Cownie Baseball Park. The grounds crew at Principal Park is comprised of the best sports turf experts in Iowa who will bring a high level of expertise and service to the baseball and soccer parks.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$150,000 increase over three years for the addition of the baseball park to the agreement.

- Year one: \$0 administrative fee and a guaranteed not to exceed \$30,000 payment for maintenance services.
- Years two and three: \$5,000 administrative fee and a guaranteed not to exceed \$55,000 payment for maintenance services.

Funding Source: The funds for the baseball park maintenance will come from three sources:

1. The Iowa Cubs Baseball Youth Baseball Foundation will contribute \$25,000 per year for three years (2006 – 2008). A letter of commitment from the Iowa Cubs Youth Baseball Foundation is included in the Council packet.
2. Staff is negotiating a Lease Agreement with the South Des Moines Little League for use of the James W. Cownie Baseball Park as home to their organizations activities. The lease will include a maintenance fee/use payment.
3. An annual City subsidy of approximately \$15,000 is anticipated. Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Operating Budget, Park and Recreation Department—Sports Turf Maintenance GE001 PKS070700, page 182.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

On March 20, 2006, the Des Moines City Council entered into a Maintenance Agreement with the Greater Des Moines Baseball Co. to provide custodial and horticultural care of the James W. Cownie Soccer Park. The terms and conditions of the original Maintenance Agreement for the James W. Cownie

Soccer Park provided for an administrative fee of \$25,000 and a guaranteed amount not to exceed \$250,000 for custodial care and horticultural maintenance including labor, commodities and supply purchases. This action commits an additional \$150,000 over three years for the maintenance of the new baseball park.

The Iowa Cubs expressed interest in amending the current Maintenance Agreement, which is on file in the City Clerk's Office, to include the James W. Cownie Baseball Park located at SE 22nd and Hartford. The additional staff hired by the Iowa Cubs to maintain the soccer and baseball parks, in addition to their existing crew, will aid in maintaining all three City-owned facilities (Principal Park, James W. Cownie Soccer Park and the James W. Cownie Baseball Park). In this way, staff will be shared among all facilities based on schedule of activities and facility needs.

The turf and facility conditions provided by the Iowa Cubs grounds crew at the James W. Cownie Soccer Park have received positive comments from visitors, players and coaches. The health of the field turf and playability of the soccer fields have held up under tremendous use from local tournaments, high school matches, Drake University matches and the highly successful US Youth Soccer National Championships this past July. Likewise, this Baseball Park will not only serve several hundred local youth, it is anticipated that it will host a series of state, regional and national events that will produce local economic impact.

As a matter of courtesy, the Park and Recreation Director discussed this proposal with Jim Cownie, the key community leader on this project. Mr. Cownie expressed support for this action.

The relationship will be one of independent contractor and not employer/employee. The Des Moines Park and Recreation Department staff will continue to program and manage all events held at the soccer park and manage the leases and rentals at the baseball park.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: March 20, 2006

Roll Call Number: 06-568

Action: [Maintenance](#) Agreement with Greater Des Moines Baseball Co. (Iowa Cubs) for custodial care and horticultural maintenance at James W. Cownie Soccer Park, not to exceed \$275,000 per year. ([Council Communication No. 06-147](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Future action on two (2) additional three (3) year renewal agreements at the end of each term of the existing Agreement. Another item on a future Council agenda will be the lease agreement with the South Des Moines Little League for the use of the James W. Cownie Baseball Park. The agreement includes provisions for the SDMLL to share in the maintenance costs for the park.