
CITY COUNCIL REPORT

DATE: 4/18/2018

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Tyrone Johnson, Recreation Athletics Supervisor
Steve Zimmerman, Parks Manager

CC: Barbara Goodrich, Kevin Treadway, Shane Dille, Andy Bertelsen,
Leadership Team

SUBJECT: Flagstaff Girls Softball Little League Fields

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council on field allocations for Girls Softball. This report also summarizes a meeting that was held between City staff and Girls Softball representatives on April 13, 2018.

DISCUSSION

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

Discussions between the City of Flagstaff and Flagstaff Girls Softball Little League (FGSLL) started in 2011 when FGSLL approached Council about concerns with field allocations between baseball leagues and the softball league. Athletics staff worked directly with the FGSLL Board at that time to address the needs and concerns of the league. The manner in which fields are allocated for non-City or Flagstaff Unified School District use was shared with the league and is tiered as follows:

- Historical Precedence - Returning applicants have precedence over new applicants
- Youth applicants have precedence over adult applicants
- Local applicants have precedence over out-of-town applicants

Baseball little leagues have historical precedence for certain fields, and FGSLL was allocated fields at various Flagstaff Unified School District facilities and Foxglenn West Field prior to 2011. In 2011, FGSLL approached City staff to discuss the possibility of a dedicated “home” site where they would have more than one field in the same location. City staff offered the two fields at Foxglenn to be their “home” site and they would have continued use of FUSD fields. A storage shed was built on site adjacent to the Foxglenn East Field for the league to store equipment to maintain the fields during the FGSLL season.

The FGSLL Board turned down this proposal since lights are not allowed at the site. Staff continued to work with FGSLL and Continental Little League, which led to an agreement to allow the girls the use of Field #5, a lighted field, at the Continental complex. The field was permanently converted to a girls’ softball field. In addition to Continental Field #5, FGSLL was given Foxglenn West field and Adrian Garcia field at Guadalupe Park as dedicated girls’ softball fields with infields required for softball.

4/13/18 MEETING SUMMARY

City of Flagstaff staff and three current 2018 FGSLL Board Members met to discuss perceived field inequities between the baseball and softball little leagues.

Following is a list of the concerns brought forward by the board members:

- Lack of a site for a home complex
- Fields dispersed throughout the city impact fundraising through sponsorships of banners by businesses and other entities
- Lack of a place to hang the two State Championship banners
- Lack of working scoreboards
- Difficult for parents to watch multiple children play at different sites
- Lack of storage space
- More fields with lights

At the meeting, FGSLL stated they did not feel that the current field allocation was inequitable since the reallocations were made in 2011. One member even stated, "The relationship between girls' softball and the City is better than it has ever been." The group does not want to take away amenities from the boys' baseball leagues but rather work in conjunction with them to obtain a site where they could have three or four dedicated girls' softball fields.

Below are charts for the number of fields FGSLL, WFLL, and CLL received for the 2018 season and the number of participants they were each invoiced for in 2016 and 2017 in comparison to the numbers they each had when the discussion first began in 2011 (2018 participation numbers are not yet available):

2018 FIELD ALLOCATIONS

FLAGSTAFF GIRLS SOFTBALL LITTLE LEAGUE	7 FIELDS
CONTINENTAL LITTLE LEAGUE	8 FIELDS
WEST FLAGSTAFF LITTLE LEAGUE	9 FIELDS

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

	2011	2016	2017
FGSLL	343	256	285
CLL	435	312	310
WFLL	381	371	301

FGSLL Board members presented their ideas on how to accomplish some of their goals. Staff will continue to work with FGSLL and Continental Little League to discuss ideas and facilitate a solution that works for both organizations.

In the interim, staff has agreed to install a scoreboard at Continental Field #5 that was planned for Adrian Garcia field, as requested by FGSLL. Staff will also continue working with FGSLL on the placement of a larger storage container at Foxglenn Park and the possibility of using additional fields at Foxglenn Park.

Staff is preparing to discuss the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, as well as unfunded projects, and can continue the discussion on this topic in August as part of the continuing FOSPR discussion already on the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION / CONCLUSION

This report is for information only.