



CITY COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation

DATE: April 30, 2024

SUBJECT: Optimist Club of Cooper City Review of the Tackle Football Program
Suspension – **Parks & Recreation**

CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDATION:

The City Manager recommends reviewing the suspension imposed on the Optimist Club of Cooper City for the Tackle Football program.

BACKGROUND OF ITEM:

The Optimist Club of Cooper City has been the Sports provider in the City for over 50 years. The City and the Optimist Club have a continuous working relationship. Recently, as the relationship continued to develop, it became apparent the Tackle Football program was egregiously out of compliance with the resident/non-resident requirement. At the January Commission meeting, the City Commission directed City staff to suspend the Tackle Football program. The Commission was able to enact the suspension due to Resolution 12-7-5 (the "Resolution") which governs the relationship between the City and the Cooper City Optimist ("CCO"). The suspension was put into place due to the non-compliance requirement.

ANALYSIS:

Since the suspension was put in place, the Cooper City Optimist and the City have been working closely together on how to possibly come to a resolution on the suspension. The Optimist Club of Cooper City has increased their social media advertisement, visited with local schools to encourage participation in the program and implemented stronger resident verification measures during registration. Recently, the Cooper City Optimist Board voted to appoint a new Football Commissioner.

As a result of the changes and efforts made by the Optimist Club, they have come forward and are asking for a waiver of request. With the suspension in place, the Optimist Club is not able to utilize the fields at Pioneer Middle School through the Reciprocal Use Agreement (RUA). Not being able to use the RUA puts the program under a financial strain. As the program currently remains at a full suspension, City staff has identified the following options if the City Commission was open to considering the waiver of request the is being presented by the Optimist Club of Cooper City.

2024 Program Options:

1. Full suspension to remain in place, the football program will be able to rent the fields at Flamingo West Park and work directly with Pioneer to rent the field for their use. (Current Status)
2. Transition the suspension to a partial suspension and probationary status for the initial year, allowing for the football program to rent the fields at Flamingo West Park for practices and home games. Status will be reviewed at the conclusion of the season.
3. Remove the suspension, place on probationary status for the initial year and resume operations as they previously were arranged. Probationary status will be reviewed at the conclusion of the season. (Previous arrangements consisted of the tackle football program utilizing Flamingo West Park for games and practices. City staff arranged for the program to utilize Pioneer Middle School through the RUA).

*If option two or three are selected, the program would have to adhere to the action plan requirements.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Having a sports provider in the City helps create a Strong Sense of Place, which is identified with the third priority. Working with the sports provider helps foster community pride and increases social interactions.

PROCUREMENT:

Not Applicable

FISCAL IMPACT:

Currently, the City collects the non-resident rate of \$50.00 and a field usage fee of \$15.00 per non-resident participant. If the suspension remains in effect, Cooper City Optimist would not pay these fees to the City. However, the financial impact could be received through the rental of the fields. If the full suspension remains in place, the City would not receive either fees as the Optimist Club has indicated renting the City facilities and School Board facilities presents a financial strain on the program.

<u>General Ledger Acct. Number</u>	<u>Budgeted Amount</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>	<u>Remaining Amount</u>
001-000-347503-347 – Optimist Revenue (\$50.00 non-resident fee)	\$ 10,100	\$	\$
001-000-347500-347-PARKM	\$3,030	\$	\$


ALTERNATIVES:

If the suspension is not removed, the Tackle Football program will no longer be able to continue due to a financial strain. The City would continue their relationship with the Cooper City Optimist

Club. Losing the tackle football program would result in the right to first refusal being abolished as it pertains to the Tackle Football program and other outside organizations having the option to rent the City Facilities.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Optimist Club of Cooper City Waiver Request Letter
2. City of Cooper City/Tackle Football Non-Compliance Letter
3. Email Confirmation of New Football Commissioner
4. Resolution 12-7-5
5. Cooper City Action Plan
6. Email confirmation of new Tackle Football Commissioner

Workflow History 			
User	Task	Action	Date/Time
Allen, Tedra	NEW ITEM: Not Yet Routed	*COMPLETE: Forward to City Attorney	04/19/24 03:12 PM
Allen, Tedra	Assigned to Attorney	Return to Original Submitter	04/22/24 01:10 PM
Allen, Tedra	Returned to Original Submitter by Attorney	Return to Attorney	04/22/24 01:21 PM
Allen, Tedra	Assigned to Attorney	Route to City Clerk	04/22/24 01:21 PM
Allen, Tedra	Assigned to City Clerk	Route to Budget	04/22/24 01:22 PM
Nadeau, Mike	Assigned to Budget	COMPLETE: Forward to City Clerk	04/22/24 01:22 PM
<i>Stacie has indicated that the budgeted amounts in the fiscal impact section of this staff report are The Optimist Football's portion of the budget. If that is the case, then the fiscal impact section of this staff report is correct.</i>			
Allen, Tedra	Assigned to City Clerk	Route to Attorney	04/22/24 02:29 PM
Horowitz, Jacob	Assigned to Attorney	COMPLETE: Forward to City Manager	04/22/24 03:53 PM
Eggleston, Ryan	Assigned to City Manager	COMPLETE: Forward to City Clerk	04/23/24 08:08 AM
Allen, Tedra	Assigned to City Clerk	APPROVE ITEM: End Workflow	04/23/24 09:57 AM
Allen, Tedra	END WORKFLOW - APPROVED		04/23/24 10:04 AM