



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
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Dripping Springs, TX 78602

Submitted By: Kelly Schmidt, Parks and Community Services Director

City Council Meeting Date: February 15, 2022

Agenda Item Wording: Discuss and review a report about the budget, operations, and implementation of the Parks and Community Services' Dripping Springs Adult Softball program.

Agenda Item Requestor: Geoffrey Tahuahua

Summary/Background: For the last 48 years Coach Carl Waits has run as a volunteer the Dripping Springs Adult Softball league. For many seasons he has expressed interest in the city taking over the league as part of the Parks & Community Services department's programming mission. In 2021 Coach Waits finally retired and passed the baton to the city.

In preparation for managing the program PCS Director Kelly Schmidt, Maintenance Director Craig Rice, and Programs and Aquatics Manager Mack Rusick met several times with representatives from each of the existing leagues. Pre-existing cost breakdown, maintenance practices, and schedules were shared with staff to aid in an easy transition between what had been and what an Adult Softball Program with the city would materialize as.

It wasn't until the final budget was approved and Council expressed support for the new program that staff could move forward with taking over the leagues and setting up the program in the software system, marketing, and website. There are many facets of any recreation or enrichment program, demand, budget, location, staff support, and program lifecycle. While most new programs need a minimum of 3 years to really vet whether they are successful or not, the Adult Softball program was adopted by the city already a fully vetted and successful program with decades in the making.

During the meetings the league representatives shared with staff the structure governing play, games, and support such as referees and score keepers. Two of the leagues were in support of needing referees and one was not. Staff took into consideration all points and have put together a program that reflects as closely as possible the existing structure. Given that 2022 is a transition year, the leagues understand that due to associated costs to manage and oversee the

program, the structure may evolve in subsequent years to reflect program standards practiced in other municipal recreation programs.

Program Support

Referees and Score Keepers, Contractual vs. Regular employees of the city: What's the difference?

In the past the League's paid referees and Score Keepers directly. Now that the city has taken over the Adult Softball program, there are two options by which to offer the same level of program support. We may hire seasonal staff (like we do for the operations of the swimming pool) or we may hire contractual staff. Currently the positions are presented as part-time seasonal hires, but after conferring with existing referees and score keepers they would prefer to provide the program support service contractually.

The primary difference between the status categories is how the individual is taxed. As an employee we take the required taxes out and pay employment related fees as a contractor it is up to the individual to manage their tax requirements. As an employee the individual is covered by the city's workman's comp insurance as a contractor they are not and may need to obtain their own insurance and name the city as additionally insured, depending. In both scenarios, individuals will need to agree to and pass a National criminal and sex offender background check.

**Staff
Recommendation:**

N/a

Attachments:

Adult Softball Budget

Next Steps/Schedule:

N/a - Program was approved by council for FY2022, registration has begun and steps have also been implemented to improve the fields.