



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 12/13/2022

REQUESTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

PRESENTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF R-2223-77: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, APPROVING THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE SERVICE CONTRACT K-1819-70 WITH THE BALL CLUBS OF NORMAN TO THE NORMAN OPTIMIST CLUB AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO MAKE ALL PAYMENTS REQUIRED UNDER THE CONTRACT TO THE NORMAN OPTIMIST CLUB.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2018, the City contracted with the Ball Clubs of Norman to manage the youth softball and baseball programs and the adult softball program. The contract auto renewed for five (5) one year terms with the agreement due to expire in November 2023.

The contract allowed for the use of the fields at Griffin Park for these programs. In February 2019, the contract was amended to allow use of the fields at Reaves Park. It was further amended in 2021 to take over the adult softball programming, limit its programming to the fields at Reaves Park, and extend the term of the contract for five (5) more one year terms to 2026.

For a \$1 annual payment from the City, use of equipment owned by the City and the City's mowing the grounds weekly, the contract requires the operating entity to pay a pro-rated portion of the electric bill (will require they pay 100% in 2023), carry workers' compensation and liability insurance for its programming, maintain the park areas used for programming, provide concession operations and provide a schedule of regular season play, tournaments and other sanctioned events to the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

The Ball Clubs of Norman (BCON) has decided to disband as of December 31, 2022, and their Board has voted to transfer their operations to the Norman Optimist Club (NOC). The NOC provides youth sports programming including football, volleyball, and basketball. Some of the staff and board members of the BCON are transitioning to NOC. There were already four board members serving on both boards. Both organizations feel that consolidating youth sports programming will be more efficient for finances and staffing. The increased efficiency should allow more investment and upkeep for the facilities used for baseball and softball programming. This will also allow more time to be spent on growing the leagues, leading to increased participation and tournament offerings.

DISCUSSION:

In order to transition the City's contract with BCON to NOC the contract needs to be assigned by BCON to NOC. The contract specifies that the City of Norman should not unreasonably withhold prior written consent for BCON to assign its contract.

The NOC has experience running sports programs and league play. Many of the staff and board members familiar with the softball and baseball leagues and tournaments held by BCON will be moving over to NOC and provide for a smooth transition of those programs.

Sign-ups for Spring league play traditionally begin in early January requiring the City's approval be granted for the assignment of the contract to NOC as quickly as possible.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Resolution R-2223-77 approving the assignment of the City's contract for youth baseball and softball and adult softball programming with the Ball Clubs of Norman to the Norman Optimist Club, and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to make any necessary payments under the terms of the contract to the Norman Optimist Club.