

Study Session
Council Chambers
November 22, 2005

Mayor Jones introduced Dick Graf, representing Selah National Little League. Mr. Graf thanked City officials and staff for their help in making McGonagle Field become a reality. He passed around a handout and pictures of McGonagle Park. He noted this project began in 1994, despite some initial resistance from neighbors, and has been warmly received by the community. He called Council Members' attention to the balance sheet showing that in 2004, beginning with a \$4,000 balance SNLL raised \$57,000 primarily through a fundraiser, All Star tournament proceeds and concession stand transfers. He noted that volunteer labor made that possible.

Councilman Keith Larson asked if the \$15,000 fund transfer from concessions was the result of profits in concessions. Mr. Graf responded affirmatively.

Councilman Brian Harris asked if restitution goes to the insurance company. Mr. Graf explained that that item results from insurance covering a theft five years ago; the ex-president of Selah Little League pays restitution of \$1,200 yearly to cover the amount that was not covered by insurance.

Mr. Graf called Council Members' attention to the next page, which illustrates the New Field Construction Account. He noted that after starting with a zero cash balance in September of 2001, they have dispersed \$915,000 for McGonagle field as of September of 2005. He stated much of this money has come from donations, which are listed in the handout. He praised the work done by Job Corps workers. He stated this field has become a part of the history of Selah. He stated Huibregtse, Louman estimates the value of the park at \$2 million.

Councilman Allen Schmid asked how the value of work done by Job Corps was determined.

Dick Graf responded that someone bid that job initially and the difference is what Job Corps actually did it for subtracted from the bid amount. He stated there is a lot Job Corps can do if you can be patient.

Councilman Brian Harris asked if Mr. Graf considered the Job Corps work outstanding.

Dick Graf responded that both the Job Corps masonry and carpenter's work were outstanding.

He then asked the Council to consider some items in the agreement between SNLL and the City. He stated they would like to move the date for full accounting of operations from October 15 to November 30 each year. Similarly, in Item 8, they would like to change the time period for exclusive rights of use from March 1 through July 31 to extend the season to September 30, allowing for completion of both the basic season and

post season. He noted that Little League pledged to reimburse the City \$25,000 for the extension of water to the field, and they are now getting in a position where they would be able to make payments on that obligation. However, SNLL would like to build a storage building and remove the metal container they have been using for additional storage. He asked that the Council consider allowing SNLL to build that storage building, which would cost about \$45,000, in lieu of paying the \$25,000 and release that debt obligation.

Councilman Allen Schmid asked where this building would be placed. Mr. Graf responded it would go where metal container located is now.

Mayor Jones stated Selah Little League has put a lot of work into this; it has been a labor of love for a lot of people. He noted the City has a \$2 million property basically for the donation of the land. He stated we have a problem with water now and rates may need to be raised.

Dick Graf stated 350 kids a year go through the SNLL program.

Councilman Schmid thanked Dick Graf for the outstanding job he has done for the community and praised Selah Little League. He suggested the Council not take action today because they will be looking at all contracts for fields. He asked what future capital outlays Mr. Graf envisions for the field.

Dick Graf noted the entrance is open and they need to figure out how to fence and gate it. He stated another outlay would be cutting in warning tracks into the outfield.

Councilman Schmid stated someone could now drive all over the fields if he or she wanted to.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet noted some shade would be nice.

Mayor Jones stated the parking lot should be paved.

Dick Graf stated all proceeds are going back into the field. He noted they have received many compliments on the field. He stated you don't know whether fundraising efforts such as the dinner and concessions will continue to work into the future, whether new people will continue to be involved.

Councilman Schmid asked for clarification about the trade-off for the building.

Dick Graf stated SNLL agreed to participate \$25,000 toward the cost of bring water out to the field and Selah Covenant Church. He said future auction proceeds will be split out to fund a Jason Dodeward Scholarship fund for outstanding High School Seniors who have participated in Little League. Mayor Jones praised Councilman Harris' auctioneering abilities.

Councilman Larson thanked Dick and SNLL for their hard work, noting his curiosity regarding how field maintenance duties are split.

Dick Graf responded that 80 people come in for a day to get the fields ready to go. The City regularly mows, fertilizes and takes care of sprinkler heads. SNLL takes care of field prep for games, and so far, the fans pick up after themselves.

Councilman Smeback stated the City originally paid \$85,000 for land, and we can see the results. He noted he personally has no problem with swapping out the new building for the \$25,000 obligation. Councilman Schmid asked if SNLL would plan to build that building this spring. Mr. Graf said, "Yes."

Frank Sweet stated he will bring back the revised document with wording reflecting the changes Mr. Graf has requested.

Mayor Jones stated a dozen or so kids have done community service up there.

Councilman Larson asked if any problems have arisen from other groups using the field.

Dick Graf responded that integrated machine pitch is in there. He stated every week the field is used Monday through Saturday, and that use has likely prevented some damage that might have occurred if no one had been in the area.

Councilman Brian Harris praised the hours and hours Dick Graf has put into SNLL and the field. He asked whether the gate will be locked when the new structure is built, or if the public continue to have access.

Mr. Graf noted skateboarders have caused a lot of damage and some spray painting has been done. He said there have been no problems during the season; off season is when the problems arise. Councilman Harris stated that, using McGonagle as an example, the new skate park exists because skaters raised money and made it happen.

Councilman Allen Schmid suggested a walk-through gate so you can't drive into the park.

Councilman Keith Larson asked if the City owns all of these improvements.

Mr. Graf responded affirmatively.

The Study Session adjourned at 3:44.