




# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Ward and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Richard Thompson, Interim City Manager 

**FROM:** Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation *RG*  
Mark Leyman, Recreation Services Manager *ML*

**DATE:** April 20, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Manhattan Little League Request for a Fee Waiver of the 2009 City Field Usage Fees

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council discuss and provide direction for the request from Manhattan Little League (MLL) for a fee waiver of the 2009 City field usage fees.

### FISCAL IMPLICATION:

If approved, this would be a loss of \$13,900 to the City's general fund. MLL believes that the contribution of \$35,325 towards field enhancements should cover the \$13,900 for the 2009 field usage fees.

### BACKGROUND:

In 2006, the City Council adopted a policy for each of the community based youth sports user groups to contribute \$10 per participant to help offset field maintenance costs. On February 8, 2010, Staff received a letter (Attachment A) from MLL requesting the waiver of the 2009 City usage fee in the amount of \$13,900 (1,390 registered players x \$10 per person).

### DISCUSSION:

Traditionally, the City has been able to provide additional field maintenance for the youth sports leagues each year such as: hydroseeding the outfields of the soccer and baseball fields and re-sodding the baseball field infields. In the past, these costs were contained with the landscape extras portion of the Public Works parks maintenance budget.

Last year, the City reduced the Public Works field maintenance budget by 40% as part of the budget reductions. The savings were accomplished through seasonal reductions in service, extended service intervals, reduction in contractor inspections of City maintained sites, and an elimination of contract extras. These reductions in the budget had a direct impact on the condition of the fields.

Agenda Item #: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff from the Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments reviewed the letter from Little League which itemized the field enhancements paid for by the league, totaling \$35,325. Staff evaluated each item to determine if the enhancements were for the good of the entire community and if the enhancements had been paid for by the City in past years. After evaluating the MLL letter listing the field improvements, staff determined that \$13,900 of the enhancements were either for the community benefit or had been done by the City in past years.

The concern that Staff expressed to MLL is that they approached the City after spending over \$35,000 on field improvements. Although staff believes that the improvements were needed and justified, staff is concerned about the precedent that is set for other youth leagues paying their usage fees. MLL has agreed that any request for fee waivers in future years will need to be approved by City Council before the start of the season.

**MANHATTAN LITTLE LEAGUE, INC.**

P.O. Box 3152  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266



February 8, 2010

Richard Gill  
Director  
City of Manhattan Beach Parks and Recreation Dept.  
1400 Highland Ave  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

**Re: Manhattan Little League ("MLL") Request for Waiver of 2009 City Usage Fee**

Dear Richard:

During our meeting on Friday, you informed me that the City of Manhattan Beach claimed that it was still owed field usage fees for 2009 in the amount of \$13,900 (1390 registered players x \$10 per), and that due to the increase in fees to \$15 per person this year, our field usage fee for 2010 would be \$18,765 (1251 x \$15 per). Due to an apparent miscommunication within MLL, it was our understanding that the 2009 fees would be waived or reduced as a result of the monies spent by MLL to repair and enhance Dorsey field. You informed me on Friday that no such waiver was in place.

Unfortunately, as a result of this miscommunication and that MLL did not receive an invoice in 2009 for our usage fees, MLL does not have the money in its budget to cover the 2009 fees. Instead, MLL has spent the money on field repairs and maintenance that typically has been done by the City, but due to its budget constraints, the City has been unable to do.

The monies spent on fields by MLL in 2009 and 2010 to date include:

1. Dorsey Field – MLL spent in excess of \$11,500 to convert Dorsey into a multi-purpose field by removing the infield turf and replacing the sod with clay dirt and increasing the size of the infield area. We also set new bases to allow the field to be used by multiple programs including Little League baseball, Juniors baseball, girls softball and adult softball – all to the City's advantage. In addition, by removing the infield grass, the City benefited from the reduced maintenance costs. MLL also incurred an additional amount of approximately \$950 for labor and materials to repair dangerous ruts and holes in the outfield with dirt and seed, and in some places sod.
2. Live Oak Field – The Live Oak infield was destroyed by the Home Town Fair in October. The infield was completely unplayable and unsafe for baseball. Although the City supplied the labor to lay the new sod, MLL incurred the cost for approximately 5000 sq. ft. of new sod for the

infield in the approximate amount of \$3500. MLL incurred an additional amount of approximately \$350 for dirt, seed and labor to repair holes and damaged areas in the outfield.

3. **Premiere Field** – This field is subject to flooding particularly around the home plate and mound areas. MBMS uses this field for P.E which causes considerable wear and tear to these areas. MLL has incurred approximately \$650 for dirt, seed, and labor to repair the damaged areas in the infield (ruts, grass lips, etc.), to eliminate any safety issues and to make the field playable.
4. **Manhattan Heights** – The Heights outfield grass suffered substantial wear and tear from AYSO soccer using this field. Several bare spots were re-seeded and sod added. MLL paid for all supplies and labor at a cost of approximately \$675.
5. **Big Marine** – This field was in dire need of new infield turf as a result of numerous years of use leaving many areas unsafe for play due to ruts, grass clumps, etc. MLL incurred \$17,135 to supply all labor, materials and equipment to install 8,100 sq ft of sports field sod to renovate the turf infield, including the removal of brick dust and the installation of top soil. MLL also retrofitted the irrigation system. Of this amount, approximately \$6000 was for discretionary improvements to increase the size of the existing infield so that it was the proper size for Juniors, Seniors and High School play.
6. **Marine Complex** – Again, AYSO soccer took a heavy toll on the outfield grass areas at the Marine Complex. MLL incurred approximately \$1200 in supplies and labor to re-seed the outfield bare spots. In addition, Marine West required a combination of repairs to address safety issues with the field (a dangerous lip at the outfield grass transition and a depression at or near 2<sup>nd</sup> base) and a slight expansion of the dirt area of the field to make it compliant with ASA softball rules for tournament play. Sod that was purchased by MLL to repair the grass areas unfortunately was taken or removed by the City’s contractor, TruGreen. It is our understanding that TruGreen will make up for this loss by re-sodding the bare spots at Marine West and Central in the outfield areas. The repairs to the infield to outfield transition are in progress and will cost MLL approximately \$4500 in materials and labor.

**Overall:**

<b>Dorsey:</b>	<b>\$12,450</b>
<b>Live Oak:</b>	<b>\$3850</b>
<b>Premiere:</b>	<b>\$650</b>
<b>Manhattan Heights:</b>	<b>\$675</b>
<b>Big Marine:</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>
<b><u>Marine Complex:</u></b>	<b><u>\$5700</u></b>

**Total: \$34,325**

As you can see, MLL has spent well in excess of the \$13,900 in 2009 usage fees on maintenance and repairs to the City’s fields that are used by multiple organizations including AYSO, the HomeTown Fair, adult softball, adult kickball and others. Each year, MLL takes great care in delivering these fields at the end of its season to these respective organizations in excellent shape, only to have them returned to us in or about December in worsened condition. In the past, the City has assisted MLL in repairing

the ball fields to get them ready for our Spring season. Unfortunately, due to the City's budget constraints this year, MLL has been forced to shoulder the entire financial burden to repair the fields and eliminate any safety issues. Accordingly, MLL hereby requests a waiver of the City's 2009 usage fee to help offset the substantial costs incurred by MLL to repair the City's fields.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hunter  
President  
Manhattan Little League  
310-365-3432

cc: MLL Board of Directors (via email)