



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Montgomery and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Richard Thompson, Interim City Manager

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

DATE: December 7, 2010

SUBJECT: Approval of a Donation from Manhattan Beach Youth Athletics (Manhattan Beach Little League) for New Lights at Big Marine Baseball Field

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the donation from Manhattan Beach Youth Athletics (Manhattan Beach Little League) for new lights at Big Marine Baseball Field.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There are no fiscal implications associated with the recommended action. The project will be supported through a donation from Manhattan Beach Little League. The project cost is estimated to be \$195,000 which will be funded entirely by Manhattan Beach Little League.

BACKGROUND:

On July 14, 2010, Manhattan Beach Little League sent a letter (Attachment A) to the City to re-lamp Marine Avenue Baseball Field. They wanted to increase the light levels on the baseball field due to safety concerns with the older participants in Little League and players from Mira Costa High School.

Staff asked Little League to select a company to perform the light installation and to submit the installation plans for engineering to review. The company that Little League selected to re-lamp the field was Musco Lighting. The City has worked previously with Musco Lighting, as all fields in Manhattan Beach are lit with Musco lights. The plans were submitted to the City's engineering department for review. Engineering approved the plans after reviewing the structural integrity of the poles and specifications for light fixture installation.

City staff also asked Little League to provide the contractual agreement (Attachment C) between the League and Musco lighting for the City Attorney to review. The City Attorney did review the agreement between Little League and Musco. He confirmed that the City will retain ownership of the lights, and that the league has agreed to donate the lights which carry a 10 year warranty and maintenance agreement.

Since the installation of new lights will increase the light levels on the field, staff notified the homeowners facing Marine Baseball field along Marine Avenue and in Manhattan Village of the new light upgrade. A public meeting was held on Wednesday, November 10, 2010 to discuss the light replacement upgrade. None of the homeowners that received a notice attended the meeting, nor did anyone contact staff for further information on the project.

DISCUSSION

The minimum light levels for Little League are 50 footcandles in the infield and 30 footcandles in the outfield. The standard light levels for competitive play of Little League Juniors and the High School increase to 70 footcandles and 50 footcandles. The current light levels are well below the High School and Little League standards. Currently, the light levels average 25 footcandles in the infield and 18 footcandles in the outfield. The new light levels are estimated to be 68 footcandles in the infield and 36 footcandles in the outfield, providing a much safer environment.

Light levels were taken at the edge of the Marine Park property line along Marine Avenue and at the Manhattan Village western property line. The light levels along the property lines (Attachment B) are currently .32 vertical and .05 horizontal footcandles. The new lights will be .56 vertical and .09 horizontal footcandles. Therefore, the spill light level will increase one quarter of one footcandle at the property line. As a comparison, the typical street light is between 3 to 7 footcandles.

The Musco lights that will be installed at Marine baseball field provide new technology that will cut operating costs in half, provide constant light levels and include a monitoring and remote on/off control service. The installation also moves the ballast down the light pole to reduce wind drag and make future maintenance items much easier to service. The new lights also include a 10 year maintenance and warranty program.

The existing light fixtures at the Marine baseball field were replaced in 2001. If Little League did not donate the new light fixtures, the City would need to replace many of the existing bulbs in the upcoming fiscal year.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that City Council approve the donation from Manhattan Beach Little League for new lights at Big Marine Baseball Field.

Attachments:

- A. Letter of request from Manhattan Beach Little League
- B. Musco lighting spill light level diagrams
- C. Light installation agreement between Manhattan Beach Little League and Musco Lighting