



City of Las Cruces®

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Council Action and Executive Summary

Item # 22

Ordinance/Resolution # 10-239

Council District: All

For Meeting of March 15, 2010
(Adoption Date)

TITLE:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DISBURSEMENT OF STIPENDS TO LOCAL YOUTH LEAGUES AND ORGANIZATIONS, FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF A PORTION OF THE OPERATIONAL EXPENSES FOR 2009 SEASON(S), IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$54,500.00.

PURPOSE(S) OF ACTION:

To approve the 2009 disbursement of league and organization stipends, utilized to reimburse a portion of the operational costs to providers of youth sports and activities. The stipends are an integral part of the operational budgets for each of the leagues/organizations.

Name of Drafter: Mark Johnston <i>[Signature]</i>		Department: Facilities / Parks & Recreation		Phone: 541-2550/541-2553	
Department	Signature	Phone	Department	Signature	Phone
Facilities	<i>[Signature]</i>	541-2651	Budget	<i>[Signature]</i>	2300
			Assistant City Manager	<i>[Signature]</i>	2271
Legal	<i>[Signature]</i>	591-2128	City Manager	<i>[Signature]</i>	2074

BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

For years the City has subsidized a portion of the operational expenses associated with the provision of programs by local youth athletic leagues and organizations through the disbursement of stipends. Currently, the City has \$54,500.00, identified in FY09/10 Budget to be utilized for stipends. On a yearly basis staff brings forward funding requests to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, who then develops a recommendation for City Council approval.

At their Regular Meeting of February 23, 2010, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board voted to approve the following 2009 funding requests:

Las Cruces Youth Softball Association	\$8,500
Las Cruces Youth Baseball Association	\$10,000
Las Cruces Inline Hockey Association	\$4,000
Bantam Weight Sports Association	\$8,000
Police Athletic League	\$14,000

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Police Athletic League	\$14,000
Southwest Youth Sports, Inc. (BMX)	\$ 2,000
High Noon Soccer	\$ 8,000

If individual leagues or organizations decide that they do not need the stipend for their operations; it is further recommended that the Parks and Recreation Section will utilize the funds to enhance a variety of maintenance activities on the ball fields for youth athletic programs. The funding will be utilized to purchase ball field supplies such as; bases, paint, grass seed and/or infield material.

Staff will be seeking input from leagues and organizations as well as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in an effort to develop a policy that will guide future requests/disbursements by establishing criteria and a system to measure needs. Staff anticipates completing the development of the policy in the next few months and will be seeking City Council approval. Upon approval, staff will bring forward for City Council action, all youth league and organization requests for the 2010 season(s).

SUPPORT INFORMATION:

Fund Name / Account Number –	Amount of Expenditure	Budget Amount
General Fund		
10123220 - 722190	\$50,000	\$ 54,400
10123250 - 722190	\$ 4,500	\$117,000

1. Resolution.
2. Exhibit "A" - Excerpts from the draft Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting February 23, 2010.

OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Resolution approving the distribution of the league/organization stipends for the 2009 season(s).
2. Not Approve the Resolution. Denial of the Resolution will result in no distribution of stipends.
3. Modify the Resolution and provide staff with further direction.

RESOLUTION NO. 10-239

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DISBURSEMENT OF STIPENDS TO LOCAL YOUTH LEAGUES AND ORGANIZATIONS, FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF A PORTION OF THE OPERATIONAL EXPENSES FOR 2009 SEASON(S), IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$54,500.00.

The City Council is informed that:

WHEREAS, for a number of years the City of Las Cruces has been assisting youth sports programs and activities that benefit the citizens of Las Cruces; and

WHEREAS, it is in the City's best interest to continue supporting leagues and organizations that offer services and/or recreational opportunities for youth; and

WHEREAS, the requested funds are currently identified in the Fiscal Year 09/10 Parks and Recreation Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board reviewed and approved the funding requests and sent forward a recommendation for City Council action at their February 23, 2010 Meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the governing body of the City of Las Cruces:

(I)

THAT, The City of Las Cruces hereby approves the funding requests.

(II)

THAT, City staff is hereby authorized to do all deeds necessary in the accomplishments of the herein above.

10-239
Resolution No. _____ (Cont)
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DONE AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____ 2010.

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

VOTE:

Mayor Miyagishima: _____

Councillor Silva: _____

Councillor Connor: _____

Councillor Pedroza: _____

Councillor Small: _____

Councillor Sorg: _____

Councillor Thomas: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Antoine J. St. Denis

City Attorney

**EXCERPTS FROM "DRAFT" MEETING NOTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2010**

1 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting was held on February 23, 2010, at
2 the WIA Building at 340 N. Reymond Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

3
4 **PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

5 Mr. Isaac Chavez, Board Chair, Mr. Frank Carril, Board Vice-
6 Chair, Ms. Alice Ward, Mr. Mark O'Neill, and Mr. Ron
7 Camunez

8 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Eli Guzman, Mr. Gerald Saige

9 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. Mark Johnston, Parks and Recreation Administrator, Mr.
10 Lorenzo Saiz, Mr. Sam DiPace, and Mr. Tom Benavidez,
11 representing PAL Boxing; Mr. Michael Cox and Mr. Steve
12 Calderazzo, representing the Las Cruces Youth Softball
13 Association; Mr. Tim Hall, representing the Las Cruces
14 Bantam Weight Association; Mr. Kevin Armstrong and Ms.
15 Renee Waskiewicz, representing the Dog Park Coalition; Mr.
16 Rick Medina, Mr. Fermin Alvarado and Mr. Scott Bannister,
17 representing the Las Cruces Youth Baseball Association;
18 Ms. Trina Witter representing the Mesilla Valley Bicycle
19 Coalition; and Ms. Barbara Gomez, Parks and Recreation
20 Administrative Assistant/P&R Advisory Board Recording
21 Secretary

22
23 Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

24
25 **I. Introductions**

26
27 **A.** Board Members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent.
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29

30 **II. Approval of Minutes**

31
32 **III. New Business**

33
34 **B. Leagues and Organizations Stipends**

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36 Mr. Johnston informed the Board that stipends were not taken to Council for the 2009-
37 2010 seasons. He stated that staff had developed the stipend policy based on funding
38 level approved by City Council and criteria by users. Mr. Camunez asked why the issue
39 was not taken to Council in 2009. Mr. Johnston answered that it was an oversight by
40 staff. Mr. Camunez asked if all users are asking for stipends. Mr. Johnston answered
41 that High Noon Soccer is not asking for a stipend.

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Mr. Johnston said he wants to work with the Board and Leagues to tighten relationships between all. Mr. Chavez said that he wants a meeting set up to meet with the Leagues in a less formal fashion sometime in March or April. Mr. Johnston said he would set up a meeting in March; prior to the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting.

Mr. O'Neill asked if there are guidelines on how Leagues spend the stipends. Mr. Johnston said they are to be used for operational expenses.

Mr. Camunez stated that he is aware some of the Leagues are making money and not contributing.

Mr. Johnston said that is why the stipends are being revisited. He said there are three issues being looked at requiring changes and are those are: Stipends, Fees and Charges Policy and Facility Use Fees. Aquatic fees will be set apart from these.

Mr. Chavez informed the Leagues to make sure and have a voice at the table at this meeting.

Mr. O'Neill asked what maintenance the City takes care of at the playing fields. Mr. Johnston replied that the City takes care of dragging fields, electricity, etc. and added that some of the Leagues are very good about volunteering and help pick up trash, etc.

Mr. Chavez thanked the League representatives for attending the meeting.

Mr. Michael Cox, Las Cruces Youth Softball Association, stated that the stipends have been a battle for two years. He said how and why stipends were distributed came about 30 years ago. He said the City used to run all Leagues at a cost of about \$60,000 per year so it was decided to divvy up stipends and let volunteers run the Leagues. He said that there are no paid volunteers within their organization. He said the City gets back about \$50,000 from in-kind services from them and they also bring in around 70-100 teams to the City for the Missy Molina Tournament which brings in revenue for the City. He suggested bringing the Adhoc Committee notes to the stipend meeting.

Mr. Cox stated that he had a problem with the City adding new programs and pools when we don't have the budget to upkeep existing programs.

Mr. O'Neill asked Mr. Cox how much does the LCYBA profit. Mr. Cox replied about \$12,000 which is used for purchasing portable fences, pitching machines, etc.

Mr. Carril asked Mr. Cox how he would feel if the senior programs started to receive part of the stipends. Mr. Cox replied that the seniors can afford to pay for their programs; stipends should be just for the kids.

Mr. Camunez asked what the budget was for softball. Mr. Johnston replied 1.25 million for all ballfields which includes all sports.

1
2 Mr. Johnston informed the Board of an Agreement with the Las Cruces Public Schools
3 to help maintain some of the fields at the Field of Dreams.
4

5 Mr. O'Neill asked how the decision was made on what fields the City and LCPS would
6 maintain.
7

8 Mr. Johnston answered that LCPS will maintain fields 1-5 because they are used by
9 youth 14-up, and the City will maintain fields 6-16 because these are utilized by the
10 younger children.
11

12 Mr. Cox stated that he recalls the Field of Dreams was built with Bond monies and the
13 City was to maintain them. Mr. Johnston replied the City and LCPS function well
14 together and are both going to work at maintaining the Field of Dreams.
15

16 Mr. Sam Di Pace said that the organization has put in about \$200,000 in building
17 maintenance including a roof.
18

19 Mr. Camunez stated that he had information that PAL was using the Sammy Burke
20 Boxing building to train professional boxers. He asked if that was true.
21

22 Mr. Tom Benavidez, PAL Boxing Association, said that there are professional boxers
23 using the facility but in return they are volunteering their coaching skills and working
24 with the kids and are not taking away any time from the kids. He also stated that the
25 pros using the facility grew up through the PAL system since they were kids.
26

27 Mr. Camunez said he agrees the pros are needed; however, it could be perceived as a
28 conflict, and they must be careful with the perception because tax payers' dollars are
29 being used to fund the youth boxing program. Even if the pros are training when kids
30 are not there, it still adds costs, such as electricity, etc.
31

32 Mr. Lorenzo Saiz, PAL Boxing Association, said that it doesn't make sense that pros
33 should not be allowed to utilize the facility since they been part of the PAL system since
34 they were kids and when they turn 19 they have to be turned away.
35

36 Mr. Chavez asked if any of the \$17,000 they receive is used for these professionals'
37 travel. Mr. DiPace stated that money used for travel was for youth boxers. He stated
38 that traveling is very expensive; they took 4 or 5 kids to San Antonio and the trip cost
39 \$4,000.
40

41 Mr. Sam DiPace, PAL Boxing Association, said that not all the kids in the boxing
42 program travel and fight; they just want to train; which is a good way of keeping them off
43 the streets. He said he would also like to see the pro boxers sponsoring the younger
44 boxers as a way of giving back.
45

1 Mr. O'Neill asked Mr. Benavidez if he was the Executive Director receiving a \$6000
2 salary per year from the City of Las Cruces. Mr. Benavidez responded "yes".

3
4 Mr. O'Neill asked Mr. Johnston if we were receiving financials from the groups. Mr.
5 Johnston replied yes, but they are not up to par. He said that we are tightening up the
6 reporting process by making sure they are completing their 990's and 501C3
7 paperwork.

8
9 Mr. Saiz asked if PAL would be receiving a check. Mr. Johnston replied "yes".

10
11 Mr. Chavez asked that League representatives keep in mind that the Advisory Board
12 can only recommend to approve the stipends; but City Council has the final approval.

13
14 Mr. Johnston said that stipends will be presented to Council at their March 15, 2010,
15 meeting in the old format and after League meeting; a new format for stipends will be
16 presented to Council in the form of a City Policy.

17
18 Mr. Chavez asked for a motion to approve recommendation to City Council. Mr.
19 Camunez moved to approve and Mr. Carril seconded the motion.

20
21 Motion passed 5-0.

22
23 Mr. Mark O'Neill voted YES

Mr. Frank Carril voted YES

24 Mr. Isaac Chavez voted YES

Mr. Ron Camunez voted YES

25 Ms. Alice Ward voted YES

26
27 **IV. REPORTS:**

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29 **A. Parks Management and Recreation Section Reports**

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31 **ADJOURNMENT**

32
33 With no further business, Mr. Saige adjourned the February 23, 2010 meeting at 9:05
34 p.m.

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36
37 Barbara Gomez, Recording Secretary

Isaac Chavez, Chair P&R Board

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