

# City of Las Cruces®

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

## Council Action and Executive Summary

Item # 12Ordinance/Resolution# 12-073For Meeting of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ordinance First Reading Date)For Meeting of October 17, 2011  
(Adoption Date)

**TITLE:** A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DISTRIBUTION OF STIPENDS TO LOCAL YOUTH LEAGUES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO ASSIST WITH OPERATION EXPENSES FOR THE 2011 SEASON, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,000.

**PURPOSE(S) OF ACTION:** To approve stipends to local youth leagues/associations.

<b>COUNCIL DISTRICT:</b> All		
<b>Drafter/Staff Contact:</b> Mark Johnston 	<b>Department/Section:</b> Parks & Recreation	<b>Phone:</b> 541-2550
<b>City Manager Signature:</b> 		

### **BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:**

For many years, the City of Las Cruces has subsidized a portion of the operational expenses associated with the provision of programs by local youth leagues and organizations through the disbursement of stipends.

On a yearly basis leagues and organizations that request stipends must adhere to the guidelines set forth in the Stipend Policy. The stipend requests are brought forward to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Board) for discussion and recommendation. At their regular meeting on September 15, 2011 the Board recommended the following stipend allocations:

Las Cruces Youth Softball	\$5,000
South West Sports (BMX)	\$4,000
Minor Threat Junior Roller Derby	\$2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>

The requested stipends will be used to help defray operational expenses and provide scholarships for youth sports and recreational opportunities.

### **SUPPORT INFORMATION:**

1. Resolution.
2. Exhibit "A": Stipend Policy and Criteria.
3. Exhibit "B": Excerpts from the draft meeting minutes from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting held September 15, 2011.

(Continue on additional sheets as required)

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

<b>Is this action already budgeted?</b>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See fund summary below
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	If No, then check one below:
	<i>Budget Adjustment Attached</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expense reallocated from: _____
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed funding is from a new revenue source (i.e. grant; see details below)
<input type="checkbox"/>		Proposed funding is from fund balance in the Fund.	
<b>Does this action create any revenue?</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Funds will be deposited into this fund: in the amount of \$ _____ for FY ____.
	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no new revenue generated by this action.

**BUDGET NARRATIVE**

Funding for league/organization stipends is identified in the FY 11/12 budget in Parks and Recreation A & G.

**FUND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:**

Fund Name(s)	Account Number(s)	Expenditure Proposed	Available Budgeted Funds in Current FY	Remaining Funds	Purpose for Remaining Funds
Parks and Recreation A & G	10123210 722190	\$11,000	\$442,319	\$431,319	Vector control, landscape maintenance, SER and other contracted services

**OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Vote "Yes"; this will approve the distribution of \$11,000 in stipends for 2011 season.
2. Vote "No"; this will result in no distribution of stipends.
3. Vote to "Amend"; this could include approving stipends in different amounts than those shown above.
4. Vote to "Table"; and provide staff with further direction.

**REFERENCE INFORMATION:**

The resolution(s) and/or ordinance(s) listed below are only for reference and are not included as attachments or exhibits.

N/A

(Continue on additional sheets as required)

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-073**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DISTRIBUTION OF STIPENDS TO LOCAL YOUTH LEAGUES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO ASSIST WITH OPERATION EXPENSES FOR THE 2011 SEASON, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,000.**

The City Council is informed that:

**WHEREAS**, for many years the City of Las Cruces has subsidized a portion of the operational expenses associated with the provision of programs by local youth leagues and organizations through the disbursement of stipends; and

**WHEREAS**, three local youth leagues/organizations requested funding in the amount of \$11,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board sent forward a recommendation for Council action at the regular meeting of September 15, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, funding for the allocation of the stipends is identified in the current FY11/12 budget.

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

**(I)**

**THAT** the youth league stipends in the amount of \$11,000 are hereby approved.

**(II)**

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

**DONE AND APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

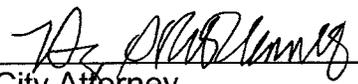
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

(SEAL)

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

VOTE:

Mayor Miyagishima: \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor Silva: \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor Connor: \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor Pedroza: \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor Small: \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor Sorg: \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor Thomas: \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF LAS CRUCES PARKS AND RECREATION SECTION POLICY****SUBJECT: LEAGUES AND ORGANIZATIONS CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR  
THE DISTRIBUTION OF CITY FUNDS/STIPENDS****PURPOSE:**

Provide partial funding (stipends) to local City of Las Cruces and Dona Ana County recreational (non-select) youth leagues and organizations to assist with the operational costs of the league or association. The youth leagues and organizations must provide proof of financial need and community benefit to youth. Well established, financially sound youth leagues or organizations will not qualify. Adult leagues or organizations, select leagues or organizations, tournament teams and non-local residents will not qualify.

**OBJECTIVE:**

To provide guidelines and criteria for the distribution of City funding/stipend(s) to local recreational youth leagues or associations. The funding is intended to be used to lower the cost of participation for local youth participants.

**PROCEDURE:**

Local youth leagues and organizations may request monetary assistance for the operation of (non-select) recreational youth programs through the Parks and Recreation Section. All requests must directly benefit local youth participants (18 years old and younger), be made in writing, and received no later than July 1, of each calendar year. The funding request(s) will be based on the City's Fiscal Year (July 1 – June 30). Requesting leagues and organizations will be invited to speak before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at their August or September meeting. The Board will develop funding recommendation(s) based on the criteria and forward a recommendation for City Council action at the October or November meeting. City Council has final approval of the amount of funding and will determine which leagues and organizations receive funding.

**Leagues and Organizations Responsibilities:**

In order to qualify for City funding, leagues and organizations must meet the following:

**Requesting Leagues or Associations will:**

- a. Provide program administration with emphasis on local recreational youth participation.
- b. Provide a detailed financial statement on an annual basis, within 30 days after conclusion of league activities and/or special event(s), tournaments or fund raising activities that utilize public space/facilities. The financial statement(s) will detail all funds received and expended for all league operations to include local, state, regional, or national tournaments for the previous year's program. The City of Las Cruces may also require an audit of the organization's expenses and of revenues in cases where the City of Las Cruces provides funding, direct support of or use of City facilities.
- c. Provide proof of insurance listing the City of Las Cruces as additionally insured, on an annual basis, or 30 days prior to the start of league play or special event. If for any reason the insurance expires prior to the conclusion of the calendar year, the league will provide proof of up-to-date information. League/tournament play or activities will not be authorized without proof of insurance listing the City of Las Cruces as additionally insured.
- d. Provide proof of 501c3 (or equivalent) non-profit corporation status with the State of New Mexico Public Regulation Commission on an annual basis, stating the league is in good standing. If for any reason, status expires prior to conclusion of the calendar year, the organization will provide proof of up-to-date information or return all City provided funding.
- e. Provide a prior-year copy of Form 990 or equivalent Tax Exempt Report, filed with the Internal Revenue Service, within 30 days of taxable year end date.
- f. Provide the City of Las Cruces with a letter of request for operating expenses stating the amount of the funding request; and outline how the funds will be utilized.
- g. Provide to the City the number of participants, teams, games, tournament games, coaches, volunteers, and any paid positions with the funding request.
- h. Procure and maintain a Policy of Worker's Compensation Insurance of its employees, and a policy of general liability insurance, with limits of coverage as specified in the New Mexico Tort Claims Act with the City named as an additional

insured on such liability policy. The League will not undertake any activities until the City is provided proof of such insurance.

- i. Not discriminate against any person regarding access to, or participation in any program, or any facility used in connection therewith, on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age or disability.
- j. Ensure that all programs, services, and activities are accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Including but not limited to, equal opportunity to participate and benefit, equally effective communication for persons with speech, hearing and other impairments, integrated seating, and the provision of reasonable modifications and/or accommodations adhering to the City of Las Cruces Communication Policy. If portable toilets are going to be provided, accessible units must also be provided at each bank of standard units.
- k. Provide an established written appeals procedure for players, parents, coaches, managers, and board members.
- l. Provide a written established corrective action policy to be followed by league officials dealing with the consumption of alcohol by coaches, managers, or participants prior to, during, or after practices or games and corrective action taken by league officials on reports of mistreatment of players.
- m. Provide a written, established refund policy.
- n. Have designated officials attend financial training provided by the City of Las Cruces Finance Department.
- o. Conduct a minimum of one Public Meeting open to the public on an annual basis. The meeting shall include the election of the board of directors for the league and shall be held prior to the start of the season(s). Additionally, the meeting shall be held to discuss and formally approve any changes in rules or regulations and/or formal action to be considered by the league. The league shall notify the City of the meeting place, date and time; and shall also advertise the same a minimum of one week in advance through a newspaper of general circulation. The minutes of this meeting shall be recorded, transcribed, and forwarded to the City Parks and Recreation Section along with a copy of the public notice. Failure to conform to this section may be grounds to deny any award of City funds to the league.

- p. Provide program registration at a non-City facility(s) and provide location information, contact name, and number, to the Parks and Recreation Section Administrative Office at least two weeks prior to registration date.
- q. Provide all league schedules, including tournament schedules to the Parks and Recreation Section Administrative Office a minimum of two weeks prior to start of season.

**FUNDING REQUESTS WILL BE PRIORITIZED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

- a. All funds will be utilized for local youth 18 and under.
- b. New or start-up leagues vs. well established leagues.
- c. Leagues and organizations have developed a plan to lower the cost of participation.
- d. Leagues and organizations do not have paid positions; on the Board or running operations.
- e. Number of youth benefiting from the stipend/funding.
- f. Stipend request equates to what percentage of league resources?
- g. League willing to run a tournament with profit going to City of Las Cruces.
- h. League utilizes other fund raising efforts to reduce costs to participate.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will recommend funding levels to the City Council for final action.

**FUND DISBURSEMENT:**

Local youth leagues and organizations that meet the criteria and receive City Council approval for funding may submit requests for payment to the Parks and Recreation Section Administrative Office.

**PAL BOXING**

PAL Boxing will not be covered by this Policy; funding options will be considered through a different process and Resolution. PAL Boxing will be administered through the Las Cruces Police Department.

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
September 18, 2011**

1 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting was held on September 15, 2011,  
2 at City Hall, 700 Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

3  
4 **PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**  
5 Mr. Isaac Chavez, Board Chair, Mr. Ron Camunez Board  
6 Vice-Chair, Mr. Eli Guzman, Mr. Mark O'Neill, Ms. Alice  
7 Ward, Mr. Wayne Hancock, Ms. Dawn Rue

8  
9 **ABSENT:** NONE

10  
11 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. Mark Johnston, Parks and Recreation Director, and Ms.  
12 Carol Conners-Lyons, Executive Administrative Assistant  
13 and Advisory Board Recording Secretary

14  
15 Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Mr. Chavez, and he recognized the  
16 meeting as having a legal quorum.

17  
18 **I. Introductions**  
19 Board Members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent.

20  
21 **II. Conflict of Interest**  
22 None

23  
24 **III. Approval of Minutes**  
25  
26 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Notes from August 15, 2011 were  
27 approved with no corrections, additions or deletions. Mr. Camunez moved to accept  
28 the minutes as presented, and Ms. Ward seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

29  
30 Mr. Mark O'Neill voted YES Mr. Ron Camunez voted YES  
31 Mr. Isaac Chavez voted YES Mr. Eli Guzman voted YES  
32 Ms. Alice Ward voted YES Ms. Dawn Rue voted YES  
33 Mr. Wayne Hancock voted YES

34  
35 **IV. Public Comment**  
36 None

37  
38 **V. New Business**  
39  
40 *B. Stipend Allocations-----ACTION*

41  
42 Mr. Chavez stated that each board member should have the stipend allocation  
43 spreadsheet that we went over last month; however, there has been a significant

1 change, and it regards this email from Mr. Tim Hall. It is self explanatory. It states they  
2 are withdrawing their application for league stipend which was a very large stipend, the  
3 largest one. Therefore, the only stipends that need to be voted on tonight are ---Mr.  
4 Johnston, would you advise which ones we are voting on tonight.

5  
6 Mr. Johnston stated Las Cruces Youth Softball, Southwest Youth Sports (BMX) and  
7 Minor Threat Junior Roller Derby, and that is \$11,000 in stipends that have been  
8 requested.

9  
10 Mr. Chavez asked Mr. Johnston to refresh his memory as to what BMX requested last  
11 year, and what did they get last year?

12  
13 Mr. Johnston stated that BMX requested and received the same that they are  
14 requesting this year, \$4,000.

15  
16 Mr. Chavez stated that right now we have \$11,000 requested, and there is \$23,000 in  
17 the budget. So, whatever is not allocated tonight will go back into the Parks fund?

18  
19 Mr. Johnston advised, yes, the balance will stay within the Parks and Recreation  
20 budget and will also give this board the authority to give more stipends out if a new  
21 league should arise next spring prior to the end of the fiscal year. If there are no  
22 leagues, it will allow us to use that money for Parks and Recreation in a matter that we  
23 see fit.

24  
25 Mr. Chavez asked if there was a possibility that one of these organizations that did not  
26 qualify at this point could come back and say, ok, we are ready now.

27  
28 Mr. Johnston advised 'no', that by our guidelines, that would not be allowed as per the  
29 guidelines, the paperwork had to be in now; however, a new league would not be  
30 penalized but an existing one has missed the deadline.

31  
32 Mr. Chavez asked if there were any questions before they move on or general  
33 comments.

34  
35 Mr. O'Neill stated that he has some comments in that he said this before, but wants to  
36 say it again that because he has background in this kind of thing and has been on  
37 boards of leagues and on the board as manager in motor cross programs and skate  
38 boarding. This is an unusual thing, I believe, giving stipends from cities to leagues,  
39 and the reason I say that especially with the concessions made by the City to agree to  
40 pay for all their utilities, maintenance of their fields—I mean, the City has done away  
41 with the fees for these leagues, and I thought that was a reason to stop these stipends.  
42 But, I don't want to stop the stipend, because the money can now go into the Parks  
43 and Recreation fund to be used for low privileged kids. I think this money or any  
44 stipend that is given to any of these leagues should be only in the case of---I don't want  
45 kids to be turned away. They provide a great service, great programs, great for kids,  
46 and I appreciate the adults who want to volunteer and help out. However, I have a

1 problem, because they can be very self sufficient. They have snack bars. They have  
2 sign up fees. They have sponsorships. They get donations. An existing league—not  
3 a start up league that needs money or a case like the Bicycle Motor Cross with the  
4 freeze out and so forth—I don't want kids to be turned away from these programs,  
5 because they cannot afford to pay, or because the league has to shut off. I don't want  
6 them to have to charge an enormous amount of fees for these services either, but the  
7 fact is these leagues make big amounts of money if they do their own snack bar and do  
8 their sponsorships and all the things they can do. They sell raffle tickets. Some of the  
9 things are for the individual teams, but a lot of these costs go to the leagues, and they  
10 have budgets—some of them have \$20,000, \$40,000, \$50,000, \$100,000 in the bank,  
11 and why we give them a stipend—in fact last time, we agreed to double the stipend of  
12 which I have no clue why we voted to double some of the stipends even more than  
13 they asked for. I'm not saying that none of these leagues or organizations deserve it,  
14 but I'm saying that we need to look at it since the money can now stay in the Parks and  
15 Rec budget and be used for Parks and Rec things. He stated that he thinks the day of  
16 the stipends is almost over, and except for a new league or special circumstance for  
17 the league, and they need a \$1,000 or \$2,000, because all of a sudden something  
18 happened with that league. Maybe all of their stuff was stolen or something like that,  
19 and we want to help them out. Or in the case of the BMX, they had the problems that  
20 they explained last time. He likes the idea that they have to request and provide all of  
21 this information. He agrees with all that. He is just wondering if we get carried away  
22 especially with the economic situation when they can afford to run these leagues and  
23 make profits and pay their umpires without help. How much help should we provide?  
24 He doesn't have a problem if we want to say we are going to give all the leagues  
25 \$1,000 just to help them out or whatever, but he thinks it should be used just for those  
26 participants who cannot afford to pay as a scholarship fund possibly. That is what the  
27 money should be used for unless it's a special thing, and they ask for a special  
28 request, and they can pinpoint exactly what they need the money for. Anyway, these  
29 are my comments just because I know.

30  
31 Mr. Chavez stated to Mr. O'Neill 'so out of the three that remain, two would qualify  
32 under your criteria, because Minor Threat Roller Derby is a new start up, and  
33 Southwest BMX has the special circumstance that you mentioned. So, are you saying  
34 that Las Cruces Youth Softball is an example of the league that doesn't need a  
35 stipend?

36  
37 Mr. O'Neill stated that they came, they did what they needed to do, and we are not  
38 talking about that much money. But his comments are for the benefit of the new  
39 members and the future, because these leagues can come and hit us all like they did  
40 with a POW of \$18,000, \$14,000. They need \$6,000, and the Board might think that's  
41 not enough, we want to give them another \$2,000 or \$4,000. He just wants to point it  
42 out that they can sufficiently run these leagues, and that's with the example of that soft  
43 ball league, they should be now. If they don't run their own snack bar, that's different.  
44 May be they don't make that much money, but he knows that the snack bars general  
45 quite a bit of money, and they are not paying anything to the City. They don't have to  
46 pay a percentage to the City from their profits from the snack bar. To answer your

1 question, and he's sorry that he give a long answer, but yes the soft ball would be one  
2 to consider. If we want to just pass this the way it is, he's trying to remember, they  
3 presented their case at the last meeting and presented a need for it, and he's not sure  
4 what the basis for it was—he'd have to go back into the minutes, but he'd like to hear  
5 some feedback from the other members. He knows that we're not talking about that  
6 much money this year, but he just wanted to say this for the future as well.

7  
8 Mr. Camunez stated that he agrees and disagrees with his colleague on the Board.  
9 What he has seen and being a native of Las Cruces and having been a part of sports  
10 as a kid, we still have a lot of under privileged children in this community, and our  
11 income levels are not like where Mr. O'Neill is coming from. We have to take that into  
12 consideration. We are a poor community. We cannot compare to the places that you  
13 and others have come from. It is impossible. We are forty-eighth (48) in the United  
14 States in income, and unemployment is high. He understands what Mr. O'Neill is  
15 saying though. He really does with all due respect. But he thinks you really have to  
16 understand the socioeconomic makeup of this community and who plays in these  
17 boards. You don't have a high affluent population playing sports. They don't. They  
18 have their swimming pools in the back of their homes. Their moms and dads have  
19 money to do other things for the kids, and you probably see it in the karate place, Mr.  
20 Guzman, that you see underprivileged kids with no money to participate. So, he would  
21 caution us in that we look at this, and we look at each request as it comes to us. Their  
22 case that they gave us last month was very compelling, in my opinion. He thinks they  
23 presented their case. We have people who are not doing it; people who are now  
24 making a profit. They are not involved with us. We've taken care of that like the High  
25 Noon Soccer and things like that, but if you notice on the sheet, there are some  
26 501C3s that are not allowed to make a profit at the end of the day. All of that money  
27 has to go back into their sports and to the kids and for the equipment. So, he agrees  
28 that we have to be careful, but he would really urge the Board to approve this, and let's  
29 take a look at it closer next year when each one of these come back and give us the  
30 documentation that we require, because that helps us make a decision.

31  
32 Ms. Ward asked Mr. Johnston 'n the budget procedure that the City does, they go back  
33 and look at--is this a line item?

34  
35 Mr. Johnston answered 'yes, this is a line item. He added - for a little bit of history, two  
36 years ago, we had \$54,500. As part of the managed reduction savings program, we  
37 peeled some down from our last allocations. This past budget year, that peel down  
38 became the cut. So, the \$54,500 is now down to \$23,000. So, it was a realized cut of  
39 \$31,500.

40  
41 Mr. Chavez said that he believes we have done a good job the last couple of years of  
42 paring it down. We use to give it everybody that wanted something even the rich  
43 sports like High Noon Soccer, the ones who are doing really well. So, the fact that we  
44 are down to just two (2) or three (3) now, and we got rid of the PAL Boxing. I think we  
45 have made progress. He would say that our stipend policy is as it is; so, as far as  
46 these ones tonight, we need to vote on these with the current policy that's in place.

1  
2 Ms. Ward stated that we cannot count on money that we can use for other Parks and  
3 Recreation things just because the stipends are not there. She believes that is pie in  
4 the sky.

5  
6 Mr. Chavez stated that Mr. Johnston said that he gets to keep the \$23,000 which is a  
7 difference of the past. Mr. Chavez asked if there were any other comments or  
8 questions?

9  
10 Ms. Rue stated that she has a comment. She stated that as a parent of kids who are  
11 actively playing in these leagues, and also the team mom of her son's team, there is a  
12 definite need. For example, her son plays bantam weight football, and of the forty-five  
13 (45) children who are playing in his one (1) 7<sup>th</sup> grade football league, there's a lot of  
14 them who utilize the equipment that is provided by Bantam Weight. She said, at least  
15 75% of the children on the team will utilize the equipment that is provided by Tim Hall's  
16 Bantam Weight League, and they are all waiting and waiting. There are very few  
17 children who can provide their own pads and helmets. So, she thinks Bantam Weight,  
18 for instance, has a huge expense, because football equipment is not cheap. She does  
19 see a need for stipends not for expenses to run the league itself but to purchase the  
20 equipment for the needy children who cannot afford to purchase it themselves so they  
21 can participate.

22  
23 Mr. Guzman stated that he believes we need to make sure we know who is getting the  
24 money. He has run a sport. He does a sport, and does see kids who are in need of  
25 stuff, but a lot of times he sponsors a lot of kids, but he also understands what Mr.  
26 O'Neill is saying. There is someone who could be pocketing the money. There are  
27 ways of getting around things, and we need to make sure that the recipients are not  
28 pocketing the stipend as a profit.

29  
30 Mr. Hancock asked the Board to forgive his ignorance, but it has been many years  
31 since played any of these sports. How is it done now? When a child comes to a  
32 league or comes to sign up, do they ask him about income. Does he present a  
33 financial statement? Do they just look at his shoes? How can they tell that a child is in  
34 need?

35  
36 Mr. Johnston stated that to his knowledge there is not a mechanism in place that is  
37 utilized by the leagues for financial support. One of the things that is pretty well known,  
38 and Mr. Camunez alluded to it. We are a small, big town, and the children who  
39 participate generally are pretty well known. The families are well known and how they  
40 are doing, because we are a small, big town. He stated he thinks that is one piece that  
41 he would like this board to tackle once we get the authority in place to actually justify  
42 what a scholarship program is not only for City programs but also for independent  
43 programs. Therefore, that will be a 'next' phase.

44  
45 Mr. Hancock stated 'like a free lunch'?

46

1 Mr. Johnston stated 'correct'.  
2

3 Mr. Chavez stated that he does not have a problem with what Mr. O'Neill said. He  
4 doesn't have a problem with the stipends this year; however, from here on out if we  
5 change our policy being strictly for scholarships or for equipment or something that  
6 specific, but just saying 'here's the money, do what you want', he would agree with  
7 that, because he has no problem using it for scholarships for needy children  
8 specifically. But this year, he doesn't think we can take that in to account, because we  
9 have a certain criteria, but he definitely would not have a problem in revisiting the  
10 criteria from here on out. He agrees that it should go for the neediest.  
11

12 Mr. O'Neill stated that he does not mean to be a bad ogre, but if there's a need, then  
13 let's help them. He understands what Mr. Camunez is saying, but even though they  
14 are marked non-profit, they do sometimes raise enormous amounts of money and have  
15 it in their bank account. Pretty soon, they are paying people to work the snack bar and  
16 paying people to do other things, and why should the City do that? We stopped all  
17 their fees; we don't charge them any fees to use the fields, no utilities, no field  
18 maintenance. They use to have to pay for that, and now they don't have those costs.  
19 He is just saying if there's a need, and they present the need, and that's what we are  
20 here for, and that's what we've done, and he doesn't have these stipends here. But he  
21 just wanted to be heard so we don't get where we used to be as a 'rubber stamp', and  
22 double it. We'll listen to their story, and if they have a good case—it's something  
23 unusual, something special, and they need it. Or they show no money in the bank, and  
24 they have a situation where kids need to play and can't play, I'm all for it. He  
25 understands the make up of the community. He's only been here six (6) years, but he  
26 understand the makeup of the community.  
27

28 Mr. Camunez stated that we are Parks and Recreation. It is an integral part of this  
29 community, and we are paid by the tax dollars by these people who utilize the parks in  
30 some way or another. So, he thinks we need to be very careful in cognizant of that fact  
31 also. To what point do we start limiting or putting all these qualifications and then  
32 make it so difficult that no one wants to use our parks. The parks are ours – the tax  
33 payers. When he says that, they are ours. They are the little kids'. It's everybody's.  
34 We do have a responsibility to our citizens and to the community to provide that  
35 service. Why then do we have a Parks and Rec Department, if we are not doing that?  
36 Like he said, I don't mind revisiting it, but let's look at the whole picture when we come  
37 to make all these---again, we are over regulated. We talk about that on the Federal,  
38 State and local levels. We are over regulated, and people are sick of that. So, let's  
39 take that all into account when we are making these new policies and procedures that  
40 'wait a minute, these people pay for our staff, they pay for our parks also'. So, we are  
41 double taxing them. Think about it.  
42

43 Mr. Chavez stated he does not understand that, but it is probably the exception rather  
44 than the norm to give stipends in communities. He has never heard of it. He doesn't  
45 necessary think that stipends is a part of what you are saying, because a stipend only  
46 goes to very select few in the community who use the parks. We are talking three (3)

1 leagues this year. All the other kids who use the parks are not getting the stipend. So,  
2 he would not necessarily think that stipends are something that are a given right.

3  
4 Mr. Camunez said that they are talking about everything that is involved with this—the  
5 maintenance cost, the not paying for a fee cost—all of this stuff has to be incorporated  
6 and talked about, because it's all part of doing business. The Parks and Rec is also a  
7 business, and we look at that.

8  
9 Mr. O'Neill stated that we pay for it too.

10  
11 Mr. Camunez stated ' yes we do'.

12  
13 Mr. Chavez said let's go to Las Cruces Youth Softball. They requested a stipend of  
14 \$5,000. Do I hear a motion to approve?

15  
16 Mr. Camunez made the motion to approve the stipend of \$5,000 for Las Cruces Youth  
17 Softball. Ms. Rue seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

18  
19 Mr. Mark O'Neill voted YES                      Mr. Ron Camunez voted YES  
20 Mr. Isaac Chavez voted YES                      Mr. Eli Guzman voted YES  
21 Ms. Alice Ward voted YES                      Ms. Dawn Rue voted YES  
22 Mr. Wayne Hancock voted YES

23  
24 Mr. Chavez stated that the motion passed--\$5,000 to the Las Cruces Youth Softball for  
25 this stipend year. The next one is Southwest Youth Sports otherwise known as BMX.  
26 They are requesting a stipend of \$4,000. Do I hear a motion to approve that one?

27  
28 Ms. Ward made the motion to approve the stipend of \$4,000 for Southwest Youth  
29 Sports (BMX). Mr. Camunez seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

30  
31 Mr. Mark O'Neill voted YES                      Mr. Ron Camunez voted YES  
32 Mr. Isaac Chavez voted YES                      Mr. Eli Guzman voted YES  
33 Ms. Alice Ward voted YES                      Ms. Dawn Rue voted YES  
34 Mr. Wayne Hancock voted YES

35  
36 Mr. Chavez stated that the motion passed to give \$4,000 to Southwest Youth Sports,  
37 and the final one is the new league, Minor Threat Junior Roller Derby. They requested  
38 a stipend of \$2,000. Do I hear a motion to approve that one?

39  
40 Mr. Camunez made the motion to approve the stipend of \$2,000 for the Minor Threat  
41 Junior Roller Derby. Ms. Rue seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

42  
43 Mr. Mark O'Neill voted YES                      Mr. Ron Camunez voted YES  
44 Mr. Isaac Chavez voted YES                      Mr. Eli Guzman voted YES  
45 Ms. Alice Ward voted YES                      Ms. Dawn Rue voted YES  
46 Mr. Wayne Hancock voted YES

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**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business meeting was adjourned at 6:58PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Conners-Lyons, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Isaac Chavez, Chair P&R Board