



Item No. 15 Town of Atherton

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – REGULAR AGENDA

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER

DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2014

SUBJECT: NAMING OF LITTLE LEAGUE FACILITY

RECOMMENDATION

Consider the naming request from Menlo-Atherton Little League and, if deemed appropriate, approve the request.

BACKGROUND

The Facility Use Agreement between the Town and Menlo-Atherton Little League (MA-LL) includes the following with respect to Naming Rights:

“Consistent with past practices in the Town of Atherton, and in gratitude for the generous donation of the Physical Improvements, MA-LL shall have a one-time option to suggest a name for the HP Little League Field, provided that the name selected is reasonable, connected to Atherton, and not offensive or insulting. The name selected by MA-LL is subject to the *approval of the City Council of Atherton*. The City Council of Atherton may *grant naming authority to the Mayor of Atherton, a Subcommittee of the Council, and/or MA-LL at any time*. Approval of a name for the HP Little League Field, or the grant of authority to name the HP Little League Field, *shall be at the sole discretion of the City Council*. Once a name is authorized, at its discretion, MA-LL shall have the right to place the approved name of the field on the seating structure, permanent scoreboard, a plaque located at or near the Project Area, and/or other Physical Improvements to be constructed pursuant to the approved plans.” (*emphasis added*)

Attached is an email from Bob Hellman, MA-LL Representative with respect to the naming of the facility.

FINDINGS

Attached is an email from Bob Hellman, MA-LL Representative asking the Council’s consideration and approval of MA-LL’s request to name the facility “Homer Field at Willie Mays Ballpark.”

Naming of Little League Facility

November 19, 2014

Page 2 of 2

As Mr. Hellman explains in his email, the field's current name, *Homer Field*, was the result of a major gift by Mike Homer in honor of his father James Homer. Mike Homer was a long-time Atherton resident and a supporter of a number of projects in Town. Mr. Hellman suggests that the name of the facility continue to include Homer Field as part of the name but be expanded to *Homer Field at Willie Mays Ballpark*. The addition of *Willie Mays Ballpark* is in recognition of long-time Atherton resident Willie Mays and his contributions to, and accomplishments in the game of baseball.

The MA-LL Facility Use Agreement provides that the City Council can:

- 1) Grant the Request;
- 2) Grant authority to the Mayor to work with MA-LL and approve a name;
- 3) Grant authority to a City Council Subcommittee to work with MA-LL and approve a name; or
- 4) Grant authority to MA-LL to approve a name.

Staff recommends that the City Council consider the naming request from MA-LL and, if deemed appropriate, approve the request.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Email from Bob Hellman, MA-LL Representative

From: Bob Hellman bhellman@aimlp.com
Subject: Ballpark naming
Date: 5 November 2014 at 12:09 AM
To: George Rodericks grodericks@ci.atherton.ca.us
Cc: Cary Wiest cwiest@ci.atherton.ca.us



Dear George and Mayor Wiest,

I wanted to follow up on our earlier discussions now that the ballpark is under construction, and formally request that the Town Council formally consider (and hopefully approve) MA-LL's request for the naming of the ballpark we are in the midst of (re)building in Holbrook Palmer Park.

MA-LL would formally request that the park be named "Homer Field at Willie Mays Ballpark".

By way of background, the field itself was named Homer Field when it was first constructed, as a result of a major gift by Mike Homer in honor of his father, James Homer. Mike himself was a long-time resident of Atherton and supporter of a large number of projects in the City, and in honor of both Mike and James, it is only appropriate (given the prior naming assigned to the field) that this portion of the name continue.

As to the addition of "Willie Mays Ballpark" is in recognition of our long time fellow resident. Mr. May's contributions to, and accomplishments in the game of baseball are legendary. It is, however, all he has done in support of children over the years that we feel deserves particular note. From playing stickball with the kids in Harlem to visiting children in hospitals across the country, Willie has always been an inspiring role model for kids, and his Halloween tradition of giving baseball souvenirs to the boys and girls of Atherton is the stuff of local legend. We should all be quite proud of his 45 year residency in our town, and respectfully submit this additional element to the ballpark's name.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

bob

Bob Hellman
Managing Director & CEO
American Infrastructure MLP Fund
950 Tower Lane
Suite 800
Foster City, CA 94404
Phone: (650) 854-6000 x4904
Cell: (650) 619-1337

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