

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date: June 13, 2024

To: Robert J. Bruner, Acting City Manager

From: Megan E. Schubert, Assistant City Manager

Brian Goul, Recreation Director

Kurt Bovensiep, Public Works Director

Subject: League Sports Update

History

A Special City Council Meeting was held on Monday, June 12, 2023 to consider a proposal to develop the undeveloped park Site #11 (3500 John R Rd). The Community Engagement Plan was presented as a report on the July 24, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting. Two pop-up engagement events were held at Site #11 on August 9th and August 23rd.

Through the engagement sessions it became clear that there was not major objection to the concept of the city leasing land through a public/private partnership to develop a sports complex. The major objection was the location of the proposal and how it impacts the abutting and surrounding residential homes. Several locations were offered by the participants including the Community Center and Flynn Park.

Staff recognized that any new proposed location should address the concerns presented during the community engagement sessions. Flynn Park is the only location that can satisfy this requirement. Although Flynn Park was the original location proposed by League Sports it was not fully considered because of its own challenges related to the landfill.

Staff has engaged professionals familiar with landfills and the State of Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to identify the challenges with redeveloping Flynn Park into a synthetic turf sports complex. Staff has presented these challenges to League Sports and the organization has accepted the challenges and has continued interest in pursuing a lease agreement for the site.

Staff will begin working with League Sports and the City Attorney to develop a lease agreement that satisfies both League Sports and the City of Troy's interests. The agreement will also concentrate on ensuring the city's recreation programs and other youth organizations like Troy Baseball Boosters will have opportunity to expand through the partnership.

Since there are several parties involved in developing an agreement that has many interests to address there is no prediction of when City Council will be presented with an agreement for consideration.