



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 1, 2016

Re: Public Hearing - Atkins Black Field Improvement Project

## Executive Summary

Public hearing for the Atkins Black Field Improvement Project. Improvements to the Black Field at Thomas E. Atkins Jr. Memorial Park include the conversion of the infield skin material, bullpen and batting cage improvements, field tarps and a storage shed. The cost of the project is \$150,000. As part of an athletic field use agreement with the City of Columbia, Columbia College has agreed to fund the improvements to the Black Field at Atkins Park to add amenities to support their collegiate baseball program. The proposed agreement with Columbia College is being considered under separate Council legislation.

## Discussion

Over the past year, staff from the Parks and Recreation Department and members of the Columbia College athletics administration team have been meeting to discuss the use of city athletic facilities by the Columbia College men's baseball team and women's softball team. The women's softball team has been utilizing a field at Louis P. Antimi Sports Complex for the past four years for all home games, camps and tournaments; and Columbia College has requested the use of a baseball field at Thomas E. Atkins Jr. Memorial Park for their men's baseball program. The meetings between the department and Columbia College resulted in a proposed long-term agreement for use of the baseball and softball fields and a list of proposed improvements to the Black Field at Atkins Park to be funded by Columbia College for their men's baseball program.

The ten-year agreement with Columbia College, which is being considered under separate Council legislation, outlines the use of the Black Field at Atkins Park by the men's baseball program, use of the Black Field at Antimi Sports Complex by the women's softball program, defines operational and maintenance responsibilities at each facility and outlines necessary improvements to the Black Field at Atkins Park.

Key terms of the agreement include:

1. Columbia College will use the designated fields at Atkins Park and Antimi Sports Complex only for the purpose of baseball and softball activities during scheduled times during the College's academic and athletic calendar. The calendar for each playing season will be supplied to the department three months in advance of the season. The use of the field will have minimal interruptions to other user groups at each sports complex due to scheduled game and practice times for Columbia College and the completion of the final two baseball fields at Atkins Park. As part of the 2015 Park Sales Tax, funding was approved for the construction of the final two fields at the complex, which will provide



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additional field space for other user groups and tournaments and reduce scheduling conflicts that may arise with the Columbia College use of the Black Field.

2. The department retains the right to schedule use of the two designated fields when Columbia College is not scheduled to use the athletic fields. The scheduling can include same-day use by other user groups, as Columbia College is required to return the field to proper playing conditions after each use of the fields by their athletic teams.
3. Columbia College is required to pay standard field rental fees, as set by City Ordinance, which is currently \$75 per game or \$170 for all day rental of a field at either complex.
4. Columbia College will have permission to install marketing materials and logos within an agreed upon boundary at each sports complex. All signage and materials must be approved by the department before installation. The department reserves the right to install signage and materials within the designated boundary of each field.
5. The agreement shall extend for a period of ten years from the date of execution by the parties and allows for two possible extensions of ten years.
6. The department will provide concessions and restrooms for all Columbia College baseball and softball games and retains the right to all sales from the concession facilities at each complex. Columbia College is allowed to sell non-food items during games, camps and tournaments within the designated boundary of each field.
7. As part of the agreement, Columbia College has requested field improvements to the Black Field at Atkins Park necessary to operate their collegiate baseball program. Columbia College has agreed to fund 100% of the improvements totaling \$150,000. The improvements include:
  - a. Conversion of the infield skin and warning track material from an ag-lime surface to an engineered soil to duplicate a professional playing surface.
  - b. Purchase of an infield tarp, mound tarp and plate tarp for rain events.
  - c. Dugout renovations to enclose the three outside walls and install electricity within each dugout.
  - d. Purchase of fence slats on the outfield fence to improve visibility in the outfield.
  - e. Construction of a storage shed for Columbia College baseball equipment and field preparation equipment.
  - f. Purchase of backstop padding.
  - g. Expansion of existing bullpens to include two pitching rubbers on each side of the field to allow for multiple pitchers to warmup during games and tournaments.

Columbia College shall retain ownership of all items purchased for the use of their athletic programs, except for any improvement considered to be permanent at the Atkins Black Field. These items would include improvements to the playing field, batting cages, dugouts and storage facilities. Portions of the project will be bid through the City's Purchasing



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Department and will be completed using contract and force account labor. Contract labor will be used for the infield conversion and bullpen construction. Force account labor will be used for the construction of the dugouts, storage shed and fence slat installation. Work is scheduled to begin late summer with completion of the improvements by spring 2017.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total cost of the project is \$150,000, which will be reimbursed in full by Columbia College as per the agreement.

Long-Term Impact: The agreement with Columbia College includes a section outlining the fees for use of the fields at each complex. Columbia College is required to pay standard field rental fees, as set by City Ordinance, which is currently \$75 per game or \$170 for all day rental of a field at either complex. Staff also anticipates additional revenue through the concession operations during each game for the men's baseball team and women's softball team.

## Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

### Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Parks, Recreation & Greenways, Secondary Impact: Community Facilities & Services, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

## Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

## Suggested Council Action

After the public hearing, approve the ordinance authorizing the agreement with Columbia College, authorizing the Atkins Black Field Improvement Project, and appropriating the funds.