

Council Meeting of
February 8, 2011

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Services – Accept a Donation of Irrigation Parts and Materials for Improvements at Columbia Park

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council accept a donation of parts and materials from the American Youth Soccer Organization Region 16 and the United States American Ladies Soccer Organization valued at approximately \$20,600, for improvements to the sports field irrigation system at Columbia Park.

Funding

Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND

The City of Torrance and the Community Services Department has a long history of partnering with local non-profit sports organizations in the community to benefit residents and improve the quality of life in Torrance. Two organizations that represent these successful partnerships are the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Region 16 and the United States American Ladies Soccer Organization (USALSO). Both AYSO Region 16 and the USALSO operate their programs on the soccer fields at Columbia Park.

The Columbia Park fields are heavily used by a variety of organizations for soccer, baseball and softball. Long-term users include not only AYSO 16 and USALSO, but North Torrance Little League, Torrance Girls Softball League, and South Bay Korean Soccer. The fields are also used for Torrance Unified School District high school cross-country meets, the AYSO Region 15, Armed Forces Tournament, and other short-term user groups.

Over the past 5 years, these two organizations teamed to contribute more than \$20,000 in the form of in-kind donations of seed, top soil, and labor to improve the soccer fields at Columbia Park. Despite their generous donation, there is still one major challenge in keeping the sports fields well-maintained and that is the irrigation system. The current hydraulic irrigation system is antiquated and requires a great deal of maintenance, not to mention it requires long periods of down time while the hydraulic line repairs are identified and corrected. This makes it difficult to maintain the turf and provide a suitable growing environment.

ANALYSIS

In January 2011, the Community Services Department received a proposal from AYSO 16 and the USALSO offering a donation of the supplies to improve the sports field irrigation system (Attachment A). Their proposal included the donation of all parts and materials necessary to replace the hydraulic system with an electric system. The proposal stated that the two groups would purchase all of the necessary supplies for this changeover if the City would provide all of the labor for installation.

The estimated labor costs involved for the replacement of the hydraulic system are approximately \$12,000. The work will be done by the Community Services staff, specifically the Irrigation Specialists from the Park Services Division. The Park Services staff have been in contact with both AYSO 16 and USALSO and have agreed on supplies from Aqua-Flo, one of the leading distributors of irrigation equipment in Central and Southern California. Aqua Flo comes highly recommended, and operates a branch sales office here in Torrance.

The benefits from the replacement of the irrigation system include providing staff and user groups with an irrigation system that is more reliable, more efficient, and better suited for today's water conscious environment. Not only will the turf be in better condition, but staff will have better control over the water usage, and ultimately more control over expensive water costs.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council accept the donation of parts and materials, and allow the Community Services Department to begin the replacement of the irrigation system.

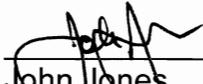
Respectfully Submitted,

JOHN JONES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

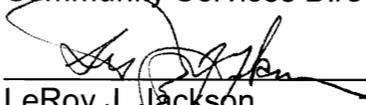


Jason Minter
Senior Business Manager

CONCUR:



John Jones
Community Services Director



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment: A) AYSO 16 AND USALSO Proposal

January 26, 2010

Mr. John Jones, Director
City of Torrance Community Services Department
3031 Torrance Blvd
Torrance Ca 90503

Dear Mr. Jones,

Our partnership between North Torrance American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Region 16, the woman's United States American Ladies Soccer Organization (USALSO) and the City of Torrance has been extremely productive and beneficial to our leagues and the many soccer players in Torrance. Since 2006, our two organizations have invested tens of thousands of dollars into the fields at Columbia Park. Once again, we would like to propose a major undertaking to improve the playing fields at Columbia. We would like to formally propose to the City of Torrance a donation of parts and materials to upgrade the irrigation system on all the soccer fields on the west side of Columbia Park.

It is our intention to purchase the materials needed to convert the irrigation system to an electronic timed system. The current system is old, it breaks down often, it is unreliable, it forces us to abandon areas because they are unplayable due to flooding and parts are nearly impossible to find. This upgrade to the irrigation system will ensure a reliable source of water to our fields, which we have never had and has resulted in thousands of lost dollars to our organizations in turf repairs we have made over the years. Our proposal is contingent that you provide the experts, equipment and labor necessary to implement this project. Thanks to the help of Morgan Griffin, one of your staff members, he has obtained several quotes for this project and we have selected the one from Aqua-Flo Supply, a company located here in Torrance (see attached). Our donation will be equal to the cost of materials, approximately \$20,600 dollars and paid to Aqua-Flo directly and they will coordinate the delivery of these materials to the City for this project.

Columbia Park is a unique place that allows us to provide one location to play soccer for so many players. The turf management and investment is necessary to provide a quality soccer venue in Torrance for the future. With the current economic condition, we are definitely challenged in being able to finance this project, however, we are finding that if we do not do something soon it will be even more difficult for us to keep pouring our membership's dollars into these fields.

We are anxious and excited to receive a green light with this proposal from the City of Torrance and the continuation of our partnership. We have set aside a couple of weeks in February, 2011 where the fields can be shut down for this work. Please advise us if this proposal is feasible and that the City Council will support our efforts on this project.

Sincerely,

Linda Finn Valentine, USALSO President
Glendon Miller, USALSO Treasurer
Jose Serrano, AYSO Region 16 Commissioner
Tony Warfield, AYSO Region 16 Asst Commissioner