

HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

REPORT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING DATE: April 17, 2014

FROM: Laura Fischer, General Manager

INFORMATION ONLY: Information Only Regarding Parks

BACKGROUND:

At the last Board meeting, staff brought to the Board cost estimates to construct basketball court in our parks. The staff report identified possible locations at our parks, dimension of courts, and cost estimates. Staff was given direction to move forward with the construction of a basketball court at Tito Huerta Park.

Since that time, it was brought to our attention that the Heber Little League was unable to complete the construction of the warning track at the baseball field at Tito Park. HPUD staff saw this as an immediate safety hazard and quickly completed construction. Thanks to the generous donation from Pyramid Construction Company who donated several loads of crusher fines, staff was able to fill in all of the holes, level the area, roll it with a compacting tool, and finish the project.

Staff also contact three fencing companies to get a recommendation on improvements and repairs to the baseball field fence as there were several areas that were dangerous for the players and areas where the posts were broken loose and the fence was in danger of collapse. Also there was an electrical conduit run along the top side of the fence on the east side of the field that was not installed to code. Staff received two quotes and has contracted with Boni Fence to make replace the fence. The cost is \$8,800, which can be included in the parks budget for this Fiscal Year. This expense is considered an emergency repair due to the poor condition of the fence.

The improvements to the baseball field will be completed during the school's spring break so that it will not interfere with Little League game schedules. I have been in contact with Isabel Ruiz and Mr. George Ramirez who are on the Little League board. I have attached a copy of the e-mail that I sent to the Little League representatives outlining the work that HPUD will perform, and some suggestions on the items that can be done by Little League.

This urgent project with the baseball field has delayed the construction of the basketball court for a few weeks, but staff will be working on it as soon as this project is complete. Staff will also follow up with the company who provided us with a quote to replace the shade at Jiggs Johnson Park.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Fischer,
General Manager

Attachment: E-mail to Little League

Laura Fischer

From: Laura Fischer <lfischer@heber.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 10:06 AM
To: 'jdrs1979@att.net'
Subject: FW: Baseball Field Repairs

Good Morning Mr. Ramirez,

Please see the e-mail below, that was sent to Isabel Rivas, regarding the little league field repairs. There has been a slight change in scheduling. The new fence will be installed during spring break when Little League doesn't have any games scheduled.

Please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions or concerns.

Best Regards,

Laura Fischer
General Manager
Heber Public Utility District
1078 Dogwood Rd., Ste 103
Heber, CA 92249
lfischer@heber.ca.gov
<http://www.heber.ca.gov>
760-482-2440 phone
760-336-1572 cell
760-353-9951 fax

From: Laura Fischer [mailto:lfischer@heber.ca.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 11:05 AM
To: 'Isabel Rivas'; 'frodriguez@heber.ca.gov'
Cc: Rafaela "Fala" Sanchez; Diahna Garcia-Ruiz; 'tsandoval@heber.ca.gov'; Eduardo Valdez-Belmonte; Sergio Escobedo; 'Margie K. Lizarraga'
Subject: Baseball Field Repairs

Isabel,

I had a visit today from Tony Lomax who is a coach for Heber Little League. He asked me what was going on with the field and wanted to know what he and other volunteers can do to help. He was very courteous and friendly, but he relayed that there is some miscommunication between Heber Little League, their volunteers, and HPUD. He suggested that I write down the work plan for the baseball field and if there are some items that HPUD can't get completed this year, then maybe he and others could volunteer to get them done. I think that is a great idea...so here is the list of the improvements that HPUD is committed to completing with an approximate timeline. I will also provide a list of some items that could be completed by your organization or volunteers.

Please share this e-mail with your Board members and any interested volunteers or parents. I don't have an e-mail for Mr. George Ramirez or Mr. Javier Silva, but would be glad to send this to them if you want to give me their address.

WARNING TRACK

As you know, this started as a joint project with Mr. Javier Silva as the lead representative from Little League. HPUD committed to removing and hauling away the grass/dirt from the area. Little League was to finish the track including securing the materials. That didn't happen so HPUD stepped in and we are finishing it this week. Pyramid Construction donated some of the decomposed granite, but I don't know if they are donating all of it. If not, HPUD has agreed to

purchase it. Pyramid delivered at least 5 loads; 2 for Little League and 3 for HPUD. HPUD spread the granite, leveled and compacted it. We rented a roller so we have a smooth firm track.

FENCE

The fence is failing. HPUD will replace the entire length of 4' fence and all of the posts. We will replace 10' high of the backstop, and most of the fencing in the dugouts. I don't have this work scheduled yet, but it will either be during the week of 4/14-4/17 or the following week, which is spring break week. This work will not interfere with your practice or game schedule. We will have a fence in place and all work equipment out of the way.

ELECTRIC LINE

You may be aware that there is an electrical conduit running on the outside of the fence on the east side of the field. That will be removed and the electric lines will be underground. HPUD staff will dig the trench and lay the line. We are hiring an electrician to pull the line and hook up the power. This project will be done at the same time as the fence replacement/repair project. Again it will not interfere with games or practice.

LIGHTS

We purchased 8 light bulbs and Little League (Isabel) will arrange to have them installed. The timers have been set to stay on well after 10pm.

DRINKING FOUNTAIN

HPUD is ordering a new drinking fountain. It will be installed as soon as it gets in.

RED CLAY

After we have the fence repaired and the warning track back into shape (I'm sure it will get roughed up during fence replacement) then we will have the red clay delivered and spread. Mr. Lomax said that red clay should be spread over the warning track. If we have enough this maybe something that Heber Little League can do. HPUD is ordering and purchasing the clay. Francisco (HPUD Lead) is trying to determine what grade of clay Heber Little League wants to use. He may call you. We will have to order about twice as much as we need, and I think that you (Isabel) were going to contact other leagues to see if any of them need red clay. If not, we can put it on the warning track with Heber Little League volunteer help. This will be done once the fence and electrical line has been installed. Probably during spring break for the kids 4/18 through 4/25. Keep in mind that HPUD staff will assist moving the dirt (with our equipment) into the areas needed, but only during work hours. So it may be tricky to get volunteers and HPUD staff on the field at the same time as volunteers are usually available after work hours. I'll keep in contact with you about the red clay delivery time. I suggest that the clay be delivered during spring break so it can be spread by volunteers and HPUD staff without interfering with practice and games.

SPRINKLERS

We are having some issues with our sprinklers, but we are going to raise a couple of them so they work properly and so water won't puddle. HPUD staff is working on the sprinklers to ensure even watering and our timers are set to water after games.

LITTLE LEAGUE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Here are a couple of things that HPUD may not have time to get to this season which may be appropriate for Little League volunteers to take on.

- 1) Paint the bleachers. They need scuffing, dusting and painting. Please use the same dark green as it is appropriate for parks. No alternate colors. I only request that care is taken so paint does not get on the sidewalk.
- 2) Score Board. The wood is beyond repair. I suggest replacing the wood and painting it. However, Mr. Lomax suggested that an electric scoreboard may be available through some vendors. If Little League gets a scoreboard that requires new foundation or footing or electric connection, please let me know so we can make sure it is

installed correctly and that our sprinklers, water lines, electrical lines are not damaged. As usual HPUD will all the electrical hookup and continue to pay the electric bill for the League uses. This includes all the power bills for the field lights and snack bar.

- 3) Guard over outfield fence. Mr. Silva said that he was looking into purchasing a guard to go over the outfield fence. That is a good project and after the fence is replaced this would be a good addition.
- 4) Shade cloth over the dugouts. This is always nice during the summer months.
- 5) Portable backstops. I don't know if you have any, but they are nice to set up for practices or T-Ball games. Mr. Lomax suggested he was willing to solicit donations or have a fund raiser for some equipment or field repairs. Maybe this would be a good project as there is a direct benefit for little kids.
- 6) Help HPUD with Red Clay. When the red clay is delivered, I will recommend Little League help spread it where you want especially the pitcher's mound and warning track. We will keep in touch about the timeline for this item.

I hope this helps keep the line of communication open with HPUD and Little League, and assures Little League that HPUD is willing and ready to help. Let me know if you have any other items that you would like to discuss.

Sincerely,

Laura Fischer
General Manager
Heber Public Utility District
1078 Dogwood Rd., Ste 103
Heber, CA 92249
lfischer@heber.ca.gov
<http://www.heber.ca.gov>
760-482-2440 phone
760-353-9951 fax