

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Parks & Recreation Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: Agreement with the Lower Merion School District for the construction of Team Shelters for a baseball and softball field at South Ardmore Park

Prepared By: Donna L. Heller, Director of Parks & Recreation

Date: October 4, 2017

I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:

Consider for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners authorizing the Township Manager to enter into a License Agreement with the Lower Merion School District (LMSD) to enter upon, construct and maintain four team shelters (the “Improvements”) at South Ardmore Park at the following locations: two each to be installed along the first and third baselines of the softball field known as “B” and the baseball field known as “D”, as designated in the Pennoni South Ardmore Park Master Plan, at LMSD’s expense. The License Agreement includes the limited right to use the South Ardmore Park for Interscholastic softball and baseball teams.

II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:

The Board of Commissioners must approve Agreements committing the Township to the long-term use of any Township field.

III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):

The only similar agreement was entered in January 2017 with the Baldwin School for the improvements and use of the Penn Wynne Park softball field.

IV. Other Relevant Background Information:

The installation of the four team shelters was discussed with the community as part of the 2014 South Ardmore Park Master Plan process and is included in the document as an improvement that would be funded by the LMSD.

The LMSD has requested that team shelters be installed on two fields, the Softball Diamond (Field B) and the Baseball Diamond (Field D), to offer a place for teams to sit out of the elements. The simple shelters, consisting of a fenced area on a concrete pad with a sloped roof, are unobtrusive. The LMSD would fund the installation and maintenance of these shelters.

Lower Merion High School has been using South Ardmore Park for Interscholastic softball and baseball teams since 2008 and follow our field permit process to obtain field permits.



Current “B” Field



Current “D” Field



Example of Team Shelter @ Harriton HS

This agreement would permit LMSD and its contractors to install and maintain the Improvements at times agreed upon by the Township and provide LMSD preferential treatment with respect to scheduling usage of the two Fields for games, practices, and other activities of the interscholastic softball and baseball teams. The use would be non-exclusive and LMSD would need to continue to follow our field permit process. The License Agreement has been reviewed by the Township Solicitor.

Another area which supports the team shelters is that Township leagues, as well as Park users would be able to enjoy the use the improved player sitting area. These fields will still be available to the Township for permitting in the evening after 6:00 p.m. and at all times after the LMSD seasons are finished.

V. Impact On Township Finances:

This agreement would be an end cost benefit with LMSD covering the installation and future maintenance cost associated with the improvement.

VI. Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board authorize the Township Manager to sign the attached License Agreement with the Lower Merion School District (LMSD).