



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 21, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

PREPARER: Brigitte Price, Administrative Specialist

DATE: June 14, 2023

TITLE: **Accept In-Kind Donation of a New Scoreboard for the Arcata Ball Park from the Humboldt Crabs.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council accept the in-kind donation of a new scoreboard for the Arcata Ball Park.

INTRODUCTION:

The City values its partnerships with community-based organizations to enhance public facilities. The City periodically receives donations of cash and/or materials. It is City policy to have the City Council formally accept donations greater than \$500. Additionally, the Council wishes to acknowledge and thank those organizations, individuals and businesses who contribute to making Arcata a better place to live, work and visit.

BACKGROUND:

The City has been collaborating with the Humboldt Crabs organization to plan improvements to the Arcata Ball Park. While design for larger improvements at the Ball Park funded through a budget allocation from Senator McGuire will commence later this summer, City staff and the Crabs board of directors also recognized the need for a new scoreboard to ensure clear communication of game scores for both the Crabs and other user groups at the Ball Park. The Humboldt Crabs donated the new scoreboard to the City with an in-kind cost of \$17,410.

DISCUSSION:

The City and the Humboldt Crabs baseball organization have collaborated on many projects to enhance accessibility and enjoyment at the Arcata Ball Park. Together City staff and the Crabs identified that a new scoreboard was needed. The older scoreboard at the Ball Park had had to have many repairs the last several years. The lighting in the old scoreboard, despite several repairs, was not reliable and the ability to update team names was limited. A new scoreboard was chosen with consultation between the City's Parks Division and Crabs personnel to ensure the sizing, aesthetics and electronic components were compatible with the Ball Park. City staff conducted additional research to ensure the lighting color would be visible in high glare and low light conditions. The

Crabs and City split the cost of scoreboard purchase and installation, with the City expending over \$15,000 for installation and hook-up of the new scoreboard. The new scoreboard can also be controlled more easily remotely from the Ball Park press box. The model 3328 baseball/softball scoreboard was chosen from Varsity Scoreboards, and the Crabs purchased the scoreboard for in-kind donation to the City. The City paid for the removal of the old scoreboard and installation of set-up of the new scoreboard. The new scoreboard has worked well for a variety of games so far this season including Little League, high school tournaments, and the start to the Crabs season.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEW:

The process for accepting donations has been reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Committee.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

Accepting a donation from an organization is not a Project as defined in CEQA Guidelines section 21065. Replacement of the scoreboard at the Ball Park is categorically exempt from environmental review based on Section 15303(e) (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) of the CEQA Statute & Guidelines handbook.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

The Environmental Services Department budgeted \$15,000 in the Parks 81 Activity Budget in fiscal year 2022/23 for scoreboard installation. The City's Parks Division will take on maintenance of the scoreboard to ensure full functionality for years to come.