

## City Council discusses possibility of establishing a soccer field

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

---

With the Great Outdoor Colorado grant for upgrades to the city baseball field falling through, Holyoke's city council continued to search for ways in which to raise funds for improvements to the field in the future during the Tuesday, June 4 Holyoke City Council meeting.

After falling just one position shy of the top eight projects GOCO chose to grant last year, Holyoke's proposal this year failed to crack the top half of the entries.

The main obstacle that lies in the way of receiving a GOCO grant is that the upgrades presented by the City of Holyoke do not encourage physical activity, according to GOCO. Improvements proposed were for ADA upgrades to the restrooms and dugouts, steel awnings to protect those in the stands and upgrades to the playground equipment.

With a grant-writing work session scheduled for the end of the month in Yuma and the next GOCO grant cycle set for August, there is some time to iron out the fine details of the next grant proposal.

One suggestion during the preliminary conversation about ways to encourage more physical activity was to convert the smaller, secondary baseball field in town to a soccer field when not being used for baseball or softball.

Council members noted that it is very common to see children playing soccer around town, and marking off a specific area would promote more activity.

Another option would be to apply for a handful of the mini grants instead of the large grants. While the city would face less competition for smaller grants, the writing of one of the small grants requires the same amount of time and work as applying for a larger grant, so the entire process would be much more time-consuming.

Mini grants would not cover the costs for making the dugouts and restrooms ADA compatible nor would they fund the awnings, which City Clerk Kathy Olofson pinpointed as the top

## **City Council discusses possibility of establishing a soccer field**

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

---

priorities. There is also no guarantee that applying for the smaller grants would yield any grant money.

Public participation is encouraged Tuesday, June 18 at the Holyoke City Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m. as discussions continue about improvements and additions that could be made at the Holyoke Baseball Complex.

### **City officials report**

At last week's meeting, Olofson informed council members that the city was able to secure \$35,000 through the state historical fund for masonry rehabilitation at the Heginbotham Library.

Olofson also noted that the Lions Club has offered to cover the umpire fees for the summer recreation season.

City Superintendent Mark Brown reported that there was a power outage Sunday, May 26 because of a fuse down on the main line by Jack's Bean Co. The reason for the outage is unknown.

The city streets department has been able to take advantage of the warm weather to begin street patching, Brown added.

Brown also presented Mayor Orville Tonsing with a contract to sign that allowed Holyoke to transfer the \$150,000 from the Federal Aviation Administration to the Sterling airport. These funds are often split between airports of the same region.

## City Council discusses possibility of establishing a soccer field

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

---

Sergeant Damon Ellis with the Holyoke Police Department reported that from May 16-29, HPD received 78 calls for service, seven reports were written and 17 warnings were given out. Officers also had to shoot a potentially rabid skunk.

### Other business

In other business June 4, the council:

—hired Brett Cumming as returning summer help.

—approved a request from Holyoke Housing Authority to waive the building permit fee for a new laundry facility for tenants.

—approved a purchase request for a new warning siren from Sentry Siren Inc. to place at the fairgrounds at a cost of \$6,805.83 and a new controller for the golf course siren at a cost of \$1,794.60 plus shipping.

—agreed to donate a free night of swimming to the top team that raised the most money for Phillips County Relay for Life.

—approved Ordinance No. 1-2013 to establish a new chapter of Title 5 of the Holyoke Municipal Code for the purpose of establishing construction requirements of telecommunications/radio and TV towers within the corporate limits of the City of Holyoke.

—decided to include city vehicles in the 125th anniversary parade.

## **City Council discusses possibility of establishing a soccer field**

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

---

Holyoke Enterprise June 13, 2013