

Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Steve Benoit , Parks and Recreation Director
DATE: May 5, 2025
SUBJECT: Authorize the replacement of the Sitzer Park ballfield backstops.
ITEM NUMBER: 8.1
SECTION: CONSENT AGENDA

REQUESTED MOTION

To award the quote to replace the Sitzer Park ballfield backstops to the company providing the lowest acceptable quote.

INTRODUCTION

The city council is being asked to approve a quote to replace the Sitzer Park ballfield backstops.

DISCUSSION

The city's 2025 capital improvement program includes a project to replace the Sitzer Park ballfield backstops. Sitzer Park has two ballfields used primarily by the Shoreview Area Youth Baseball Association. The current backstops on the fields are over 30-year-old and are beginning to deteriorate. Several of the poles are developing cracks and bending creating a safety hazard. The backstops will be replaced with a new system providing several key improvements. The new backstops will be taller than the current ones providing more protection from foul balls for spectators. In addition, they will include padding behind the home plate area which will keep foul balls from bouncing off the backstops back at players. The system also utilizes netting that while still protecting spectators, is more transparent allowing better viewing of the games from the stands.

The city recently solicited a quote for this work from the following companies:

- Upper Midwest Athletic Construction
- St. Croix Recreation
- Peterson Companies

Due to scheduling issues the quotes from the above companies were not received in time to include in this memo. The quotes will be received before they May 5 meeting and will be provided in an update. In order to be able to complete the project on on-time this summer and work around the Shoreview Area Youth Baseball schedule, the low bidder needs to be approved at the May 5 city council meeting.

The city has worked with St. Croix Recreation and Peterson Companies on other projects and has had good experiences. The city has not worked with Midwest Athletic Construction in the

past but they did come with positive recommendations.

The estimated cost of this project when the 2025 budget was completed was \$125,000. More recent estimates show that quotes may be closer to \$130,000. Other park projects this year have come back lower than budgeted. The project will be funded through the city's capital asset replacement fund and is scheduled for completion in the late summer of 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the foregoing information, it is recommended that the city council award the quote to replace the Sitzer Park ballfield backstops to the company providing the lowest acceptable quote.

ATTACHMENTS