Minutes of the Centerville **City Council work session** held Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. with participants present electronically via Zoom and streamed on YouTube due to infectious disease COVID-19.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor	Clark Wilkinson
Council Members	Tamilyn Fillmore
	William Ince
	Stephanie Ivie (arrived at 5:41 p.m.)
	George McEwan
	Robyn Mecham
STAFF PRESENT	Brant Hanson, City Manager
	Lisa Romney, City Attorney
	Leah Romero, City Recorder
	Bruce Cox, Parks and Recreation Director
	Jennifer Hansen, Recreation Coordinator
	Matt Layton, Baseball Program
	Ben Horsley, Baseball Program

CENTERVILLE CITY BASEBALL PROGRAM DISCUSSION

In 1999, Centerville City was asked to take over the Centerville Baseball Program due to concerns of mismanagement of the program, which had experienced a sharp decrease in participation from residents. Prior to 1999, the baseball program operated as a separate association with only one member to oversee the entire program. The City hired Richard Hunt to coordinate the program, and many other coordinators since. The City has experienced more participation in the program due to their level of involvement and care.

Over the years, the program has grown to the point where additional volunteers were required to ensure success of the program. The baseball program independently set up a committee of volunteers to assist with the operation and oversight of the program. Staff has serious concerns about the establishment of a committee with no City involvement. Additionally, the City hiring process for new employees is not being observed by the baseball program.

If the program is to remain affiliated with the City, a process is needed that is consistent with City policies and procedures and consistent with State law. One serious concern with implementing this process is the possibility of disrupting the positive direction of the program. Another option is the possibility of the baseball program returning to an association as it was prior to 1999. This would allow the program to continue to be run as it has for at least the past year, with little disruption, continuing to build on the positive momentum. This option does raise concern with a lack of City oversight in the program, creating the possibility of it being mismanaged over time as it was in the past.

Matt Layton, representing the baseball program, expressed appreciation to Bruce Cox for his support of the program as Parks and Recreation Director. Ben Horsley, also representing the baseball program, expressed that their goal was to find the best way for the program to continue to grow. Mr. Horsley explained that the software program most convenient for the

baseball program to use is not compatible with the payment process used for City Utility or City Recreation online payments.

Mr. Cox mentioned benefits of allowing the baseball program to act independently and elect its own leadership without involving the City hiring process. Councilmember Mecham pointed out problems experienced in the past before the program had City oversight. She commended Mr. Layton for his recent leadership of the baseball program, and said she would not want to see the program revert back to what happened prior to 1999.

Mayor Wilkinson suggested one option would be to form a baseball committee similar to other City committees, with members approved by the City Council. Mr. Horsley said he believed a memorandum of understanding was needed to clarify expectations on both sides. Councilmember Fillmore said she leaned toward keeping the program under the umbrella of the City to help provide structural continuity over time. Mr. Horsley stated that the baseball program had important flexibility and nimbleness in making decisions, such as whether or not to hold games in the rain, that would not be possible if it were a strictly City-run program. He commented that he did not have resources to meet City requirements such as board meeting minutes and record keeping. He suggested creating a hybrid organization under a memorandum of understanding to enable the program to continue to grow. Mr. Horsley pointed out that a City-run program would likely not be able to provide some of the "extras" for families currently offered by the program with the program's vibrant volunteer base.

Mr. Horsley explained that his desire for the program was to continue providing recreation-level sport for youth, while also expanding to meet the needs of youth wanting to play at a more competitive level. He added that the Centerville program draws youth from communities outside of Centerville because of what is offered. Councilmember Fillmore suggested it would be helpful for the Council to have a proposal for the hybrid program he suggested to review and consider.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Mecham, Mr. Horsley explained that four or five board members were recruited in the last year to year-and-a-half to help expand the program. Councilmember McEwan said he would want the City to be able to rein-in the tendency toward elitism that can exist in youth sports. Councilmember Mecham said she may not have been in favor of the City contributing financially for batting cages and other equipment if she had known the program would become a separate association. Councilmember Ince said he believed that, regardless of the formal structure, the passion and enthusiasm of the top one or two directors contributed greatly to the success of the program.

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Bruce Cox introduced Jennifer Hansen, the City's new Recreation Coordinator. Ms. Hansen presented summer recreation opportunities she believed the City could offer while maintaining social distancing and following Health Department guidelines. She stated that costs to the City would be covered by registration fees. Ms. Hanson suggested one five-week session from July 6 to August 6 with 10-12 youth per class, and suggested offering virtual classes as well.

Councilmember McEwan expressed concern with the City sponsoring activities considering the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases since the State moved to Risk Level Yellow. Councilmember Fillmore encouraged following the example of the State with regard to activity levels, and commented that the proposed five-week session could be cut short if

necessary. Councilmember McEwan said he would be more comfortable with the activities remaining outside rather than inside.

The Council welcomed Ms. Hansen and thanked her for bringing ideas to the table. Councilmember Fillmore recommended allowing Ms. Hansen to move forward with the recreation programs as proposed. Councilmember Ince suggested issuing credit toward recreation classes next year rather than refunding registration fees if classes need to be terminated before the end of the five-weeks due to COVID-19. A majority of the Council agreed with moving forward with the proposed recreation classes as discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Ivie **moved** to adjourn the work session at 6:52 p.m. Councilmember Ince seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote (4-0).

Leah Romero, City Recorder

June 16, 2020
Date Approved

Katie Rust, Recording Secretary

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