



Item: Lease of a Portion of Highland Park

Initiated By: Park & Recreation Department

Prepared By: Patty Rearden, Deputy Park and Recreation Director

Presented By: Marty Basta, Park & Recreation Director

Action Requested: Hold Public Hearing and Approve Lease

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission approve/deny lease of a portion of Highland Park to the Electric City BMX Association.”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, inquiries from the public, and calls the vote.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the City Commission approve the lease of a portion of Highland Park to the Electric City BMX Association.

Background:

As required by Title 3, Chapter 4, OCCGF, before final consideration of lease of City property, the City Commission shall hold a public hearing to receive comment regarding such a lease. The Electric City BMX Association has requested the City continue their lease of a portion of Highland Park. The new five year lease, effective August 1, 2008 through July 31, 2012, is similar to the previous lease with the Association and will have a rental fee of \$150 in the first year with a 3% increase annually culminating at \$168.84 in 2012.

The notice of public hearing to consider the Lease was published in the Great Falls Tribune on August 15, 2008. The City Commission set the public hearing at the August 19, 2008 Commission Meeting.

The BMX program is a dirt bicycle “moto cross” activity involving youth in our community. The local club is an affiliate of the American Bicycle Association.

At the City’s request, the Electric City BMX Association relocated their operation from Sandhills Park to Highland Park Addition in spring of 2006. The Park & Rec Advisory Board

approved a \$15,000 matching grant to the Association to assist with costs of the new BMX track and related amenities at their March 14, 2005 Board Meeting.

Concurrences:

The Park & Recreation Board recommended approval by the City Commission of the lease at their regular meeting on August 11, 2008.

Fiscal Impact:

The City will receive \$150 lease payment in the first year, increasing 3% annually, culminating at \$168.84 in 2012. The Electric City BMX Association is responsible for all maintenance of the site, and for utilities and insurance.

Alternatives:

Not approve setting the public hearing and ultimately the lease for the Electric City BMX Association. This would leave the Association without a site to carry out their programs and activities after a significant investment of time, money, and effort.

Attachments/Exhibits:

1. Electric City BMX Association Lease (Not available online; on file in City Clerk's Office.)