

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM HUNZIKER YOUTH SPORTS COMPLEX TO INSTALL AN ENTRY GATE AND FENCE

BACKGROUND:

Hunziker Youth Sports Complex (HYSC) is requesting the City's approval for the installation of a programmable entry gate and fence. The proposed gate would be located on the road just south of the northern HYSC parking lot. A new fence would extend along the south and east sides of this parking lot. HYSC has experienced vandalism from vehicles being driven on playing fields after hours, which the gate and fence are intended to prevent.

HYSC leases this property from the City. The lease agreement allows HYSC to install a lockable barrier gate at its sole expense at a point on the road selected by the City. Since the City operates several water wells on the HYSC property, the lease also requires HYSC to provide gate keys to City of Ames staff. The proposed gate will allow City staff unrestricted access to the complex through an electronic gate code. HYSC will also maintain the entry drive as a connection between the Skunk River trail and trails along S. Duff Ave and Airport Road.

Originally, HYSC proposed installing the gate closer to Billy Sunday Road. City staff requested the proposed gate location be moved to address several concerns: the location further into the complex allows vehicles to turn around more easily if the gate is closed or inoperable for any reason, and maintains access to the recreational trail adjacent the parking lot. It also allows for police, complex staff, and others to more easily observe the complex and identify if inappropriate or illegal activity is occurring after the gate has been closed. Finally, it allows those who wish to walk dogs or use the recreational trail to park in the complex instead of along the access drive or in the Animal Shelter lot.

It should be noted that the original lease between the City and HYSC identified that the location of a future gate would be the dividing line between the portion of the access road that is to be maintained by the City and the portion to be maintained by HYSC. In practice, however, the road is already plowed in the winter by City staff when needed to access the water wells, and City staff has filled potholes along the length of the access road as needed. It is not anticipated that the location of the gate will cause the City's plowing or repair practices to change. **It should be noted that installing a gate and fence at the proposed location will result in a higher cost than installing it in the location originally proposed by HYSC. As a result, HYSC has included an additional \$14,000 in its FY 2018/19 City funding request for a portion of the new gate and fencing.**

If approved for this location, the installation of the gate and fence requires approval of a Flood Plain Development Permit. There is no cost for this permit, and City staff would sign the application as the representative of the property owner.

ALTERNATIVES:

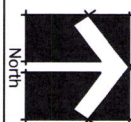
1. Approve the request to install a gate and fence at the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex and authorize City staff to sign a Flood Plain Development Permit.
2. Deny the request to install a gate at the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The proposed gate will allow Hunziker Youth Sports Complex to better protect its facilities. The City will be granted unrestricted access to the Complex through a unique key code. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative no. 1, thereby approving the request to install a gate and fence at the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex and authorize City staff to sign a Flood Plain Development Permit.



Hunziker Youth Sports Complex
 Proposed Entry Gate - Option #2



Scale: 1" = 100'-0"
Drawn: CES
Date: October 20' 2017
Revised: