



AGENDA ITEM COVER

MEETING DATE: March 30, 2021

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Redbird Rookies

AGENDA SECTION: New Business

SUBMITTED BY: James Wilke

DISCUSSION:

The City of University City has been the sponsor for the U. City Redbird Rookies program for the past several seasons. Cardinals Care is the overall program sponsor and provides most of the essentials for the program. Equipment, registration, background checks for coaches, coach training, schedule platform for games and practices, and non-baseball programming for players and their families are all provided at no cost to players or U. City. We have identified 5 areas that sponsor organizations need to provide to support a Redbird Rookies Program. The following is a chart that outlines our proposal to handle these functions as Volunteers, with minimal direct City personnel or organizational support, but still, have the City be the titular "sponsor":

Communications - We will develop and provide emails, flyers, and electronic posters and postcards copy and graphics for recruitment posts on City Social media as well as use our Sports Engine app, which is self-contained and provided free by Cardinals Care. Once the season starts, all communications would be from volunteers through the Cardinals Care app and would not require any City staff.

Field access - Before the City took over as the sponsor, the UCSA handled Redbird Rookies, but the City required it to pay for field time. Unfortunately, this meant the program could not be provided for free, and due to concerns about program mismanagement, Cardinals Care decided not to partner with UCSA any longer. So, reasonable field access for free for Redbird Rookies practices and games would be needed. This has historically included 3-4 hours on Saturday mornings on the Heman - Olive side fields and one of the Millar fields, or Jack Buck, or Heman Field 6 for games, and two evenings a week for one Millar field, and 3 evenings a week for 2 Heman fields. We can be as flexible with the selection of ball fields for practices and games for our teams as needed to accommodate other groups wanting to pay for field time.

Equipment Storage - right now, the equipment is being stored at CentCom. We would need limited access to continue to store equipment there in season, with only two authorized people able to access the storage, there would be no additional burden to staff. Coaches carry most of their equipment with them, and in-season may need to get an additional item for a player.

Scheduling games and practices - This can be done with Volunteer labor only, so long as we know the dates and times of field availability. Once games are scheduled, volunteers put the games into the Cardinals Care app, and volunteers oversee reschedules. Once games and practices are scheduled, we can release open reserved times back to the City. Rescheduling games might require the City to release a few additional dates, but we can work around open times to get those rescheduled.

Insurance and Waivers - Redbird Rookies do require insurance with Cardinals Care listed as an Additional Insured. This insurance requirement has been provided by the City in past years. To keep the league free to our residents, we would ask to have the City provide the insurance for the league. Cardinals Care can include a waiver as part of the on-line registration process so long as the language can be given to them quickly.

COVID Plan- We will comply with the City's requirement for an organization-specific COVID Plan which will be provided to St. Louis County Health and be kept recording player information to be used as a mechanism for contract tracing protocols that will be executed the same by each of our teams. We will provide our internal oversight and random/spot checks for adherence to the protocols we have established and have agreed to perform for our players and teams.

That leaves only a few City functions.

1. Adding Cardinal Care to the insurance and permitting the league to play under the City's insurance.
2. Providing a waiver to Cardinal Care to add to the registration.
3. Giving Redbird Rookies field access and storage.

Most of these do not require any staff support, or very minimal, like opening the door for us at CentCom or providing a list of field availability.

ACTION:

There must be a motion and a second by a Commission member to make a recommendation and the motion must be approved by the majority of the Commission.

ATTACHEMENTS:

- 1) None