



Memo

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Doug Coutts, Director
Date: 9/11/2020
Re: Facility Usage in Island County-Update

As discussed at our last meeting, the County Board of Health instituted a waiver process for the playing of games to their 10 person maximum for outdoor recreation. We successfully applied for the waiver and completed the Adult Softball league last month.

We are now seeing reservations for picnic shelters that are telling us they are for 10 people and end up having significantly more than ten people show up. If this practice continues, we will stop accepting reservation requests.

Also, we have received a reservation request for use of our sports fields for SWHS girls soccer practices. Currently, there is no sports season underway and I am told by the High School AD Paul Lagerstadt that the Boys team may also submit a request to practice since the WIAA is planning a "Out of Season" practice allowance for the fall since all team sports for WIAA are on hold until next year at the moment. I did ask Paul if the School teams could use their own fields for practice and the response was that fields have not been maintained and are not in a state of readiness for practices. I have added the Girls team practices to our schedule, but I think we should revisit the Facility Use policy and discuss the idea of a Priority Season for all groups that they are not charged for usage and all other times of the year they would be charged. This is a concept that is in place in other municipalities and from our reasoning on not charging makes good sense.

Our policy on field usage indicates that we do not charge youth sports user groups as they provide a service we would otherwise be providing, recreational sports. The issue with the current set up is that we would not provide year-round sports or more select type sports. We have groups that have multiple sports seasons and then teams from those groups that go year-

round. We do not charge them for any usage. The priority season concept is we would denote the priority season for each group and any usage during the priority season would not be charged. Any usage outside of the priority season for each group would be charged a non-profit rate.

The sports user groups are a big impact on our budget, just without the spring season of sports, we have noticed a significant savings in our field maintenance line items. As we are starting our budget discussion, this is an area that could potentially recoup some expenses directly related to an activity occurring in the parks.