

Resolution 2016-012

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE LEASE OF 18 ACRES OF COUNTY OWNED LAND LOCATED NEAR THE ALBANY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS TO BLIZZARD AND THE LARAMIE SOCCER ASSOCIATION FOR A SOCCER FACILITY AS PART OF THE YOUTH SPORTS COMPLEX.

WHEREAS, In September, 2015, the governing bodies for the City of Laramie, Wyoming (City) and Albany County, Wyoming (County) jointly met and discussed the viability of a Youth Sports/Leisure Complex in Albany County, Wyoming to promote physical and leisure activities for youth, economic development to the community through tourism and improve the quality of life to the community. Pursuant to City/County Resolution 2015-71, the City and County jointly formed the Exploratory Committee for Youth Sports/Leisure Complex (Exploratory Committee) to determine the interest of youth sports organizations, youth clubs, and the community attitude and opinion in building a youth sports/leisure complex in Albany County.

WHEREAS, the role of the Exploratory Committee was to conduct an inventory of existing facilities within Albany County available to youth sports organizations and parks and recreation programs and to complete a needs assessment for a youth sports/leisure complex and other youth entertaining activities. Specifically, the Exploratory Committee was requested to solicit public input including gathering information and socio-economic data from existing surveys and reports regarding parks and recreation programs, youth sports organizations, youth programs, attitudes and opinions relating to need for a youth sports/leisure complex, accessibility for children with special needs, other entertaining activities and the impact on the community. Additionally, the Exploratory Committee was requested to determine potential locations of such youth sports/leisure complex and development of land for such facilities addressing connectivity with other resources within the City and County. Lastly, the Exploratory Committee was to identify financial sources including ownership and maintenance of any facilities.

WHEREAS, from the needs assessment completed by the Exploratory Committee, the Committee determined that there were no sites available at this time of sufficient size to accommodate all sports, recreational and entertaining activities being located in one complex and due to funding concerns, facilities would need to be constructed in phases based on need, priority and cost. The Committee was able to identify three (3) viable sites for the development of youth sports facilities to comprise the youth sports complex: 1). 2 acres owned by the City of Laramie, Wyoming located within the Turner Tract for construction of an indoor practice ice facility for hockey with female locker rooms; 2). 18 acres owned by the County located on South 287 near the Albany County Fairgrounds for indoor/outdoor soccer; and 3). 53 acres of privately owned land located on north 9th street to be leased to the County for indoor/outdoor baseball/softball fields and indoor/outdoor basketball courts.

WHEREAS, the final report and recommendations of the Exploratory Committee determined that soccer was one of the higher priorities. The Laramie Soccer Association (LSA) serves 543 children through both the spring and fall season and also 179 adults who played in the summer league. Blizzard serves 325 youth, including 10 competitive teams this past season. LSA utilizes many of the parks throughout Laramie and the Laramie Soccer Complex for the adult summer league. Blizzard primarily

uses the Laramie Soccer Complex for both practices and games. Additionally, the Blizzard rent the Pitch for indoor play and has outgrown this facility.

WHEREAS, LSA has a need for more soccer fields and need for an indoor facility for practice and games. Blizzards, currently host two (2) major tournaments at the UW IPF. The first tournament that Blizzard hosts brings 175 soccer teams to town and nearly sell out all the hotels. The second tournament Blizzard hosts has 60 soccer teams. They could easily allow 25-50 more teams if there were facilities. The Blizzard's primary need is an indoor practice field with restrooms, with a couple of offices and storage space. They also could use more outdoor fields and organize large outdoor tournaments if additional fields were available.

WHEREAS, the County has approximately 40 acres of available land located south of I-80 on the west side of 287 and north of Huron Road. The land is located next to the Albany County Fairgrounds where there are established facilities including an arena, paved parking lots, RV hookups, restrooms, utilities, flat ground to the south which could easily be made into outdoor soccer fields as well as room for an indoor practice facility, close to the greenbelt and bike trail to the north. There are 35 privately owned acres located south of Huron Street. East of 287 there are 38 acres that have been proposed to the City for a commercial development. Additionally, southeast of 287 there are several hundred privately owned acres. Utilizing all areas surrounding the fairgrounds, there is enough room to house a soccer facility without having much impact on surrounding neighborhoods. High visibility and access from two (2) main corridors, I-80 and Hwy 287, would beautify a main entrance into our community.

WHEREAS, the County desires the soccer facility as part of the Youth Sports Complex to be located next to the Albany County Fairgrounds to compliment the activities of the fairgrounds by expanding horse trails and bike trails to this area.

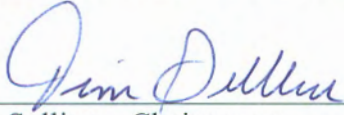
NOW THEREFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING, RESOLVES:

Section 1. That the foregoing recitals are incorporated in and made a part of this resolution by this reference.

Section 2. That the Board of County Commissioners of Albany County, Wyoming, authorizes 18 acres of the County owned land located next to the Albany County Fairgrounds to be leased to the Blizzards and LSA for them to construct a future soccer facility and the 18 acres to be included as part of the feasibility/conceptual design study for the Youth Sports Complex.

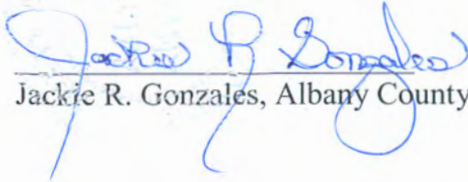
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 21 day of June, 2016.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING**



Tim Sullivan, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Jackie R. Gonzales, Albany County Clerk