



Pinery Park Little League parents, players and other interested parties,

Pinery Park Little League has been a City of Wyoming institution for 60 years. Nearly 600 boys and girls play Little League in Wyoming each season. We at the City are committed to providing Little League opportunities to these children.

I wanted to share some information with you to dispel any rumors that may be floating around with regard to the City's intentions for the baseball fields at Pinery Park. I also want to provide insight into the City's involvement with the League and what we're doing going forward.

First, I want to make clear that we have no intent to make Pinery Park a travel facility of any type. Our fields exist to serve the girls and boys who live in our community. Our only goal is to continue to offer baseball and softball programs for these kids.

As far as the City's recent involvement with the League, City of Wyoming employees, Greater Wyoming Community Resource Alliance Board members and I have been working closely with the board to bring a level of transparency to the finances and administration of Pinery Park Little League.

Since 1955, the City has licensed Pinery Park Little League to operate at Pinery Park. The terms of that agreement included specific reporting provisions. These requirements are in place to protect the kids who participate, the parents who volunteer, the many businesses who provide support and the taxpayers of the City of Wyoming.

As part of this agreement, Pinery Park Little League is required to confirm and maintain its status as a nonprofit. It must also fulfill all of its responsibilities as a nonprofit organization in good standing with regard to performing audits, paying and filing taxes, and providing state-mandated concussion training to coaches, among others.

The league lost its non-profit status in 2012, and was restored earlier this year. It is our understanding the league filed taxes for years 2011-2015 only within the past month. The accounting assistance provided by the Alliance will ensure the nonprofit status can be maintained in the future.

The Wyoming City Council, the Greater Wyoming Community Resource Alliance, the City Manager's office, various city departments and employees and I are doing our best to assist the organization in meeting these requirements. Among other efforts:

- In September 2015, the City assisted in promoting the date and location of the Pinery Park Little League board elections



- In October 2015, City Council renewed the league's license to operate at Pinery Park with the understanding that PPLL would work with the City to resolve the loss of its non-profit status, fulfill its reporting duties and complete the necessary steps to keep its contract with the City in good standing
- Also in October 2015, the Greater Wyoming Community Resource Alliance agreed to take fiduciary responsibility for Pinery Park Little League and to provide ongoing support for the operation's finances
- In January of this year, the City provided assistance to register children online and in person so they could participate in spring and summer games
- The City continues to provide field maintenance this season at Pinery Park

It is imperative that the organization files taxes, completes audits and operates in a way in which participants can be confident that the funding provided for the league is going toward league services and the children's safety is insured. We are still working and will continue to work with Pinery Park Little League to resolve these issues and to provide transparency and accountability for the sake of the kids, and we believe the current board is committed to that standard.

The league can only be as successful if parents get involved. Volunteers are needed to serve many roles for the league, from concession sales to coaching and as board members for the next year. I strongly encourage you to contact your board members and make them aware that you are available to volunteer on behalf of Pinery Park Little League.

If you have questions about the Resource Alliance's or the City's work with Pinery Park Little League, please call City Manager Curtis Holt, 530-7272, or email him at holtc@wyomingmi.gov.

I encourage you to be involved, be informed and to step up to the plate to make Pinery Park Little League the best it can be and to ensure its success well into the future.

With thanks,

Mayor Jack Poll

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