

Harada, Patricia

Subject: FW: Stevenson Field and Beach Cities

From: Steve Sutherland <sutherland@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 10:43 AM

To: Boyles, Drew (Mayor) <dboyles@elsegundo.org>; Pirsztuk, Carol (Council Member) <cpirsztuk@elsegundo.org>; Pimentel, Chris (Mayor Pro Tem) <cpimentel@elsegundo.org>; Giroux, Lance (Council Member) <lgiroux@elsegundo.org>; Baldino, Ryan <rbaldino@elsegundo.org>; Robinson, Matthew <mrobinson@elsegundo.org>; Weaver, Tracy (City Clerk) <tweaver@elsegundo.org>; Mancini, Aly <amancini@elsegundo.org>; Green, Shawn <SGreen@elsegundo.org>; Michael Alcala <alcala3@yahoo.com>; jeff@2delphi.com; Ryan Lopez <rlopez@beachcitybaseballacademy.com>; Elizabeth Swanson <eswanson@beachcitybaseballacademy.com>; Danny Boehle <dannyboehle@hotmail.com>

Subject: Stevenson Field and Beach Cities

In regards to this topic of keeping our kids in town, Beach Cities and our former Eagles Ryan and Elizabeth Lopez are searching for a field to hold practices on for the 13-15 year old kids. As you know this age group has put us on the map recently across the world. Ryan and Liz are trying to find time on the big fields as this group leaves the Little League sized diamonds. They tried getting field time at the high school, but with 3 high school teams sharing that field with no lights and Saturday games in the fall, there is no room. They had some practice times scheduled at Stevenson but have run into conflicts with Babe Ruth.

As you are all in the middle of discussing city and district shared field space it is a great time to make some positive changes for our local baseball kids and families. Almost all high school athletes play both club and local organization sports now a days. Baseball is no different. The local leagues like Babe Ruth and Little League give all of our kids a chance to play together with friends and families, but for kids looking to advance their skills I don't see it happening at the high school level without playing against better competition.

We have such a unique opportunity to have 2 full sized baseball fields and our own baseball academy with indoor cages right here in town. I know there was some hurtful statements made in the past by Mr. Murad and Beach Cities, but Ryan and Elizabeth along with Kenny have taken over the facility and re-established a great relationship with the community.

My wish would be for a shared use of some sort of both Stevenson and the Beach Cities facilities. One has indoor batting cages the other has the big field. Parents would love us if they didn't have to drive to Santa Monica or Norwalk anymore for practices and the exposure to our town by outside athletes would be great.

In the meantime Mira Costa is offering to help out Beach Cities. This is the exact reason we are losing more and more kids each year. They play at outside facilities, run by outside coaches where they develop bonds and end up leaving our district.

I believe Beach Cities just wants a few hours a week and that would go along way in keeping our kids in town, but the clock is ticking and some local high school coaches are chomping at the bit to welcome our kids.

Steve Sutherland

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 20, 2023, at 10:18 AM, Steven J. Sutherland <sutherland@aol.com> wrote:

I am writing in need of support for our high school baseball program. With the success of the El Segundo Little League us coaches are constantly getting the question "What are we going to do to keep these kids in town?" In fact Danny Boehle told me he got the question from the mayor.

We are still a strong program yet the perception in the youth levels is different. We compete in one of the toughest baseball leagues in Southern California and have been in the running for the league championship almost every year. We are consistently producing athletes that move on to the next level with two more of our seniors this year committed to top D1 Programs. We have recent grads who are the head coach at El Camino College and an assistant at UCLA with the Palmer boys and of course Lars Nootbar.

For those of you around long enough you know this is the norm. The difference I see now is the youth level is no longer controlled from the top down. Club teams have a heavy influence on the kids and when you have Mira Costa coaches running some of our El Segundo travel teams, the all star's team brother being a coach for Loyola, as well as several Babe Ruth coaches with ties to Bosco the kids and parents are being hit hard about leaving El Segundo.

What bothers me the most is the parents and youth levels simply don't know the facts. I have close friends running both Loyola and St. John Bosco baseball programs. They struggle. Both were 10-18 last year and they play in leagues where they rarely have a chance to win league or make the CIF playoffs.

We need to do a better job of sticking up for our program. The other high school coaches always ask why we don't hang our banners of championships and professional players. This relates to the Babe Ruth Program as well. No one knows that we have won the World Series several times. No one knows that our head coach Billy Traber was a 1st team All American at LMU, 1st round pick and pitched for 7 season in the MLB. No one knows Craig Cousins has won more games as an assistant coach than anyone else in California history as well as played for the Dodgers. We need to show off our past and present champions if we hope to change the tide.

I know Stevenson field is in the Rec Park but it has been home to a legendary history for both the Babe Ruth and ESHS Programs. Our D1 commits come from Westchester as well as over half of our starters. One of them's older brother played for Harvard-Westlake with a scholarship. The parents chose to send their younger son here and talk about that chose to everyone. They brag about how they get to play for a first round pick who never yells at him, treats him fairly and allowed him to play other sport and still produced a Ivy League scholarship.

I know the grass is greener on the other side of the fence so for what the west side kids think is heaven are own are looking elsewhere. But it's only because they don't know the truth. Loyola and St. John Bosco are not better programs and never have been. Not in baseball then or now. Please let me know what can be done to showcase our history at Stevenson Field. I know Danny Boehle responded the Mayor Boyles that

better facilities would help keep the kids in town. A few upgrades their as well would bring that place back to being the showcase field in the South Bay.

Go Gundo,

Steve Sutherland