



VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAIYNE YOUTH ATHLETICS ADVISORY BOARD

Glen Waldman, Chair

Victor Balestra
Gonzalo Cortabarría
Kenneth Coto

Cesar Elizondo
Florencia Manero
Paul Zuccarini

February 12, 2018

Dear Mayor Lindsay and Council Members:

I write to you in my capacity as the Chairman of the Youth Athletic Advisory Board, which was formed in January 2008 pursuant to Ordinance 2008-1. I will be coming before you on behalf of the YAAB to discuss certain important matters on February 27th and thought it would be prudent to first give you a heads up to the issues we will be discussing and the action we will be asking you to take. There are three items that we will be discussing and each is summarized below:

1. Addition of Roof Enclosure over Basketball Court and Redo of Surface at KBCS:

We all are cognizant of the shortage of facilities and the ever-increasing demand. We identified what we strongly believe to be a rarity, a very underutilized facility which we would like to convert into something much more than it is. The basketball court behind the KBCS which abuts the baseball diamond/field is not currently utilized by any of our sports and frankly, is not suited for our sports in its current condition. We have been working for over a year to come up with a proposal for your consideration, which will radically reverse that fact. Attached is a rendering of the proposed roof structure, which will have interior lights and will protect and cover a completely redone and relined facility for basketball and volleyball usage. We have also enclosed the most affordable estimate to perform the work. If we proceed with this project, we will be able to further expand our girls' volleyball program and co-ed basketball programs. The girls' volleyball program, which can currently only be run in the recreational center during the months of September, October and November, due to Basketball starting near the end of November, and is also constrained as to the number of girls who can participate. Every year we have a waiting list of Key Biscayne girls, which we must turn away. Increasing the number of girls in our programs remains a

{00255801.DOC }

10 Village Green Way * Key Biscayne, FL 33149
Telephone: 305-365-8900 * Fax: 305-365-8991
www.ActiveIslander.org



VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAIYNE YOUTH ATHLETICS ADVISORY BOARD

Glen Waldman, Chair

Victor Balestra
Gonzalo Cortabarría
Kenneth Coto

Cesar Elizondo
Florencia Manero
Paul Zuccarini

priority and the additional space will help us accomplish this. The basketball recreational program is run from late November to the end of February and is also constrained by numbers and time frames due to other events and programs needing the recreational floor. Moreover, with the addition of the above facility, we will be able to expand both programs and allow them to be played beyond their short indoor regular seasons in the community center and allow us to move to the next level for those who are interested (and there are many) to provide travel programs and off-season training. This facility could, of course, have many other uses, but at a minimum, it would substantially enhance these current programs and help to satisfy the demand that we have not been able to meet.

2. Position Concerning Taxing Current Sports:

The YAAB was instructed to consider and determine whether there was a methodology to raise additional money for the Village coffers from the current athletic programs. We were also told that the target was to raise revenue of \$100,000 per year from our sports. We looked at from the perspective of field usage and tried to come up with a fair way to assess essentially a tax on programs. The more we looked at and dug into it, the more we became convinced that if we followed through with this concept and tried to get near the target number, we would essentially force the programs to pass the "tax" through to the participants, which would have the effect of raising prices for each participant in each of our affected sports. This is contrary to one of the fundamental tenets, which we have subscribed to, provide excellent programs at a reasonable cost. Imposing this tax would force residents in some instances to pay more for intramural sports than off island, which is anathema to our charge. Accordingly, it is the unanimous position of the Board that a tax to add revenue is not the way to go and we are averse to any such formulation, which would impact the cost to those Key residents who participate in our excellent programs. That said, and understanding that this may be something important to the Council, the YAAB has come up with a proposal, which we believe accomplishes to a reasonable extent two of the goals, raising revenue for the Village, but not harming resident prices for sports participation. As set forth on the attached spreadsheet, we have come up with a methodology that will raise revenue for the Village and not impact our residents. As such, we propose to add a usage fee for all non-Key Biscayne residents who participate in Key Biscayne sports and have the benefit of our programs, fields and gym space. Not only do we propose that this fee be instituted for youth sports, but also for adult sports, essentially adult



VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAIYNE YOUTH ATHLETICS ADVISORY BOARD

Glen Waldman, Chair

Victor Balestra
Gonzalo Cortabarría
Kenneth Coto

Cesar Elizondo
Florencia Manero
Paul Zuccarini

soccer for off island participants. In this vein, we believe initially we can raise \$25,000 in year one and gradually over time increase this, if need be. We are also confident that we will not lose many off island participants, at least in the youth context, and, if we do, so be it. Additionally, the sports that find off-island participants important to their success will be motivated to come up with creative ways to defray these costs (scholarships, fundraisers) with the onus on them. Based on conversations with those sports leaders, we are confident that they will make it work, if it is important to them.

3. Revision of Ordinance 2008:

As we have been working through item 2 above and, based on the issues we deal with on an annual basis, concerning scheduling, field usage, expansion of sports and the like, it has become clear that the advisory board is more than a "youth" athletic advisory board, but really a Village athletic advisory board. Specifically, it became logical and necessary for us to dig into the adult soccer program to insure the off-island participants did not receive a free pass and we are frequently addressing issues regarding these non-youth sports in trying to fairly carry out our tasks. In order to make the above work and to continue to make our sports programs, field allocations and other issues as seamless as possible, the reality is that the YAAB is overseeing all village sports and frankly should be. As such, we are asking that the Council amend Ordinance No 2008-1 in the following respects:

- a. Change the name of the Board to the Village Athletic Advisory Board;
- b. Change the charge of the Board from that of "providing recommendations to the Council regarding the Village's youth athletic program" to "providing recommendations to the Council regarding the Village athletic programs" and amend throughout the Ordinance, as necessary, to signify this change.

Thank you very much for your consideration of the above. I look forward to discussing this further with you at the Village Council meeting on February 27th. Should any of you wish to further discuss these issues prior to that time, the members of the Board are available at your convenience to do so. Finally, please understand that the above does not reflect my personal views, although I agree with all the positions presented, but the collective position of our Board that continues to donate their time



**VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE
YOUTH ATHLETICS ADVISORY BOARD**

Glen Waldman, Chair

Victor Balestra
Gonzalo Cortabarría
Kenneth Coto

Cesar Elizondo
Florencia Manero
Paul Zuccarini

and serve at the pleasure of the Council to do our part for our unique and special Village.

Very truly yours,



Glen H. Waldman

Enclosures

cc: YAAB Board Members
Todd Hofferberth