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To: Waupaca City Council
From: Laura Colbert, Parks and Recreation Director
Date: 10/28/22
Re: Proposed Lakemen Field Master Plan Effort

Background:

Lakemen is a city-owned field and is listed as one of our sixteen city parks. It is the home field for 14U, 15U, and 16U Babe Ruth leagues, Lakemen, Legion, and High School baseball double headers. Lakemen is used approximately seven months out of the year, seven days a week. The Lakemen lights were installed in 1976 with a 25-year life expectancy. The poles were installed at the same time and had already lived a prior life as electrical poles. The sod was installed in the infield in 1979. A full infield renovation occurred in 1993, which included: cutting all the lips, redoing the mound, and bringing in new dirt. The recommended lifespan of an infield is 25 years, at the most.

Additionally, the light lumen measurement reaches about 25% of necessary lumens, which makes it difficult to safely play at night.

Summary: With the age and safety concerns of the lights, the light pole, and the field, we would like to renovate Lakemen Field in 2024 to upgrade the facility to meet current safety standards. In addition to the lights, poles, and field, we will upgrade the sound system as well. The Parks and Rec Dept. currently has \$350,000 designated for this project in our 2024 Capital Plan with 50% provided through G.O. Bonds and 50% through donations.

In order to make sure that we are doing our due diligence with this renovation, we have asked Rettler Corporation to put together a master plan. This plan will also take into consideration an upgrade to the concession stand and parking lot, to name a few. The future public works building will eliminate up to 40 parking spots currently used by Lakemen patrons, which makes the master plan a necessity when looking into the Lakemen Field's near future. The cost of the master plan is \$2,500. We will pay for this with the leftover funds from the Bike/Ped plan.

Project Estimates:

Lights – \$325,000
Field - \$50,000
Speaker System – \$2,000

Recommendation: To move forward with paying Rettler Corporation \$2,500 to develop a Lakemen Field master plan.

Attachments:
Photos of the current light poles.

