

FIELD,

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made during the past year. While expenses totaled more than \$15,700 and improvements amounted to \$21,700, the list did not include any mention of revenues generated through fees paid by participating families, concession sales, sponsorships or third party field rental. The only income listed at all was the amount paid by MYB last year for field usage, and KLL has been a recent recipient of grants from the Keizer Parks Board and the Rotary Club of Keizer to help pay for the ongoing improvements at the fields.

Even as Arnsmeier started making KLL's case, the size of the increase met with resistance from Mayor Cathy Clark.

"It's a variable increase because it is a fixed rate and that cost for the smallest fields is going up by 33 percent," Clark said.

Under the proposed rate hike, the smallest fields would increase from \$30 to \$40 per two-hour time slot. The largest field would increase to \$60 without the use of lights and to \$145 with the use of lights. Arnsmeier said the \$10 increase was chosen primarily for ease of accounting.

"Even with the increase,

we're still in line or less expensive than other fields in the Pacific Northwest," Arnsmeier said. "When you factor in the cost of maintenance has to include what takes place in the off-season. You have to factor in the 12-month process, not just during one week in the middle of April."

Ryan Walsh, president of MYB, spoke out against the increase.

"We've gone elsewhere because we can't afford (the fees at Keizer Little League Park). We've had some community partners that have allowed us to use fields for free and we use those a ton," Walsh said. "We decided to offer free T-ball this year and gotten a number of sponsors to make that possible. We're very excited for that, but the revenue is tough to come by."

Last year, MYB paid more than \$5,700 in field use fees at Keizer Little League Park. Prior to the start of the season, MYB's reserved spots amounting to nearly \$2,000 more, but those were refunded when teams found other venues or were unable to convene a game or practice.

"One of my biggest concerns is that third parties using of the field that are offered discounts for the off-season. Maybe we should ask them to pay a

bit more than adding it on for our own kids," Walsh said.

Walsh's other point of contention was that the fee increase was not discussed during a joint board meeting of the two groups in November, and only found out the council would be looking at the issue because of a phone call from City Attorney Shannon Johnson last week.

MYB board member Josh DeVos added that the expense would be more difficult to absorb given that MYB had already set its registration rates for the upcoming year.

"We decided to move our registrations up and we've set our prices for the year already and we've worked for months on those costs," DeVos said.

Walsh said increasing the fees would add another \$1,900 to MYB's planned expenses.

Arnsmeier responded that the decision to ask for the fee increase wasn't made until a retreat later in November, and tried to put the onus back on MYB.

"The business decision with the free T-ball put them in a bind," Arnsmeier said.

Clint Holland, manager of the concession stand, added that not showing up for reserved times also had an impact on concession sales of up to \$120 per empty field slot.

At that point, the temperature in the room grew more heated as MYB representatives clamored to respond. However, Clark cut the conversation short.

"We need to table this. We need info on true costs and I don't have enough information on the budgets of both organizations. We don't have enough information here tonight," Clark said.

Councilor Roland Herrera, who earlier in the evening had backed the request for the increase, walked back his endorsement after hearing from both sides.

"I was a KLL guy, but I'm a bigger Keizer guy. I jumped the gun on this and it has to be good for all the kids of Keizer," Herrera said.

KLL has about 450 registered players. MYB has approximately 300. The council plans to look at the issue again on Tuesday, Jan. 16.

ROBBERY: KPD still looking for additional suspects

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crash into a utility box in the 3800 block of River Road North. The occupants of the vehicle had already fled the scene, but the license plate matched one sought in connection with other robberies.

Some of the occupants were detained near the scene of the crash and officers learned they were staying in the Quality Inn & Suites on Wittenberg Lane Northeast in Keizer. Officers responded to the hotel to follow up on the investigation and recognized another man, Brandon J. Thompson, in the hotel lobby wanted for questioning by the Keizer Police Department's Criminal Investigations Unit in the Shari's robbery.

Thompson was detained and taken to the police station. Officers eventually ended up searching two rooms at the hotel in connection with the Keizer crimes.

Thompson was taken to the Marion County Correctional Facility (MCCF) where he was charged with third degree robbery and theft in connection with the Shari's robbery.

On Thursday, Dec. 14, Keizer officers arrested James A. Libokmeto — a man Det. Chris Nelson said was staying in the Quality Inn with Thompson — and charged him with second degree robbery, third degree theft and violation of probation in connection with the robbery at Good Times Grill.

Police are continuing to investigate the incidents and identify additional suspects.

The victim at Good Times, a 44-year-old

woman who works at the business located at 122 Chemawa Road N.E., told police she was closing up when the first suspect entered and demanded money while pointing a handgun at her. After the first suspect robbed her and fled the business with an undisclosed amount of cash, a second male, also armed with a handgun, emerged from the back of the business, approached the victim and demanded money. After telling the second suspect she had already been robbed by the first suspect, the second man appeared to become confused and then fled.

Shari's was robbed about 8 p.m. on Dec. 7. Witnesses told police that two males entered the restaurant and pushed the manager to the ground before grabbing the drawer from a cash register and fleeing the business. The amount stolen was not disclosed.

Anyone having any information about the incident at Good Times incident is asked to contact Keizer Police Department Det. Ben Howden at 503-856-3525. Investigators ask anyone who resides or has a business with security or surveillance cameras in the immediate vicinity of the Good Times Grill to review their recordings to see if either suspect can be seen.

Tips can also be submitted by email to Tips@keizer.org. Persons providing information can remain anonymous, but reference Keizer Police Department incident no. 17-5115 for the Good Times robbery or incident no. 17-5076 for the Shari's robbery.

HOA,

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In January, the HOA board updated its architectural manual to address "excessive ornamentation," but the section includes a carve out for seasonal holiday decorations saying only that they must be removed from the property within two weeks after the holiday.

Another section of the CC&Rs, which deals specifically with signs prohibits anything larger 18-by-24 inches without permission of the board.

Straghan said no one contacted board members about their dissatisfaction before the issue ended up exploding on social media and the intent was only to make residents aware of the language in their HOA contract and to survey the extent of the issue within the neighborhood. Since the notices were made by the employee, the board has still only

received one request for permission to leave a sign in place. Asking residents to remove religious-themed signs is contrary to a legal opinion — posted on the HOA website in January 2017 — on the types of sign enforcement allowed under the law. It was prepared by attorney Kevin Harker.

"McNary has two options: 1) enforce the sign provision contained in the CC&Rs, or 2) amend the CC&Rs to authorize other types of signs. If the Board decides to enforce its current sign provision in the CC&Rs, it must be done uniformly. In other words, there can't be an exception for certain types of signs ("Bring the Troops Home") and a prohibition on others ("Jesus Christ is our Savior")," the opinion states.

The board isn't taking any further action on the matter, but plans to revisit it in the future, Straghan said.

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