

PUSH BACK:

Youth league leaders dispute inclusion in proposal recommended by committee

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baseball than have ever been around before,” Mickey Walker said.

In a request for proposal, the Walkers stated: “Prior to submitting the proposal, we met personally with Rob Tavares, Bo Lane, Shane Diarmit, Kyle Quiring and Gerry Orlando. Personally, they were all supportive of the Sports Complex.”

Quiring, president of Keizer Little League, Diarmit, president of the Keizer Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth leagues, and Rob Tavares, president of McNary Youth Baseball all took issue with For Love of the Game claiming their endorsement.

“If my signature wasn’t on it, I didn’t endorse it,” said Quiring, referencing a letter he did sign endorsing a competing proposal submitted by a group of regional tournament organizers. That letter was included with the competing proposal.

The Keizer Little League board of directors voted to endorse the proposal by tournament organizers 5-1.

Tavares said the board of McNary Youth Baseball deadlocked over which proposal to support and did not offer an endorsement to either group. Tavares’ name is included on the letter submitted from the two other programs, but it is not signed by him.

“Them including me or McNary Youth Baseball in an endorsement is a mischaracterization,” Tavares said.

Diarmit said the leadership of Keizer Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth was offered the chance to review the For Love of the Game proposal and wanted Diarmit’s name removed from it before submitting it to the city. It wasn’t.

“What it boiled down to was West Coast Premier [whose owner would have been part of the ownership group] would have given us a portion of proceeds from the concession stand,” Diarmit said.

Diarmit said he works for West Coast

CLARIFICATION:

In the May 25 edition of the *Keizertimes*, an article titled *KLL Park’s future could be at Volcanoes Stadium* was unclear about the proposal from For Love of the Game’s plan to take over the management of Keizer Little League Park.

The original proposal from For Love of the Game suggests relocating the park within three years, an addendum submitted later than the original offers suggested improvements if the park were to remain in its current location for longer than three years, possibly permanently.

City Attorney Shannon Johnson said a committee formed by the city council is recommending the For Love of the Game proposal solely based on its plans for maintaining the current park.

Premier as a weekend tournament director in exchange for usage of fields in other areas, but that was not part of the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth’s decision to endorse the other proposal.

Between the concession stand revenue and promises to donate what each league would have made selling individual sponsorships, Diarmit said. “We would have been starting every year with \$7,000 to \$10,000. That’s enough for our organization to offer free baseball and softball to every kid in the city.”

The city council still needs to approve the management contract before anything moves forward.

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