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RFPs: ‘...it feels like we are choosing the best of the worst’

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Mickey Walker, son of Jerry and Lisa Walker, speaks in front of the Keizer City Council during a Sept. 20 meeting
FILE PHOTO, Keizertimes

the decision back.

The first RFP, which will be discussed at the Nov. 1 city council meeting, is to decide the next operator of the Keizer Little League Park. The second RFP, to be discussed at the Nov. 15 meeting, will decide the management of the city sponsored summer concert series at Keizer Rotary Amphitheater.

Keizer Little League Park

In February of this year, the city of Keizer began soliciting proposals for a 10-year contract to manage and maintain Keizer Little League Park. The city received two proposals in response. One came from West Coast Premier Tournaments and the other from For the Love of the Game, a local non-profit created by Maverick League owners Jerry and Lisa Walker.

The Walker's initial proposal suggested moving the Little League fields from their current location to the Volcanoes Stadium to create a sports complex that "would easily hold 10-12 fields." This proposal was never considered by the city, according to City Attorney Shannon Johnson, as the RFP was to operate the fields at their current location. The Walkers were allowed

to submit a follow up proposal for the fields at their current location.

In April, a committee of six city councilors and city staff graded the two proposals on a scale of one to five points on 12 different areas. For the Love of the Game was given a combined 243 points out of 360 and the West Coast Premier Tournaments was given 194 points. While the committee suggested For the Love of the Game, the scores suggested that both proposals fell short.

"At this point it feels like we are choosing the best of the worst," said Shane Diarmit, president of the Keizer Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth leagues, at a Sept. 20 council meeting. "I don't know about you, but that's not what I want for my kids, my organization or for my city. I don't want the best of the worst."

Since the Sept. 20 meeting, during which councilors shot down the Walkers' contract provision to sell alcohol at the park during adult events, the

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