



**THROUGH CHARTER OFFICER:** Edward Lavalley, City Manager      **E-SIGN:**  
**FROM:** James R. Clinch, Assistant City Manager  
**DEPARTMENT:** City Manager

**DATE:** June 3, 2024

**MEETING DATE:** June 11, 2024

**SUBJECT / TOPIC:** Higel Park License Agreement Amendment  
Venice Youth Boating Association (VYBA)

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Venice Youth Boating Association (VYBA) is a local 501(c)(3) that has operated in Venice since 1952 when it was known as the “The Pram Squadron”. The mission of VYBA is “Changing Young Lives Through Sailing!” and they have served an estimated 8,000+ youth in the community by teaching responsibility in the water and in life. The organization is open to members of the public and offers scholarships to support any youth who cannot afford the registration fees.

On June 25, 2020, the City of Venice entered into a License Agreement with VYBA to allow for utilization of a portion of Higel Park to support these youth sailing program operations. The organization had outgrown their facility at the Venice Yacht Club and required additional space for boats, trailers, and launching. This proposal was reviewed and approved by the City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and then City Council. The proposed improvements were designed, permitted, and installed by VYBA and included a white vinyl fence, a floating dock, and a hose bib for cleaning boats. VYBA is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of all items within the License Area and assumed the monthly payment of the Water/Sewer Utility bill for the entire park which averages around \$250 – 350 per month. This monthly utility payment was offered in lieu of any additional land use charges. They provided all necessary insurance coverage for the proposed use and improvements as required by the City. This agreement also benefited the recreational use of the Higel Park boat ramp, as previously VYBA would utilize the boat ramp area for set-up and launch activities, whereas they now had direct water access through the new dock.

After the physical improvements were installed by VYBA, several citizen concerns were brought to the attention of the City regarding the use of this space. The specific concern was lack of access to the waterfront in the southeast corner of the park, which citizens shared a history of visiting for picnics. In response to these concerns, City staff met with VYBA and developed the proposed amendment to help resolve those issues in a cooperative manner.

This proposed amendment to the License Agreement will modify the boundary of the License Area to allow the City to adjust the white vinyl fence, opening back up the public space in the southeast corner of the property. The Public Works Department will then install a publicly accessible picnic area on the waterfront which will provide public access for the enjoyment of this area. While this proposal will reduce the boat storage capacity of VYBA, they are agreeable to exploring other storage options in the interest of improving public enjoyment of the park.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1) License Agreement Amendment
- 2) Photos of Higel Park

**SUPPORTS STRATEGIC PLAN:** Goal Six: Preserve the Venice Quality of Life through Proper Planning

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED:** Approval of License Agreement Amendment

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Yes	N/A	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Document(s) Reviewed for ADA compliance <small>(required if for agenda posting)</small>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	City Attorney Reviewed/Approval
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk Management Review
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance Department Review/Approval
		Funds Availability (account number): Park Impact Fees