



Date: April 5, 2022
To: City Council
From: Nathan A. West, *City Manager*
Brian Smith, *Police Chief*
Corey Delikat, *Parks and Recreation Director*
Ken Dubuc, *Fire Chief*
Subject: Volunteer Practice Field Discussion and Resolution

Summary: In the early 1990s, the City of Port Angeles, donors, and dedicated volunteers developed Volunteer Field, located at West 18th Street and South L Street, establishing much-needed space for local youth and recreational groups. Currently, a portion of this property, including the Volunteer Practice Field, is being considered as a potential site for a Joint Public Safety Facility (JPSF). The proposed facility would provide efficient and cost-effective lifesaving, emergency services to a population of approximately 80,000 people in Clallam County. If the property is selected as the site of the JPSF, the City assures the people of Port Angeles that youth recreational activities on main Volunteer Field will be secure.

Funding: Additional funding assessments will be completed in conjunction with future Council actions.

Recommendation: Pass the resolution to ensure youth recreational activities on the main Volunteer Field will be secure in perpetuity. Additionally, should the potential location for the Joint Public Safety Facility be selected, the resolution will ensure opportunities for substantial public input regarding the mitigation process for the loss of the practice field.

Background / Analysis:

In the early 1990s, the City of Port Angeles, donors, and dedicated volunteers developed Volunteer Field, located at West 18th Street and South L Street, establishing much-needed space for local youth and recreational groups. Currently, a portion of this property, including the Volunteer Practice Field, is being considered as a potential site for a Joint Public Safety Facility (JPSF). The proposed facility would provide efficient and cost-effective lifesaving emergency services to a population of approximately 80,000 people in Clallam County.

The City recognizes the importance of youth activities and the effect the displacement of the Volunteer Practice Field may cause if the location is selected as the site of the JPSF. If the location is selected, the City is committed to placing an additional practice field of equal or better quality in the near vicinity.

City staff have prepared a resolution to assure the people and especially the youth of Port Angeles that the main field will not be part of any future development, other than mitigation improvements to the field if the Volunteer Practice Field is the chosen location for the JPSF. Additionally, the resolution ensures opportunities for substantial public input regarding the mitigation process for the loss of Volunteer Practice Field, should this site be chosen. A special meeting was conducted earlier this evening to obtain input from the public.

Staff recommend City Council pass the resolution to ensure youth recreational activities on the main Volunteer Field will be secure in perpetuity and allow for substantial opportunities for public input regarding the mitigation process.

Funding Overview: Additional funding assessments will be completed in conjunction with future Council actions.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Port Angeles, Washington, addressing concerns related to the potential development of a Joint Public Safety Facility (JPSF) on the Volunteer Practice Field off 18th & L Street.

WHEREAS, the City, donors, and a dedicated group of volunteers spent several years in the late 1980's and early 1990's creating Volunteer Field and the Volunteer Practice Field.

WHEREAS, this project was critical because of the much-needed space for Olympic Junior Babe Ruth Baseball, for youth ages 13-15, and Junior Soccer; and

WHEREAS, the City and County are looking to find property to build a Joint Public Safety Facility (JPSF); such a joint facility is the most efficient and cost-effective way to address the need to provide life-saving emergency services daily to a population of approximately 80,000 people in Clallam County; and

WHEREAS, the City also recognizes the importance of youth activities and the effect the displacement of the Volunteer Practice Field might cause if this is the selected site.

WHEREAS, if the Volunteer Practice Field is selected as the site for the JPSF project, as mitigation the City will make improvements to the main Volunteer Field; apart from those improvements, the City is creating this resolution to ensure the citizens and especially the youth of Port Angeles that the main Volunteer Field will not be part of any future development.

WHEREAS, the City is also committed to placing an additional practice field in the near vicinity that will be equal or better than the current practice field at Volunteer Field.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Port Angeles, Washington, that:

1. If the Volunteer Practice Field is selected as the site for the JPSF project, the City Council will ensure youth recreational activities on the main Volunteer Field will be secure in perpetuity. If the site is selected, City staff will bring forward to the Council in a future meeting a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure the Main Volunteer Field will not be involved in any future projects, other than mitigation improvements.
2. If the Volunteer Practice Field is selected as the site for the JPSF project, the mitigation process will include opportunities for substantial public input.

3. If the Volunteer Practice Field is selected, the City is also committed to placing an additional practice field in the near vicinity that will be equal to or better than the current practice field at Volunteer Field.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Port Angeles at a regular meeting of said Council held on the fifth day of April, 2022.

Kate Dexter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kari Martinez-Bailey, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

William E. Bloor, City Attorney