City of Carroll

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MEMO TO: Mike Pogge-Weaver, City Manager MPW

FROM: Jack Wardell, Director of Parks and Recreation JW

DATE: December 7, 2017

SUBJECT: Memo to City Council – Miracle Field Presentation

John Heim and Joel Lundstrom will present to the City Council the idea of a Miracle League Field in Carroll.

A Miracle League field removes the barriers that keep children with special needs off the traditional field and lets them experience the joy of baseball/softball. Since the main barriers for the players arise from the natural grass fields used in conventional leagues, a Miracle Field team plays on a custom designed, rubberized turf field that accommodates wheelchairs and other assertive devices while helping prevent injuries.

Attached to this memorandum is the Miracle League of Carroll proposal that provides much more detail of cost estimates and timeline.

RECOMMENDATION: Mayor and City Council give direction to City Staff and volunteers if they should proceed with grants and donations for a Miracle League baseball field in Carroll, Iowa.

Miracle League of Carroll Proposal

- We would like to split the hard cost to the direct project equally between private fundraising/City of Carroll
- We would like to complete the entire project in 2019 will adjust timeframe based on fundraising
- We propose South side park as the location if possible
- We would like to rename the park if possible (in response to donor funding or to reflect the re-purposing of the park to include people with special needs)
- We ask Parks and Rec to help us organize the leagues associated with a new field (Inclusion Miracle League and other adult/youth programs)

Below is a proposal breakdown

	Completion	Cost	Private	Public
Phase 1 Kellan's Playground	Spring 2018	$160,000	$110,000	$50,000
Phase 2 Miracle League Field	Goal 2019	$470,000	$205,000	$265,000
Total			$315,000	$315,000

Where we are at currently:

- We have formed a 10-person committee to begin the fundraising process. We are prepared to write grants and make asks to several communities and organizations as soon as we have city council approval. We have complied a short list of donors to ask.
- Kellan's Kingdom has fund raised 110,000 in 5 months for the playground
- We have paid a $500 filing fee with Miracle league and are awaiting their support documents with renderings, outlines, and field plans

Benefits of the Project:

- Kellan's Kingdom and Miracle League Field will provide an opportunity for children with disabilities to play regardless of their abilities.
- Currently, there are 9 proposals in Iowa include new proposals in Ames and Urbandale and a current park in Sioux City. The current proposal would quickly establish Carroll has a regional center.
- Promote community support and sponsorship of Miracle Leagues and play at Kellan's Kingdom.
- Promote the construction of special facilities that meet the unique needs of Miracle League players, Patrons to Kellan's Kingdom playground and their families.
- Average leagues across the country have 150 to 200 weekly participants plus 150 to 200 buddies. We anticipate this park will have 600 patrons a week during Miracle League seasons from up to 100 miles away.
- Promotes Carroll as a progressive community that embraces people of all abilities.