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**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING
LIVE STREAMED
BROADCAST ON CABLE CHANNEL 191**

7:00 PM – SPECIAL MEETING

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence

REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Other Action Items**
 - a. Updated Request for 2021 Fireworks Displays at Suplizio Field
- 2. Adjournment**



Grand Junction City Council

Regular Session

Item #1.a.

Meeting Date: March 22, 2021

Presented By: Ken Sherbenou, Parks and Recreation Director

Department: Parks and Recreation

Submitted By: Ken Sherbenou, Parks and Recreation Director

Information

SUBJECT:

Updated Request for 2021 Fireworks Displays at Suplizio Field

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider a motion to approve eight public fireworks displays at Suplizio Field for the 2021 baseball season as presented.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On Wednesday, March 17th staff brought forth a proposal for nine fireworks shows to be held at Suplizio Field. City Council had several questions and asked we research a laser show in lieu of fireworks. Since the City's only show is the fourth of July, this request went to the Grand Junction Rockies who has completed extensive research into this possibility.

As can see be seen in their attached letter, there are financial and logistical reasons why this is not possible. As a way to further lessen any negative impacts to the surrounding neighborhood and because the laser show option was not a viable alternative from their perspective, the Grand Junction Rockies propose to reduce their number of shows from six to five. Their attached letter also addresses other Council concerns such as the impact to veterans suffering from PTSD.

The proposal now for Council consideration involves fireworks displays being requested on behalf of Colorado Mesa University, JUCO, Grand Junction Rockies and the City of Grand Junction following certain holiday or Friday night baseball games at Suplizio Field. 2021 dates include a total of now eight shows: a CMU baseball game, JUCO (on Memorial Day), Independence Day and now five Friday evening Rockies

Games. Staff requests City Council consider a motion to approve or deny the request to hold these eight shows this spring and summer.

BACKGROUND OR DETAILED INFORMATION:

Lincoln Park Stadium has typically hosted about 10 firework shows each summer. For 2021, eight fireworks shows are proposed. After the March 17th Council discussion, the Rockies have now scaled back their shows to five. The Rockies have the large majority of planned displays, with five of the eight being on Friday evenings after a GJ Rockies game. Mick Ritter, President of the Grand Junction Rockies, will again be present and available for questions at the March 22nd Council meeting.

The only show the City of Grand Junction is involved in putting on is the 4th of July show. The community has come to expect this fireworks show on the 4th of July to celebrate our nation's independence. For the other seven shows, these shows are the responsibility of the organizing entity, either Grand Junction Baseball (JUCO), Colorado Mesa University or the Grand Junction Rockies. Because the Rockies have the large majority, they are responded to concerns articulated by City Council in the letter attached to the staff report.

This includes researching laser shows, which we have helped with looking into. Although a laser show would avoid the noise issues associated with a fireworks show, they are much more expensive than a traditional fireworks show. Furthermore, laser shows work best when they have physical structures to project onto. For example, mountain towns have close by mountains to use for projection of the lasers, which also work well indoors with ceilings and walls. Lasers can show up with smoke, but in an outdoor venue with wind, this does not work well. The attached letter from the GJ Rockies elaborates on these issues further and highlights other logistical issues associated with a laser show at Suplizio such as the set up required and issues with power.

The letter also highlights several other efforts to reduce negative impacts to the surrounding neighborhood, which staff requested of the GJ Rockies given Council direction and concern. Game start times for the Rockies have historically been at 6:40 P.M. on those Friday evenings. Given the concern about disruption to the neighborhood, Friday night games will now start at 6:05 P.M. for the 2021 season, which is a change. This will enable the Rockies to have an estimated and likely display time of 9:30 P.M. In a further effort to minimize noise impacts for most shows, shell sizes will be limited, loud exploding shells will be limited and shows will be complete by 10:30 P.M. If approved, a direct mailing will be sent to all adjacent neighbors highlighting the dates of the shows this season as well as a post on social media with the fireworks show dates. This will help those who experience negative issues with the fireworks, such as animals, plan so they are prepared when these shows happen. In an additional attempt to mitigate any negative impact, the Grand Junction Rockies

have agreed to reduce their number of shows planned from six to five.

All shows at Lincoln Park require a coordinated effort including the event organizer, City staff from Parks, General Services, Fire, Police, and Traffic. Depending on the size of the show, fireworks are staged east of the field from either the practice field or the golf course driving range. Weather conditions are monitored closely with final approval being granted each night by the Grand Junction Fire Department.

The proposed schedule for 2021 is as follows:

- Friday, April 9 (CMU)
- Monday, May 31 (JUCO)
- Friday, June11 (Rockies)
- Friday, June25 (Rockies)
- Sunday, July 4 (City of GJ after a Rockies Game)
- Friday, July 9 (Rockies): CANCELLED
- Friday, July 23 (Rockies)
- Friday, August 6 (Rockies)
- Friday, August20 (Rockies)

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move to (approve/deny) the request to host eight public fireworks displays at Lincoln Park Stadium as presented by Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction Baseball (JUCO), Grand Junction Rockies, and the City of Grand Junction.

Attachments

1. Letter from Rockies Regarding Fireworks Shows for 2021



Dear, Council Members for the City of Grand Junction,

The Grand Junction Rockies are writing this letter in response to the Wednesday, March 17th, 2021 City of Grand Junction Council meeting regarding the fireworks shows at Suplizio Field. The “Friday Night Fireworks” as we like to call them, have become a staple for Grand Junction. Our fans and community have enjoyed “Friday Night Fireworks” every Friday home game since 2014. We have seen some of our largest crowds these nights and we can attribute those to the fireworks shows. We do many things to inform the public about our upcoming fireworks shows and promotions ie. schedules, social media posts, email newsletters, pocket schedules as well as using other local media outlets to promote the games. When we deliver our pocket schedules, which include the “Friday Night Fireworks” dates, we make it a point to stop at all the surrounding business including the VA Hospital. The VA Hospital has stated on multiple occasions for Friday nights they inform their patients about the shows and many of them request to go over to the west side of the hospital so they too can be apart of the viewing crowd. We’ve heard from residents in the surrounding neighborhoods they enjoy the fireworks and will sit in their front yards, on their roof, or even walk to the park to get a better view of the shows.

As per the request from Council Members we did look into the laser light display option. To put it simply, this option is not feasible. After speaking with multiple companies that do these productions, the cost can be as high as \$150,000. Two of the companies, Laser Spectacles and Nu-Salt Laser, stopped me and said they would not be able to host a show in the stadium due to the stadium configuration and the variables that come into play. For one, the show would have to be set up on the field itself one to two days in advance for testing. Without setting up on-field the show would not be visible for the patrons sitting in the bleachers or any fans that gather around the facility because of laser height restrictions. Second, the power at the stadium is not substantial enough to even power these shows. The laser lights required for an outdoor event like this needs to be a 240w 3 phase. In the stadium there are only three locations that have this power, behind the right-center field fence, behind home plate connected to our offices, and the tower. The first two locations are completely maxed out with power and the third location would need a five hundred foot 240w 3 phase cord running through the concourse during a game. The cost for a cord that size is around



\$20,000. These companies would also have to set up a fog/ice particle machine in order to see the lights. If there is any sort of slight breeze the fog dissipates and the lasers are no longer visible to anybody. Again, this option is not feasible, nor is it cost effective.

We have compromised and agreed upon multiple different items in order to ensure we are working with all of the members of the community surrounding the stadium. Those items include; hard stop time of 10:30pm, a new start time for the games on Friday nights of 6:05pm instead of 6:40pm. Our average game length time is just over three hours, which would put the conclusion of the game around 9:15pm. After allowing players and staff to leave the field, a quick set up and lights being shut off we will be shooting the fireworks off around 9:30-9:45. Our shows last around ten minutes long, we have made it a point to have the shows be as quick as possible because of the surrounding neighborhoods. We have also decreased the max size of the shells that are shot off to 2.5". This decrease in shell size will now also lower the decibel level of each shell.

In 2017 we held seven total shows, 2018 five shows, 2019 six shows, what we have originally asked for in 2021 is to hold six total shows. We now proposing to omit one of the shows to lower the total show count from six to five. With the unfortunate events of 2020 and not being able to hold a season, we lost all of our yearly revenue and what we are asking for is a vote for the fireworks shows to continue and allow us to do the things we know, as a local business, work. With the research on the laser light shows concluded, the Grand Junction Rockies will not be pursuing that option any further. Fireworks go hand in hand with America's pastime and have been proven in Grand Junction and across the country to be the best option.

I would like to thank you all for your time and consideration in this letter. I am happy we are able to remain in Grand Junction and cannot wait for this season and many more seasons!

Mick Ritter

President, Grand Junction Rockies