



## MEMORANDUM

To: Recreation Advisory Board

From: Roderick Simmons, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Prepared by: Debbie Ivester, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Date: March 14, 2016

Subject: John B. Lewis Soccer Complex Artificial Turf Replacement

To provide information to the Recreation Advisory Board regarding the artificial turf replacement at the John B. Lewis Soccer Complex located in Azalea Park.

The John B. Lewis Soccer Complex was constructed in 2005 using artificial turf with a life expectancy of 10 years. The turf has now reached its useful life and is scheduled to be replaced.

Cost of turf replacement of all four fields is estimated at approximately \$2.3 million. The City budgeted for the turf replacement beginning Fiscal Year 2015-2016 at \$600,000 per year in the Capital Improvement budget which allows one field replacement per year for the next four years.

In 2015 the Asheville Buncombe Youth Soccer Association (ABYSA) partnered with the City and was awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the Tourism Product Development Fund to assist the City in turf replacement, which will accelerate the replacement process so all four fields can be replaced at the same time. ABYSA is committed to raise the remaining funds needed for the turf replacement.

The existing turf and most of the artificial turf products on the market use a crumb rubber pellet infill made from recycled rubber products. Activists are pointing to a possible link between the rubber pellets and health effects. As a result the Environmental Protection Agency, the Center for Disease Control and the Consumer Product Safety Commission recently announced they would undertake an action plan on crumb rubber turf and health risks.

ABYSA has contracted with an engineering consultant specializing in the artificial turf industry to recommend the turf product best suited for the site conditions of the John B. Lewis Soccer Complex. The City and ABYSA is committed to choosing a turf product with high standards in user safety, environmental friendliness, durability and play quality.

As part of the communication plan for the turf replacement at the John B. Lewis Soccer Complex, ABYSA and its consultant will make a presentation on its report and turf product recommendation to RAB at its meeting on March 14, 2016.