



Steve Herfert

June 2, 2021 · 🌐



West Covina Big League Dreams

In October of 2020, the West Covina City Council took over the operation of The West Covina Sportsplex from BIG LEAGUE DREAMS. Behind closed doors, in the middle of a pandemic, and with no public explanation, they cancelled the lease of BIG LEAGUE DREAMS (the operator) of the West Covina Sportsplex. By cancelling the contract, the City assumed the full cost of the 20 million dollar bond used to build the Sportsplex.

Prior to their contract being cancelled, BIG LEAGUE DREAMS paid approximately \$450,000 annually to the City. So now that revenue is gone and the City must use General Fund money for the payment of the bond.

The pandemic was hard on BLD. Other cities negotiated with BLD's new ownership; (Mr. Harold Reynolds Major Leaguer and ESPN analyst). But West Covina refused to negotiate. All of the other City's with BLD facilities did negotiate and are now open with millions being invested in their infrastructure.

Last week West Covina received RFP submittals for the restaurants. The public is still in the dark on the plan. Revenue has been lost, expenses are up, and the public has been locked out of a public park.

All of this has been done with no public input, no reporting out of closed session, no transparency, and locks on the gates of a park that is mandated by the 2002 agreement to be open during the week till 4pm.

This post is to educate the public. The award winning Sportsplex called Big League Dreams was completed in 2007. I hope to have more information to provide the public over the next few weeks.



Steve Herfert

January 28, 2023 · 🌐



Councilman Cantos has asked for a report on the 27-acre park called the WC Sportsplex for the next meeting. Let's see if the city keeps its promise to the residents.

It was approved as a park during the weekdays before 4 pm. But it's been closed over two years. In May of 2021 I wrote a Public Record Request to have it opened to the public. I never got a response. When I've asked why it's still closed to the public, I am told "maintenance work". This week I met with city staff. Their new policy prohibits public use during the day before 4 pm M-F. As a Mayor and Councilman I sat through many public hearings on BLD. The residents demanded it be a public park during daytime hours. The project wouldn't be there today without free public use during the day. I hope the city changes their policy and reopens the fields as promised to residents.

The paragraph below was on the city website for over 10 years. Now it's gone.

The following information is posted on the City's webpage.

Big League Dreams Sports Park is a public-private partnership and has many amenities for the community to enjoy. The facility has fields that are replicas from professional baseball teams like the Los Angeles Angels, Chicago Cubs, New York Yankees and of course the Los Angeles Dodgers. In addition to baseball and softball, there is a soccer pavilion, playgrounds, and restaurants for families to enjoy. While Big League Dreams is busy hosting youth, adult and senior tournaments year-round, what you may not know is that the public has free access during the day. Seniors over the age of 50 play free at Big League Dreams prior to 4:00 p.m. on weekdays. For people looking to play non-scheduled "pick-up games", the facility is also available weekdays before 4:00 p.m. Availability can be affected by weather and maintenance. For more information on Big League Dreams, please call (626) 839-1100 or visit <http://westcovina.bigleaguedreams.com>.