

**From:** [sluysb@aol.com](mailto:sluysb@aol.com)  
**To:** [Finance Committee](#); [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 35  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 4, 2024 10:52:08 AM

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To: All Alders, Finance Committee  
From: Beth Sluys, District 18  
Date: 02 December 2024  
RE: Parking Pilot Program Funding  
Legistar: 86251

Agenda Item: 35

Please vote YES for the amendment for the Pay to Park in the Parks pilot project.

As a Northside resident, I am aware that the Mallards baseball games are “special use” events that often use most of the parking in Warner Park. In meeting with neighbors, I have heard that it removes their use of the park to use the accessible playground and the fishing pier area near the Rainbow Shelter. There is no parking available.

In 2015, during a National Public Radio story, Vern Stenman (Big Top Sports and Entertainment, Inc.) reported that he increased the number of attendees to 200,000 per year at Mallards games. I am sure that has increased over time. Given that number and the base rate of \$8 per ticket (not including all the other ticket prices or concession sales) they gross at least 1.6 million dollars. If our Parks Department needs to net 24,000 dollars, then why not amend the lease contract between parks and Big Top S&E to include a small percentage of the ticket sales each year to cover parking lot rentals?

It seems that for weeks on end during the Summer months, the parking lots at Warner Park are used for special events and we, the public taxpayers, pay for the park, the parking lots and ongoing maintenance and then are unable to use the parking lots. This is only more prevalent as the second franchise of women’s softball has been added. These games are yet more times over the course of the Summer months that parking opportunities are removed from the public for special event parking.

Please consider an amendment to the current rental agreement with Big Top to include a rental fee (% of ticket sales) for all of the parking lots and include a fee to use the football field next to the stadium when it is in use by Big Top each Summer.

Thank you.

