

Reds, Goodyear finalize deal

Team to rent facility at \$100,000 per year

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Goodyear has done it again.

By unanimous vote, a use agreement with the Cincinnati Reds was approved during Monday night's City Council meeting.

The legal agreement solidifies Goodyear as a two-team hub for baseball spring training, beginning in 2009 with the Cleveland Indians and the following year by the Reds.

The Cincinnati team will train southwest of the current facility under development for the Indians, south of Yuma Road and Estrella Parkway, said Brian Dalke, deputy city manager.

A use agreement was created in May of 2007 between Goodyear and the Cleveland Indians, Dalke said. The 42,000-square-foot club house for the Indians will be turned over to the team next month.

The two teams will share the city-owned 10,000-seat depressed ballpark north of the teams' training facilities upon its completion in spring 2009, he said.

The Reds' facility will include six practice fields, a 36,000-square-foot tilted agility field, 38,000-square-foot club house, batting cages, observation tower and tunnels, Dalke said.

The use agreement provides a 20-season contract with two five-year renew options. The Reds will pay Goodyear \$100,000 per year in rent for the facility, which will be adjusted annually based on economic factors.

Jim Marx, Vice President and General Counselor of the Reds, said the use agreement will be a model for future team agreements.

"We went in painstaking detail over that use agreement," Marx said. "We used the land agreement as our starting point and it was our guide throughout. I can assure you that no other team has gone through that agreement and fine-tuned it like we did."

The total project cost is estimated at \$31.7 million, which will be funded through bond sales, the city's revolving fund and future reimbursements from the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority, Dalke said.

Goodyear will receive 20 percent of ticket sales, 50 percent of concessions and novelty revenue and exclusive naming rights, he said.

Revenue from a ticket surcharge and premium seating fees will fuel a capital replacement fund intended to go toward maintenance and upkeep of the facility, Dalke said.

The facility for the Cincinnati Reds will be complete by Oct. 31, according to the use agreement.