

Budget Background: Sisler Complex Fencing

Located in the “Capital Requested but not in Budget FY 2022” section of our executive summary (Page 331), there is an item requesting \$50,000 to replace the fencing at Sisler field.

In 2019, the **baseball** fields at our Sisler Sports Complex had their fencing redone. The fences look great and have shown no wear and tear over the past couple of years. The pictures below highlight the great condition of Reddoch Field’s fencing:



Unfortunately, the fencing around our **softball** field, which we all know as Sisler Field, has fallen into a state of disrepair. Sisler Field is a point of pride when we discuss our City’s history, and we have recently dedicated new signage, artwork, and plaques to emphasize the Field’s significance. Along with our efforts to recognize Sisler Field’s historical significance, we have a duty to maintain its functionality as a usable little league field. There are two main reasons why I believe the Sisler Field fencing should be a top priority for us:

1. Safety – As you will see in the upcoming photos, the Sisler field fencing includes frequent rusting, broken joints, and sections being held up with plastic zip ties. Players could be injured or infected if they collide with the fence.
2. Fairness – Although not intended, many residents have pointed out to me that it doesn’t seem fair that the Baseball fields got brand new fencing over two years ago, while the softball fencing continues to deteriorate. Softball has been patient, lets make this right.

Please see the following photos of the current Sisler Fencing, and a Letter from TSLL VP Eric Rimel:







Additionally, please see the attached letter from Little League Vice President Eric Rimel:

Mr. Donovan,

Hope this message finds you well. Reaching out again for your support to replace the fencing around Sisler Field and JayCee Fields. Sisler being the namesake of our Baseball and Softball complex.

As you are aware these fields are the primary fields for our Softball division and TBall/ A Baseball (youngest baseball divisions), both have seen their share of positive history and multiple players growing up in the Tarpon Springs community. These fields have been maintained as successfully as possible through a wonderful group of City employees in the Parks and Recreation Division lead by Tracy Wallace. However the fencing can only last so long. Most areas have significant rusting and have been patched as much as possible. Despite Tracy's team's best efforts, they are battling time and the elements.

Two years ago, the City of Tarpon Springs replaced the fencing around Redoch and Leonard fields as well as replaced the fields themselves. Since that time, the City of Tarpon Springs has been the envy of Pinellas County and District 12 Little League having received numerous compliments about the condition, playability, attractiveness and beauty that we all see in our fair City. The players have a heightened sense of pride as other leagues come to our complex and bask in the beauty of our fields. As our players travel to other fields, they have a greater respect for what our City provides them. This has lead to many players not leaving Little League for travel ball and opting to "stay at home".

Our Softball division, primarily playing on Sisler field recently won District 12 (encompassing most of Pinellas County) in the 9-11 year old division. A huge accomplishment and prideful season for these young ladies. Additionally, 3 players from that team combined with Countryside and recently won the Florida State Championship in the Little League World Series. What better way to welcome these young ladies back for their future seasons than with an updated complex to hang their championship banners?

Under the current administration, we have seen many wonderful beautification projects completed. Respectfully, we ask for one more, this one to continue to support the youth of our wonderful City.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Proud Citizen of Tarpon Springs, Florida!

Eric Rimel