

Keri O'Brien

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Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 12:46 PM
To: City Clerk External E-Mail
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bayview ballpark

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Dear Madam Mayor and City Commissioners:

re: Resurfacing Bayview Park baseball field with artificial turf.

I am currently writing a book on the history of Key West baseball, and the field at Bayview Park is where it began. There were other fields, like the Army Barracks Diamond at Peary Court and, later, Wickers Field, but Bayview is where the Key West kids would go after breakfast and play baseball—or “cork” ball or pea rock ball—all day long. It’s where our Little Leagues were formed and played. It’s where our All-Stars played against some of the best.

I am against the resurfacing for two reasons. First, I firmly believe baseball was meant to be played on grass not plastic. Infielders need to learn to deal with the bad hop. Secondly, I don’t think synthetic grass is healthy. Forever plastics are invading everything including our oceans and our bodies.

I understand the lure of easy maintenance, etc. It feels like a short-cut but, in the long run, I think the artificial turf will prove more expensive. Plus, it’s fake, looks fake and doesn’t have the aroma that a real baseball field has.

I urge the City to save the money and keep the grass. Thank you for allowing my input.

Sincerely, Ben Harrison