

Collegiate baseball team proposed for Hiawatha

**(KNZA)--A summer collegiate baseball team is being proposed for the city of Hiawatha in 2020.**

**Joey May, speaking on behalf of a group working on the effort, appeared before the Hiawatha City Commission Monday evening to present the proposal.**

**May said the team would be part of the Mid Plains League, which has eight other teams including the Sabetha Bravos, coached by Edgar Santos.**

**May said it would provide a free baseball experience for the community, with up to about 15 home games that would bring dozens of visitors to town 2-3 times a week with other teams. She added the city has a great field to offer and the event would bring a new summer recreational aspect to town.**

**May said the team would consist of about 25 to 30 players, mostly from Central America. The boys would not only play baseball for 6 to 8 weeks but take part in community service and community activities with their host families.**

**Games would be played on Paul Rockey Field at Noble Park, scheduled around Legion games, beginning in late May through mid-July.**

**May said they are not asking for any financial support at this time but for the city's blessing to move ahead with forming a committee to begin the planning stages. She said once they have solid approval from the Mid Plains League to add a team, they will start work on finding financial sponsorships to cover expenses, host families for the players and work with City Recreation Director Stacy Jasper on the logistics of forming a team.**

**Commissioners voiced support for the proposal.**

**The Commission voted to allow use of Paul Rockey Field at Noble Park as long as it doesn't interfere with the Legion games.**