

Melanie Farr

From: Forte Debut Dance <forte@debutdancestudio.com>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 10:17 AM
To: Council
Subject: [External] Penn Meadows Babe Ruth "Owen Skelley Field"

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To : North Liberty Iowa Council

As an engaged member of the North Liberty community, I am writing to your council to express my support to rename the Babe Ruth field to the "Owen Skelley Field" and partner with the Big O Foundation.

The Big O Foundation is breaking down the misconception of suicide, and spreading awareness that **IS SAVING LIVES** in our community. While I cannot fathom the pain the Skelley family is going through, I am completely inspired by their willingness to share their story and advocate for mental health so that this doesn't happen to another undeserving family.

North Liberty has an opportunity to launch this foundation and create a center where youth, their families, and the community can come together to spread the Big O Foundation message.

On behalf of myself, and Debut Dance in North Liberty, we support this renaming of the Babe Ruth field and partnership with the Big O Foundation.

Thank you,
Kathleen

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Kathleen Fallon
Forte Director

Melanie Farr

From: Coach James Harris <coach.jamesdharris@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2022 9:02 AM
To: Council
Subject: [External] The Big O Foundation - Letter of Support
Attachments: OS14 Support Letter.pdf

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Hello North Liberty City Council,

Please accept my attached letter of support to the proposal The Big O Foundation will bring before you at Tuesday's meeting.

This organization and their mission is a cause that needs the full support of the community to help bring aware to mental health amongst our youth. The Skelley Family are serving as great advocates to bring light to a topic that has been in the dark too long.

Thank you for your consideration,
James Harris
Head Football Coach - Liberty High School



Melanie Farr

From: Harriet Labertew <hllaber2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 7:47 PM
To: Council
Subject: [External] Owen Skelley Field

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I would like to request and encourage you to rename the Penn Meadows Babe Ruth field to the Owen Skelley Field. Owen suffered mental health issues and loved life, his family, classmates and community. He was North Liberty's favorite son. It would be a powerful way to convey the healing message of mental health to rename the current field to the Owen Skelley Field and make North Liberty a MUST Stop to Iowa visitors. There is not another Baseball Field in Iowa dedicated to the message of mental illness. Thank you for considering renaming the field. With appreciation, Harriet Labertew, 3227 68th St., Urbandale, Iowa 50322

Melanie Farr

From: Gary Widel <gewidel@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 7:35 PM
To: Council; Gary Widel
Subject: [External] Renaming of Baseball Field

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Dear Council Members,

We are writing this note in support of the Owen Skelley family, and the renaming of the North Liberty Baseball Field.

The Skelley family has been part of our lives for over 20 years. The sudden loss of their son, Owen, to mental illness was not only a tremendous loss and shock to them, but also to their friends and the community as a whole. As the family grieved for the loss of Owen, the support they received from their local area, and other communities was overwhelming.

Owen is not the first person of this age group to take his life because of mental illness. As the Skelley family and their friends were trying to reconcile how this could have happened, it became clear that something needed to be done to prevent another family from losing a loved one so young. Thus, the Big O Foundation was formed. In a few short months, the foundation has had a tremendous impact in our community and other areas as well. Let's be clear, mental illness has not always been front and center in our conversations. Most people either try to hide it, or are just embarrassed to talk about it for some reason. Through this foundation, the Skelley family has done an incredible job of sharing their story, and how the sudden loss of Owen has impacted their lives. It is important to point out here, Joe and Jenny Skelley are not ones to seek out the spotlight. They are speaking out only to let others know, not to be afraid, it is okay to ask for help! They only want to avoid another family going through what their family has endured.

This all being said, we would like to see the baseball field renamed in some manner, not just for Owen and his love of the sport, but also for the

other young lives that have been lost because of mental illness. Upon the renaming of the field, a plaque may also be placed with Owen Skelley's name on it, along with the names of other young lives lost to mental illness, and a number to call for help. This will definitely tell a story to young and old alike as they visit the field over the years. It will hopefully make visitors ask the question, how, and what would cause someone so young to take their life.

In closing, this is not just about the renaming of the baseball field, it is about mental illness awareness for our youth, and that they know there is help and support for them!

Sincerely,
Gary Widel
Paul Juhl

Melanie Farr

From: Diane Fickel <fickel.diane@iowacityschools.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 6:49 PM
To: Council
Cc: Joe and Jenny Skelley
Subject: [External] Owen Skelley Field

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I am writing this evening to support the proposal from the Big O Foundation to name a field in Penn Meadows after the beloved Owen Skelley.

I have been an educator in the Iowa City School District for 30 years at West High School. Because of my experience working with youth, I know that Mental Health Awareness needs to be constant, intentional and represented in a way that will impact our youth in a positive way.

In addition, my daughter opened and has grown Debut Dance in North Liberty. Thanks to the community her business is thriving and continues to provide a positive environment for young dancers.

As part of the North Liberty business community, a career educator, grandma, mother and supporter of the Skelley family, please approve the Big O Foundation's proposal. This field will enhance the community's bond and love for Owen and provide a constant reminder about the serious nature of mental health.

Thank you.

Diane Fickel

Melanie Farr

From: Sheldon Schroeder <schrsh@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 6:48 PM
To: Council
Subject: [External] Rename of Penn Meadows to Owen Skelley Field

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Dear North Liberty City Council,

We are writing to show support for the Big O Foundation in partnering with the City of North Liberty to rename Penn Meadows, the "Owen Skelley Field".

The Skelley family and The Big O Foundation have bravely turned a horrific and devastating tragedy into an enormous positive ripple effect for our whole community. Owen Skelley was a kind human, a generous friend, and a fierce baseball competitor. That is how he will be remembered. Owen focused on getting better and helping his team get better everyday. Owen and his baseball team considered Penn Meadows their home turf. The memories that surround the field, the dugouts, and even the concession stands are full of Owen and his big personality.

Owen and his baseball team worked hard, cheered hard, and represented North Liberty in a way that we can be proud of. Renaming Penn Meadows the "Owen Skelley Field" allows our community to focus on the positive ripple effect that Owen started. The community needs Owen's positive presence to remain. The honor that this would give Owen and his family is profound, but the honor it would give our entire community would be immeasurable.

Thank you for your consideration of this!

Sincerely,
Sheldon and Rebecca Schroeder

Sent from my iPhone

Melanie Farr

From: Erin Schroeder <schroeder.erin@iowacityschools.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 6:08 PM
To: Council
Cc: Seth Schroeder
Subject: [External] Penn Meadows-Owen Skelley Field

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Dear North Liberty City Council Members,

I appreciate the opportunity to share this letter with you. I am writing to show support for the Big O Foundation to partner with the City of North Liberty in renaming Penn Meadows, the "Owen Skelley Field".

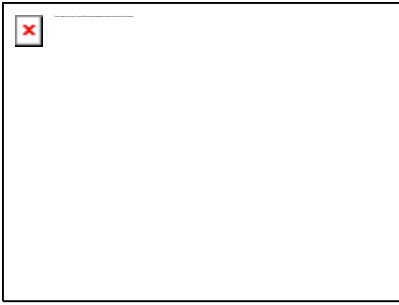
The Skelley family and The Big O Foundation have bravely turned a horrific and devastating tragedy into an enormous positive ripple effect for our whole community. Owen Skelley was a kind human, a generous friend, and a fierce baseball competitor. That is how he will be remembered. Owen focused on getting better and helping his team get better everyday. Owen and his baseball team considered Penn Meadows their home turf. The memories that surround the field, the dugouts, and even the concession stands are full of Owen and his big personality.

Owen and his team worked hard, cheered hard and represented North Liberty in a way that we can be proud of. Renaming Penn Meadows the "Owen Skelley Field" allows our community to focus on the positive ripple effect that Owen started. The community needs Owen's positive presence to remain. The honor that this would give Owen and his family is profound, but the honor it would give our entire community would be immeasurable.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Seth and Erin Schroeder

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Melanie Farr

From: Stephanie Wilson <sewilson7@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Council
Subject: [External] Owen Skelley field proposal

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To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to express our support in renaming the Babe Ruth field to the Owen Skelley field in the upcoming improvements to Penn Meadows Park.

Owen Skelley was a beloved son, brother, friend, neighbor and classmate in this community. His passing has shed light on a large problem today's youth is facing - addressing mental health concerns. No child or family should need to suffer like Owen and the Skelleys have.

By renaming this field, the Owen Skelley Foundation will provide suicide awareness and spread their foundations mission while also hosting several youth events like baseball / softball tournaments (one of Owen's favorite things to do). Please consider renaming this field to the Owen Skelley field and help the community of North Liberty end the stigma and raise mental health awareness.

Respectfully,

Stephanie & Scott Wilson
Residents of North Liberty

Sent from my iPhone