

\$50,000 baseball feasibility study explained

\$50K baseball study explained WMAZ

Paula Rotondo, 6:46 p.m. EDT October 8, 2015



(Photo: Rotondo, Paula)

Luther Williams Field is one of the proposed sites a company out of Washington D.C. will look at as they decide if Macon-Bibb can hold and keep a minor league baseball team.

"We would develop a program for the facility, put together an event calendar, look at other events that could be hosted in the ballpark, because that's really the objective is to get more than just baseball," says project executive Bill Mykins of Brailsford and Dunlavey Incorporated.

Earlier this week, a 5 to 4 vote approved paying the company \$50,000 to perform a feasibility study.

Mykins says the study looks at site capacities, attendance numbers, along with access and parking.

After that, he says, "Then we can start applying (the outlined program) to the various sites and see how that program would work or not work."

As far as sustaining a league, he says there's two parts. First, the community's demand for baseball, and second, finding a team attracted to Macon.

Mykins says, "What we would be striving to look for is that kind of balanced partnership that's kind of a win win solution for both parties."

Jonathan Harwell-Dye of Macon Arts Alliance says they're currently working to renovate houses next to one of the proposed sites.

He says, "I hope the feasibility study will take into account the way that any development on the Bibb mill site will affect the residents of East Macon and also attract the most jobs and economic opportunity for them

Harwell-Dye says he's waiting on the study's results.

"I think that we have to be open to looking at the data and making the best decision based on what we're able to learn."

The company says they hope to have their kickoff meeting with the county within the next few weeks. After that, they say the study will take about 10 weeks.

-