

Agenda Report

DATE: September 11, 2000

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MULTIPURPOSE SPORTS FIELD TASK FORCE FOR EXPANDED USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS FIELDS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- a) Adopt the recommendations of the Multipurpose Sports Fields Task Force to increase and improve multipurpose sports fields throughout the community (as outlined in Attachment "A");
- b) Recognize and appropriate \$150,000 from the Bank of America litigation settlement (account #5085-101) into Parks and Natural Resources as follows: \$75,000 into account 765110 (East Parks), and \$75,000 into account 765111 (West Parks) for the improvement of sports fields throughout the community; and,
- c) Direct staff to develop a corporation sponsorship program to allow the business community to support organized youth sports through the development and maintenance of fields.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

At a special meeting held July 6, 2000, the Recreation and Parks Commission approved the recommendations of the Task Force (as listed in Attachment "A") and recommended that City Council take a similar action.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Multipurpose Sports Fields Task Force was formed in February 2000 in response to the significant shortage of field space for organized sports throughout the community. The Task Force was charged with evaluating opportunities to expand use of existing fields and to explore the development of new fields. The term "community" was defined broadly to include the Pasadena Unified School District and the cities of La Canada Flintridge and Sierra Madre.

Key recommendations of the Task Force include the construction of 19 new fields within two years, additional improvements to school and parks sites over the next three to five years, and

long-term development of new fields on public and private land. New fields are proposed on city land at the Rose Bowl (area H), Eaton Blanche Park and Hahamongna Watershed Park (Johnson Field). In addition, the Task Force recommends that an ongoing Sports Council be established to monitor use and maintenance of facilities and that a corporate sponsorship program be developed to draw funds from the business community.

BACKGROUND:

On February 28, 2000, City Council deliberated on the recommended draft Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan. During that discussion, Council Members, City staff and community members emphasized the current shortage of available sports fields. As a result, the Multipurpose Sports Fields Task Force was established to pursue opportunities to expand use of existing fields and develop new fields. The task Force was also asked to review permitting processes and identify opportunities for streamlining and/or shared management to use existing fields more efficiently.

It was determined that the Task Force should encompass an area larger than Pasadena since many of the organized youth sports leagues are regional, rather than city-based. Membership on the Task Force included the following agencies and user groups:

- Cities of Pasadena, La Canada Flintridge, Sierra Madre,
- County of Los Angeles (Representing Altadena Park Facilities),
- Unified School Districts of La Canada Flintridge and Pasadena,
- American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Region 13,
- Villa Parke Youth Soccer,
- California Youth Soccer Association,
- Pasadena Youth Baseball (District 17),
- Junior All American Football,
- Adult Sports Leagues with City of Pasadena, and
- Pasadena Recreation and Parks Commission.

A Task Force Mission Statement (Attachment "B") and Work Plan (Attachment "C") were developed and resulted in the establishment of four sub-committees. The four subcommittees were (1) Site Identification, (2) Scheduling and Coordination, (3) Maintenance and Facilities Management, and (4) Resources. Each subcommittee is comprised of members of the Task Force and other agency staff members, who developed recommendations to address the Mission Statement and Work Plan.

SUMMARY OF TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Field Enhancement and Development

To determine the number of fields needed, the subcommittee sent surveys to each agency and user group to identify current and future needs. Survey results showed that with current capacity a minimum of 18 new fields would be needed by the year 2003 to accommodate an increasing number of participants and allow "down time" for field maintenance.

To meet this demand, the subcommittee pursued opportunities to increase capacity at existing fields and to develop new fields. All turf areas that are currently being used or were previously used for sports activities were evaluated for potential improvements and sites that presented a feasible opportunity to develop new fields were identified. The viability of each site was evaluated based on cost effectiveness, time frame for improvements, current ownership, and resulting reduction of tension between user groups.

As a result, the subcommittee recommends a three-phased approach. In Phase I, immediate improvements are recommended including the construction of 19 new fields at the following sites:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Audubon School | 1 soccer field; 1 softball/baseball diamonds |
| Don Benito School | 1 soccer field; 2 softball/baseball diamonds |
| Eliot School | 1 soccer field |
| Field School | 1 soccer field; 1 softball/baseball diamond |
| Marshall School | 1 soccer field |
| Washington School | 1 soccer field; 2 softball/baseball diamonds |
| Rose Bowl, Area "H" | 3 soccer fields |
| Eaton Blanche Park | 1 soccer field; 1 softball/baseball diamond |
| Hahamongna | 1 soccer field; 1 softball/baseball diamond |

Phase II recommends improvements within the next three to five years at an additional six school sites and four park sites; Phase III recommends development of new fields at Brookside Park, Eaton-Canyon, the Civil Defense Center, and several privately owned parcels of land.

The total cost of Phase I is estimated at \$870,000. A joint funding plan for all Phase I improvements is included in the fiscal impact section of this report. It is recommend that the City provide \$150,000 from the Bank of America litigation settlement. Funding for Phase II and Phase III will require further research and development.

Scheduling and Interagency Coordination

The Scheduling and Coordination Subcommittee reviewed the current permitting processes for opportunities to increase efficient utilization of fields. The primary recommendation of the subcommittee is the development of a shared, centralized permitting process for City and PUSD facilities. Implementation of this recommendation will require further investigation by staff of both agencies. The subcommittee also recommends the development of a park ranger program to monitor use of facilities, the issuance of identification badges to permitted users, and the installation of signs at all facilities to inform users of the permitting process.

Costs and funding sources for the permitting system will be identified during the joint development process. The park ranger program currently proposed in the Public Safety Plan would satisfy implementation of the subcommittee recommendation. As proposed, the program is estimated to cost \$650,000 and is currently unfunded. User groups have agreed to fund the ID badges (within reason); PUSD and the Public Works and Transportation Department have agreed to absorb the cost of signs.

Maintenance and Facilities Management

The Maintenance and Facilities Management Subcommittee examined current maintenance practices. An increased level of maintenance is recommended for all fields, including installation of proper types of turf, improved irrigation, and application of fertilizer. It is further recommended that maintenance schedules be developed to ensure that work is completed on time (preventing over use of facilities) and that all user groups and agencies be trained on proper maintenance techniques. In addition, the subcommittee recommends that an ongoing Sports Council be established to monitor use and appropriate maintenance of facilities.

There are no additional City costs associated with the implementation of these recommendations. Increased maintenance of City facilities, as recommended, was recently budgeted through an additional appropriation to the Parks and Natural Resources budget. Staff will coordinate with permitting, special events, etc. to develop maintenance schedules and prevent over use. Staff also provides training on proper maintenance and will continue to do so. Members of the task force have volunteered to act as founders of the Sports Council to continue to monitor the use and maintenance of facilities.

Resources

The Resources Subcommittee focused on the development of financial resources to support the improvement and expansion of sports fields. The subcommittee recommends forming a partnership with a non-profit foundation, such as the Pasadena Recreation and Parks Foundation, and continuing to pursue funding through grants and user group fund raisers. In addition, it is recommended that the City create a corporate sponsorship program to draw funds from the business community.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY:

The improvement of existing fields and the development of new fields directly supports the expansion of organized youth sports programs. These programs encourage community participation and provide opportunities for exercise and the enhancement of social skills. All of these activities improve the quality of life for children, youth and families.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Proposed funding for implementation of park and school site improvements in "Phase I," a total cost of approximately \$870,000, is outlined below:

| Source | | | Estimated Amount |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| City of Pasadena | Proposition 12 | Attachment D | \$374,000 |
| Bank of America | Litigation Settlement | Attachment E | \$150,000 |
| Pasadena Unified | Measure "Y" | | \$ 15,000 |
| State of California | SB1667 | | \$150,000 |
| Los Angeles County | | | \$ 11,000 |
| City of La Canada | | | \$ 35,000 |
| City of Sierra Madre | | | \$ 70,000 |
| User Groups | | | \$ 65,000 |
| TOTAL | | | \$870,000 |

In addition to the use of funds from Prop 12 and Senate Bill 1667, staff recommends the appropriation of \$150,000 from the Bank of America litigation settlement. Funding for ongoing maintenance will be absorbed in the City of Pasadena and PUSD respective budgets.

The recommended park ranger program is currently included in the unfunded Public Safety Plan at a cost of \$650,000. This plan will be presented to City Council for funding consideration in the future.

There are no further city costs associated with implementation of Phase I or the remaining recommendations. Funding for the recommendations included in Phase II and III has not been identified at this time.

Respectfully submitted,




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Prepared and Approved by:



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Concurrence:



C. BERNARD GILPIN
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