

# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL **DATE:** October 28, 2002  
**FROM:** CITY MANAGER  
**SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE OPERATION OF  
LA PINTORESCA SKATE PARK THROUGH JUNE 30, 2003**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council support continuation of the operation of the La Pintoresca Skate Park through June 30, 2003, based on successful operation of this project during the pilot period of July through October, 2002.

## **RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

At their meeting on October 23, 2002, the Recreation and Parks Commission reviewed and unanimously endorsed the recommendation to continue operation of La Pintoresca Skate Park through June 30, 2003.

## **BACKGROUND**

In response to a growing interest by local residents in developing a skate park in Pasadena and a review to identify potential sites and interest in such a project, on March 25, 2002, City Council approved the development of a temporary, pilot skate park facility on an existing tennis court at La Pintoresca Park, located at 45 East Washington Boulevard, Pasadena. This Council action included the appropriation of \$32,900 for this project to implement the skate park, including removal of posts, additional fencing, and related site modifications; purchase and installation of skate park equipment; and site supervision during operating hours for a four month pilot operation period. Staff committed to evaluate the skate park project during this pilot period, and report back to City Council on utilization and related issues, along with a recommendation regarding potential continued operation.

Following City Council approval, staff worked with an advisory committee of local residents interested in the development of the La Pintoresca Skate Park facility, including youth skateboarders. Potential vendors of appropriate equipment were identified, and the committee worked with staff to develop the site design, layout and recommended equipment, within the available budget. Following a design and selection process, Ramptech, Inc. was selected as the vendor. Site modifications (expanded fencing, removal of tennis court posts) were completed, and Ramptech manufactured and installed

a range of skate park equipment (including two halfpipes and two quarterpipes of varying sizes, a low bank, low box, street spine, half pyramid with ledge, and a straight rail), at a final cost of \$37,120. All work was completed in time to allow an opening date of July 6, 2002.

La Pintoresca Skate Park held its grand opening on Saturday July 6, 2002 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, with attendance of some 125 skateboarders, City Councilmembers as well as various City staff, neighbors and community members. The event received significant media attention with coverage by channels 4 (KNBC) and 5 (KTLA), various local newspapers, and radio station 106.7 KROQ, who interviewed many local youth in attendance. Many local storeowners provided support for this event, including United Board Shop, who provided a group of semi-professionals to conduct a skateboarding demonstration at the event, along with distribution of stickers, T-shirts, hats, posters and raffled two skateboards to attendees. Atomic Garage Skateboard Shop also provided stickers and raffled off one skateboard, and Walt Butler supported the event and donated various items for raffle to those in attendance. Many parents, youth skateboarders, neighbors and community residents expressed appreciation to the City for development of a positive recreational facility with the La Pintoresca Skate Park.

In order to use the Skate Park, participants must complete a registration form, including a signed liability waiver form (which must be signed by the parent or legal guardian, for skateboarders under 18 years of age). Upon completion of this process, participants are issued a photo identification card, which must be shown to the Skate Park attendant for entry to the facility. An attendant supervises the Skate Park during all operating hours. Protective gear (helmet, knee and elbow pads) is required of all who use the Skate Park; loaner gear is available for those without such equipment. There is no fee use of the Skate Park or for use of the loaner protective equipment.

### **SUMMARY OF USE TO DATE**

As of October 7, 2002 the Skate Park had a total of 168 registered participants, with ongoing users ranging from 7 to 27 years of age. Summer usage averaged 23 persons per day, and school year (after school and Saturdays) usage is averaging 16 persons per day. Skate Park users are overwhelmingly male and are local residents, with 75% from Pasadena, 13% from Altadena. Most frequent users are pre-teens to 17 years of age. Some variation in attendance relates to such factors as weather, local school or community events involving youth, etc. The attached chart provides more specific information on the operating hours, utilization and related items.

For a few days in Summer 2002 the Skate Park was closed for equipment repairs due to damage that occurred during a reported nighttime break-in and attempted theft of the equipment. In the first month of operation the unauthorized use of the Park at night by people who climbed over or otherwise penetrated the fences was a significant problem; however, with the assistance of the Pasadena Police Department these activities are no longer an ongoing problem.

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Incident reports are maintained on any injury, however minor, consistent with State reporting requirements. To date, the safety record for the Skate Park has been good: there has been only 1 incident in the Skate Park where a user was injured and had to be transported to seek professional medical attention.

### **FINDINGS FROM PILOT PERIOD**

The La Pintoresca Skate Park has been a major positive asset to Pasadena by providing a safe haven for skateboarders who reside in our local community. It offers a positive, supervised setting for skateboarders, providing an alternative for youth and adults who previously were skating without protective gear on local streets, sidewalks, public buildings, and public stairways which are not designed for such use. The Skate Park encourages the use of safety gear, including providing free loaner helmets, kneepads and elbow pads for those that cannot afford to purchase their own safety gear. In addition to positive feedback on the Skate Park from the users, parents of youth using the Park have also expressed appreciation and support for this project. Parents report that now they know where to go look for their young skater, and that he/she is in a supervised setting using protective gear, instead of wondering where in all the streets in Pasadena he/she might be skating (generally without protective equipment).

Another major benefit of the Skate Park is the increased positive activity and resulting focus on the whole La Pintoresca facility, which has helped improve the overall Park setting. With increased use of the Skate Park area, and more parents coming in and out of the Park to drop off, pick up and watch their children skate, problems with some difficult "regulars" at this location have decreased. Cooperative efforts with the Police Department (including Park Security and increased Park patrol) have helped the overall safety and environment of La Pintoresca.

Operation of the Skate Park has not appeared to have a significant negative impact on use of other Park facilities, including the adjacent basketball court and nearby playground. The only negative comment staff has received regarding the La Pintoresca Skate Park is that it is not large enough - - that it should include more space and additional ramps. However, given the ongoing use of the adjacent basketball courts (the only immediately available area that could accommodate an expanded skate facility), the lack of funding for an expansion project, and that the existing 7,000 square foot Skate Park appears to be reasonable addressing the basic demand, no further action for expansion or modification is recommended at this time.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

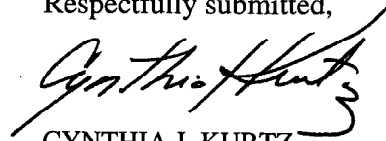
It is recommended to continue operating the La Pintoresca Skate Park facility on a limited after school and Saturday schedule, through the end of Fiscal Year 2003 (to June 30, 2003). Operating hours during Daylight Savings Time would generally be 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm on school days, and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 6:30 pm; during Pacific Standard Time, the closing hours would be 5:00 pm on school days and Saturdays.

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**FISCAL IMPACT**

The primary cost of operating the Skate Park for the balance of Fiscal Year 2003 is the cost of the attendant hours, and any replacement of protective gear or equipment, estimated not to exceed \$9,000 for this period. Funds are currently available in the Department FY 2003 Operating Budget to address this cost.

Respectfully submitted,



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Patricia A. Lane, Director  
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Attachment