

Agenda Report

DATE: October 30, 2000

TO: CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH
FROM THE MULTIPURPOSE SPORTS FIELDS TASK FORCE

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council:

- a) Endorse the recommendations of the Multipurpose Sports Fields Task (Attachment A) and the recommendations for neighborhood mitigation included in this report;
- b) Appropriate \$25,000 from the Bank of America litigation settlement (5085-101) into Parks and Natural Resources account 76511 (Parks East) for improvements to sports fields at Eaton Blanche park;
- c) Reserve \$150,000 (also from Bank of American litigation settlement funds) to assist the Pasadena Unified School District with improvements to school fields if they concur with recommendations of the Task Force;
- d) Appropriate \$23,000 from the Bank of America litigation settlement (5085-101) toward construction costs for a new restroom at Washington School; and,
- e) 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.

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Key recommendations of the Task Force include the construction of two new fields and improvements to expand the use of eight existing field sites within two years, additional improvements to school and parks sites over the next three to five years, and long-term development of new fields. New fields are proposed at Audubon School and Field School. 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.

After reviewing the Task Force recommendations and hearing public comment on September 11, 2000, City Council requested that the Task Force schedule a series of meetings with potentially impacted neighborhoods and return to Council with associated mitigation measures. A summary of the neighborhood concerns and mitigation measures are included below.

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.

The Task Force established four subcommittees including: (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.

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As a result, the subcommittee recommends a three-phased approach. In Phase I, immediate improvements are recommended including the construction of two new fields and improvements to eight existing fields as follows:

Audubon School	Build new field (soccer field/ball diamond)
Don Benito School	Expand existing field
Eliot School	Expand existing field
Field School	Build new field (soccer field/ball diamond)
Marshall School	Redesign lower turf field
Sierre Madre School	Improve with turf, grading, etc.
Washington School	Add more turf and additional light standards
Rose Bowl, Area "H"	Rental of portable field lights
Eaton Blanche Park	Addition of new turf and fencing
Hahamongna	Improve with turf, grading, etc.

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 recommended 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 contribute to funding for the ID badges; PUSD and the Public Works and Transportation Department have agreed to absorb the cost of parking 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 request funds from the business community.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Community meetings were held on September 27 and 28. Meeting notices were mailed to all neighborhood associations within 300 feet of the proposed project sites. Approximately 50 people attended the meetings, voicing concerns about improvements proposed at the Audubon School and Washington School.

The neighborhood concerns and Task Force recommendations for mitigation are listed below. The only significant cost associated with these recommendations is \$60,000 for a new restroom at Washington School. The Task Force recommends that this cost be shared between the user groups, the school district and the City.

An additional meeting was held to demonstrate the portable lighting proposed for use in Area H in the Arroyo. Representatives of the four adjacent neighborhood associations concurred that the lights would not create a significant impact.

Washington School Concerns and Recommended Mitigation:

- *Need for increased security around playing areas and parking areas*

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City and school district police will schedule routine patrols of these areas during high use periods. In addition, user groups have agreed to self-patrol and/or hire security personnel when necessary.

- *Desire for parking to be direct to Raymond and Howard Street; no on-site parking; no parking on Penn and Marengo Streets during permitted use.*

The Task Force recommends that PUSD post appropriate “no parking” signs on school sites. City parking enforcement will work in coordination with school district police to enforce all parking regulations. User groups also committed to inform participants and spectators that all parking should be confined to Raymond.

- *Need to increase availability of permanent restroom facilities to accommodate participants and spectators*

The Task Force recommends that the school district, in coordination with the PUSD approved site master plan, install a permanent restroom for field activities. The cost of the facility, estimated at \$60,000, could be funded jointly by the city, PUSD and user groups. The user groups also agreed to pay a reasonable fee (based on use) to fund maintenance, service and security of restrooms for their activities.

- *Need to coordinate development of additional turf areas and placement of light standards with adopted school site master plan.*

The increased turf areas will require approval by PUSD in accordance with master plans. In addition, the Task Force suggests that school district, City and user groups meet to re-affirm recently approved lighting plans.

- *Need for better coordination of locks and keys for field area and lights.*

The Task Force recommends that district staff and permitted user groups conduct an on-site inspection at least one week prior to the start of programs to ensure that all keys and locks are functioning and all approved pedestrian entrances to fields are accessible. Following this, it is recommended that City and school district staff meet at least quarterly to ensure that all keys and locks are accounted for and are operational. In addition, the Task Force suggested that through the civic center permit policy, the PUSD issue keys to approved permitted groups at least two weeks prior to the start of permitted

- *Need for additional receptacles for trash including emptying and securing after permitted use.*

The Task Force recommends that the City provide additional receptacles at all sites. User groups have agreed to be charged a reasonable fee for emptying and securing trash receptacles and/or have also volunteered to empty and secure the receptacles themselves.

- *Availability of fields for neighborhood and school use after regular school day and on weekends.*

The Task Force recommends that the school district coordinate permits to provide a balance of permitted and non-permitted use of fields, dependent of District’s maintenance schedule and in coordination with the current District/City Facilities Use Agreement.

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- *Fields should be available for multi use programs such as softball, baseball, football as well as soccer.*

The Task Force recommends that school district, user groups and City representatives meet on a regular scheduled basis to establish a shared schedule that balances demand and use of fields for all sports (taking into consideration the district's maintenance schedule.)

The majority of those community people speaking about Washington School were supportive of the proposed improvements, with the understanding that concerns listed would be addressed and rectified.

Audubon School

In order to mitigate the concerns of the neighborhoods, PUSD has formed a sub-committee of the Audubon School Site Planning Committee. This sub-committee will include representation from the school district, Sports Field Task Force and neighborhood associations and is scheduled to meet on November 13, 2000. It is suggested that any action on this field be deferred until the sub-committee has developed a consensus on appropriate mitigation.

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:

Phase I Implementation

Funding in the amount of \$870,000 has been identified for the implementation of all Phase I recommendations. Staff is recommending that the City use \$264,000 in Prop 12 funds and \$175,000 from the settlement of litigation with Bank of America. The Prop 12 funds will be used for improvements to fields at Audubon, Don Benito, Eliot, Field and Marshall schools. The litigation settlement funds will also be used for improvements at Eliot, Field and Marshall schools, as well as Eaton Blanche Park.

In addition to City funds, user groups will provide \$165,000 for the rental of portable lights at Area H and for improvements at Sierra Madre school. The City of La Canada will contribute \$35,000 toward improvements at Johnson Field. State funds (SB1667) in the amount of \$150,000 will be used for improvements at Washington School and \$11,000 in Los Angeles County funds could be used for improvements at Audubon School. The City of Sierra Madre will contribute \$70,000 toward Field and Sierra Madre school improvements.

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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.

Mitigation Measures

Staff recommends that \$23,000 be appropriated from the remaining Bank of America settlement funds that were earmarked for parks. In addition, the city will provide additional trash receptacles at field sites, with the cost to be absorbed by the Public Works and Transportation budget.

Maintenance

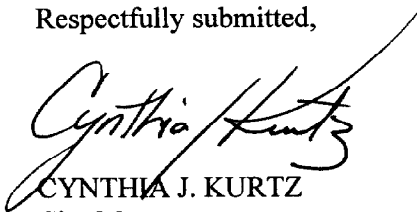
Funding for ongoing maintenance at City sites will be largely absorbed in the Public Works and Transportation budget. However, user groups have agreed to pay for increased maintenance required as a result of increased field usage. Based on a prorated share of usage, staff has determined this amount to be approximately \$4,000 per year. The amount to be paid to the schools under a similar agreement has yet to be determined.

Future Phases

Funding for the recommendations included in Phase II and III has not been identified at this time.

Total City cost at this time is for implementation of Phase I and mitigation is \$198,000 in Bank of America settlement funds and \$264,000 in Prop 12 funds.

Respectfully submitted,



CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager


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Prepared and approved by:



ROBERT C. BADERIAN,
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Concurrence:



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