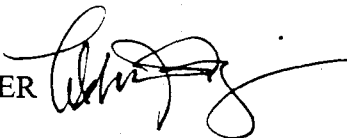




MEETING DATE: 01-20-04
ITEM NO. 17

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2003
TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: DEBRA J. FIGONE, TOWN MANAGER 
SUBJECT: PUBLIC INPUT ON PARK USAGE FOR SPORTS FACILITIES

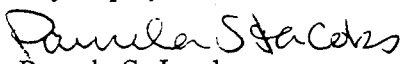
BACKGROUND:

At the December 15, 2003 Town Council meeting, Vice Mayor Mike Wasserman requested that the Town Council discuss at a future meeting the use of parks, specifically Oak Meadow Park, for sports facilities/fields such as soccer fields. The Council concurred that this discussion would occur at the Town Council retreat scheduled for Saturday, January 24, 2004. Subsequently, at the January 5, 2004 Council meeting, a resident spoke under Verbal Communications regarding the need for a skateboard park in the Town. The Mayor requested that an item be placed on the January 20th agenda to receive public input on the use of Town parks for sports facilities prior to the Council discussion on the Sobrato development and at the upcoming retreat. This staff report provides a brief background on the Town's discussions over the past decade regarding sports facilities/fields, and a summary of the scope of information to be provided in the staff report for the Council retreat discussion on this issue.

DISCUSSION:

Town Discussions on Sports Facilities/Fields

Sports Playfields. In 1993, the Town Manager formed a Playfield Advisory Committee to identify additional sites for soccer, baseball and softball playfields. The Committee was formed in response to neighborhood concerns raised about the heavy use of the playfields at Louise Van Meter and Fisher schools. The Committee identified and negotiated for the use of an additional 11 sites (beyond the nine sites available at the time) for playfields, including two additional sites in Town parks, Live Oak Manor and Belgatos, and one in Vasona Park. La Rinconada and Oak Meadow Parks were considered, but not selected as sites for playfields. The 1993 staff report is included as Attachment I. This report could be useful in understanding what has changed since the actions taken to increase the availability of playfields noted in the report.


PREPARED BY: Pamela S. Jacobs
Assistant Town Manager

Reviewed by: ☒ Assistant Town Manager ☒ Town Attorney ☐ Clerk ☐ Finance
☐ Community Development

Revised: 1/14/04 10:10 am

Skate park. In 2000, the Town Council established an Ad Hoc Skate park Sub-Committee to explore the possibility of a siting a skate park in the Town. The Sub-Committee first identified Blossom Hill Park and the vacant lot at Lark and Winchester Blvd. as potential locations. Neighbors at these two locations expressed their opposition to siting a skate park on these sites. The Sub-Committee also subsequently determined that these two locations would not support a skate park of the size desired and that a skate park should be located in an existing park or have amenities usually found in a park such as bathrooms, adequate parking, etc. In 2001, the Town Council accepted the Sub-Committee's recommendation that the Town approach the County regarding locating a skate park in Vasona Park. The Town prepared a feasibility study and presented a skate park proposal to the County for the property in Vasona behind Billy Jones Railroad Roundhouse. The County's Parks Commission rejected the proposal in March, 2002 by a 4 to 3 vote.

In June, 2002, the Town Council established an Ad Hoc Interim Skate park Sub-Committee to identify a site for an interim skate park, pending the potential acquisition of County property for a skate park site. This Sub-Committee assessed 20 potential sites, narrowing the potential locations down to a site at Fisher School not available for 2 years and the use of 2 of the 6 tennis courts at Blossom Hill Park for the interim skate park. Neighbors and tennis players expressed opposition to the use of the tennis courts, and the Town Council subsequently in October, 2002, directed staff to abandon the pursuit of an interim skate park and to focus on the acquisition of County property in Vasona. These discussions with the County are not likely to yield results in the near term.

The Town has designated \$125,000 of Proposition 12 Per Capita Grant funds (Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act) for the Town's contribution to a skate park. Reference to this allocation is found the Town's FY 2003-2008 Capital Improvement Program.

Soccer Fields. In addition to the 1993 effort to address the availability of sports fields, including soccer fields, interest in additional soccer fields surfaced in 2003 when soccer parents, coaches and players requested the Planning Commission to require a soccer field as part of the Sobrato mixed-use development on Winchester Blvd. The applicant for this project does not support the inclusion of a soccer field on the site, but has committed to work with the Town and the soccer advocates in identifying another site.

General Plan Considerations

Although the Town's General Plan does not include a recreational element, the Open Space element does address playing fields in the following goal, policy and implementing strategy:

Goal O.G.1.1.: To acquire open space areas within the Town of Los Gatos, particularly lands which provide recreational uses and will protect the public health, welfare, and safety of residents and visitors.

Policy O.P.1.5: Promote a system of Town parks and trails and maximize the use of public utility easements, flood control channels, school grounds, and other quasi-public areas for

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MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
SUBJECT: PUBLIC INPUT ON PARK USAGE
(January 15, 2003)

recreational uses and playfields.

Implementing Strategy O.1.1.5: Assess the need for additional developed parks and playfields in the Town of Los Gatos. The Parks Commission is noted as the responsible party for this strategy.

This element also includes reference to preserving school playing fields as developed open spaces in another policy and implementing strategy.

Background Information for Council Retreat Discussion

To inform Council's discussion at the Council retreat regarding the use of Town parks, staff is preparing background information on the parks and the need/demand for other uses. The report will include information on the size and current uses of Town parks.

CONCLUSION:

Over the past decade, the Town has engaged in efforts to identify locations for sports facilities, including soccer and skate parks. The locations explored have included Town parks. In some cases, additional sites have been identified successfully and in others this has not occurred. The discussion at the January 20th Council meeting is intended to receive public input on the need for additional sports facilities/fields and on the use of Town parks for this purpose. The Council will discuss this matter at the Council retreat on January 24th.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

Is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact from receiving public input on park usage for sports facilities. Any subsequent decision for the Town to build or partner to build a sports facility in Town would have a fiscal impact, which would be analyzed at that time.

Attachments:

1. Playfield Advisory Committee Report, May 17, 1993 Council meeting

TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: MAY 6, 1993
TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: TOWN MANAGER *[Signature]*
SUBJECT: PLAYFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

RECOMMENDATION:

For information only.

BACKGROUND:

In August 1992, the Nino Ave. neighborhood raised concerns about crowd, traffic and parking problems caused by the heavy use of the playfields at Louise Van Meter and Fisher schools. The Town Manager arranged meetings between neighborhood representatives and school and recreation district officials to address these issues. While short-term problems were resolved, it became apparent that increasing use of the fields was a fundamental problem and that finding additional playfields was essential to solving the long-term problem.

DISCUSSION:

The Town Manager formed a Playfield Advisory Committee which has addressed the need for more playfields by increasing the number sites of available from 9 to 20. Committee members did an outstanding job identifying and quantifying playfield needs and identifying alternatives to meet them.

At the initial meeting in February, the Committee identified eight different athletic organizations with a total of approximately 250 teams and 3,000 players, using nine different sites. Soccer players needed more practice fields, while baseball players needed additional diamonds. Lack of playfields has not only hampered optimal scheduling but has also capped the number of young people who can participate, creating waiting lists for some sports.

At subsequent meetings in March and April, the Committee identified potential new locations for practice and game day use, including school sites, Town parks, religious institutions, and State and County property. From the list of potential sites, individual committee members made personal contacts and negotiated for new sites with great success.

PREPARED BY: Michael La Rocca, Director
Parks, Forestry and Maintenance Services

DISK\A:\tplayfields

5/13/93 10:30 am
File #

Attachments: Playfield Advisory Committee list

Distribution: Regular distribution, Playfield Advisory Committee, Park Commission

Reviewed by: _____ Attorney _____ Clerk _____ Finance _____ Treasurer

COUNCIL ACTION/ACTION DIRECTED TO:

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MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
SUBJECT: PLAYFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT
May 6, 1993

Janice Smith, Union School District Superintendent, has offered six school sites in her district for community use. The sites can accommodate soccer practice on weekdays, soccer games on weekends, and baseball practice and games.

David Akin, Vasona Park Director, offered extensive areas of the park, equivalent to approximately 10 playfields, for Youth Soccer practice on weekday afternoons between 3 and 6 p.m., the practice time of greatest need. These are excellent sites in terms of turf and also provide a central location, parking, public restrooms and shaded picnic tables nearby.

Youth Soccer will also be able to use two Los Gatos parks, Live Oak Manor and Belgatos, with approximately 5 more playfields.

Los Gatos Christian Church will allow use of its playfields on three weekdays and half day on Saturday.

Tod Likens, Superintendent of Los Gatos High School, is willing to allow community groups to develop the agricultural field adjacent to the football field which can accommodate a baseball diamond and a soccer field.

Girls softball and soccer representatives are working with CalTrans for use of its property at Oka Road and Highway 85. CalTrans informed us that it is willing to allow use of this property on a lease basis.

CONCLUSION:

Soccer players now have additional practice sites at Vasona park, Live Oak Manor and Belgatos parks, and six Union School District sites. The school sites may also be used for weekend games. Baseball players may use these school sites and the fields at Los Gatos Christian Church.

Playfield sites already in use and those newly available are summarized as follows:

Already in use

Balzar Field
Blossom Hill Park
Blossom Hill School
Daves Avenue School
Fisher Middle School
Jewish Community Center
Los Gatos High School
Van Meter School
West Valley College

Newly available

Alta Vista Elementary
Carleton Elementary
Howes Primary School
Mirassou School
Ralph E. Noddin School
Union Jr. High School
Los Gatos High School agricultural field
Belgatos Park
Live Oak Manor Park
Vasona Park
Los Gatos Christian Church

Other sites which were considered but not selected include Leigh High School; The Novitiate; Shir Hadash Synagogue; the Municipal Court on Capri; Bachman, Novitiate, La Rinconada and Oak Meadow Parks; lease of the Uki property; and the Vasona Park and Ride area.

The Committee has solved the immediate need for additional playfields with the addition of the Union School District fields, extensive areas of Vasona Park, two Los Gatos parks, and Los Gatos Christian Church's fields. Longer term growth can be accommodated through developing the agricultural field at Los Gatos High School and using CalTrans property at Oka Road and Highway 17. The Committee deserves a "well done" for its work.

PLAYFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Office No.</u>	<u>Home No.</u>
Ken Barker	134 Hollycrest Dr. Los Gatos, CA 95032		356-8210
Jim Barth	18237 Constitution Ave. Monte Sereno, CA 95030	496-3652	354-3956
Steve Benbow	15766 Poppy Lane Los Gatos, CA 95030		395-5570
Bob Best	123 E. Main St. Los Gatos, CA 95032	354-8700	356-5030
Bill Fray	16101 Jasmine Way Los Gatos, CA 95032	354-1903	356-1317
Reed Graham	16700 Marchmont Dr. Los Gatos, CA 95032		356-8698
Bernie Greenfield	226 Forrester Road Los Gatos, CA 95032	995-5600	356-0124
Tom Gremore	135 Green Hill Way Los Gatos, CA 95030	293-4313	356-1862
Phil Knopf	17400 E. Vineland Ave. Monte Sereno, CA 95030		354-1046
Bill Mason	156 Euclid Ave. Los Gatos, CA 95032	354-8320	354-8449
Allen Rudolph	259 Vista Del Monte Los Gatos, CA 95032	354-2730	354-4612
Dr. Smith, Janice L.	5175 Union Avenue San Jose, CA 95124	377-8010	
Steve Torres	15743 Kevin Lane Los Gatos, CA 95030	297-2236	395-1325
Tom Werth	16557 Marchmont Dr. Los Gatos, CA 95030	742-2356	358-3088
Phil Wilcox	15275 Clydelle Ave. San Jose, CA 95124	510-792-9555	371-9594
Donna Wolfe	15981 Stephanie Lane Los Gatos, CA 95032		358-1389
Yuki Yamahata	16141 Jasmine Way Los Gatos, CA 95032	356-8752	256-3122
Bill York	203 Palmer Dr. Los Gatos, CA 95030		866-2450
Paul Zebb	25977 Highland Way Los Gatos, CA 95030	280-0422 X-224	353-9480

ATTACHMENT 1

FEES & CHARGES/AMENDMENTS (23.05)

Phil Knopf, speaking for youth group use of park facilities, requested that Council not make the use of the parks prohibitive to organized youth groups due to proposed fee increases.

Motion by Mrs. Lubeck, seconded by Mayor Benjamin, to approve the raising of "Planning - Level I" fees as presented in the desk item this evening as identified as 1. E & F, 3. and 4. and leave the "Level II & III" fees at the same level as they were last year, and cost of document fees in all departments should be the same. Carried by a vote of 4 ayes. Mr. Attaway voted no because he feels the streamlining process should be in operation first to see where some fees could be eliminated or lessened before thought is given to raising them.

Motion by Mr. Blanton, seconded by Mr. Attaway, to approve the proposed park fees for residents of Los Gatos and Monte Sereno, and to place a higher tiered structure of fees on the use of a variety of park facilities by non-residents. Carried unanimously.

PLAY FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (24.25)

Informational report was received by Council and the following people from the audience addressed the issue:

Ned Zuparko, 15443 Corinne Dr., spoke of the need for additional playing fields in Town for developing sports programs.

Ken Barker, 134 Hollycrest Dr., addressed the fact that the committee has not found a great deal of additional space for the programs at this time and needs to continue its pursuit of adequate facilities to serve the needs of the community.

Tom Werth, 16557 Marchmont Dr., spoke of increasing membership in the sports leagues and the continued need for practice and playing fields.

Bernie Greenfield, 226 Forrester Rd., expressed the need for more playing field for organized sports programs.

No one else from the audience addressed this issue.

Informational report was received and filed after discussion.

AMBULANCE SERVICE/TOWN CODE AMENDMENT (25.05)

The Town Clerk read the title of the draft ordinance

Motion by Mr. Blanton, seconded by Mr. O'Laughlin, to waive the reading of the draft ordinance. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Blanton, seconded by Mr. O'Laughlin, that Council introduce Draft Ordinance entitled, ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS ADDING ARTICLE V TO CHAPTER 28 OF THE TOWN CODE ADOPTING CHAPTER XVI OF DIVISION A18 OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE REGULATING AMBULANCE SERVICE. Carried unanimously.

