



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 28, 2008

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: After School Sports Program Report

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission hear a presentation about the Youth After School Sports Programs.

DISCUSSION:

Introduction/Background

As part of the Recreation Division reorganization in FY 05, the responsibility for youth sports leagues was transferred to the Sports Section. By transferring youth sports leagues to the Sports Section, it has allowed more participants to become involved in the program that might not have been enrolled in either the RAP or A-OK Programs. In addition, it has allowed the Sports Section the opportunity to hire a coaching staff whose background was specifically in coaching. This has provided the participants a better opportunity to learn the fundamental skills necessary to excel in their individual sport(s).

Since its inception, the After School Sports Program has been a fee-based program, although more than \$10,000 was awarded in scholarships annually these last few years. In FY 08, in response to community concerns about youth violence, the City Council allocated \$35,000 from the General Fund to fund this program in its entirety, allowing all participants to join the program free of charge. As a result of this change, many more youth have participated in this quality sports program.

This school year, the Sports Section facilitated the After School Sports Program at the City of Santa Barbara's 10 elementary school sites for youth in 2nd – 6th grades. Teams and students from schools outside the Santa Barbara School District were also encouraged to participate in the sports program. Those that did paid the program fee to participate.

The After School Sports leagues offered this school year included flag football (fall), basketball (winter), and a new program – soccer (spring). Practices and games were played at local elementary school fields and courts. Transportation to games was provided to some teams via Parks and Recreation youth buses. Although league games were played at local school fields, playoff games were played at Santa Barbara City College's gym and football stadium. This exciting addition gave these elementary students a "birds-eye view" of what going to college might be like. In addition, girls in 4th – 6th grade had the

opportunity to play in an organized spring Softball League facilitated at the Santa Barbara High School's softball fields.

Paid and volunteer coaches were recruited and hired by the Sports Section to coach practices and games. Officials are hired to referee regular season and playoff games. To ensure a more fluid level of training and to create a better experience for youth participants in each sport, coaches and officials received training in the following: 1) expectations of a coach/official 2) how to organize and conduct practices, and 3) rules of the game.

Participation

The following chart shows comparisons of the participation numbers in After School Youth Sports Program from FY 06 – FY 08. Three reasons for the 66.5% increase in participation numbers in FY 08 include the fact that the program was offered free this year to all Santa Barbara School District students. A new spring soccer program was also added to the offerings, and the Sports Section greatly increased publicity to parents and students on the school campuses and in our RAP and A-OK programs. These three factors were key in boosting the participation numbers.

After School Sports Program Participation #s	Age Level	FY 06 7/05-6/06	FY 07 7/06-6/07	% change from FY 06	FY 08 7/07-6/08	% change from FY 07
Flag Football	Grades 2-6	254	235	-7.5%	350	49%
Blacktop Basketball	Grades 4-6	186	192	3%	194	1%
Little Hoopsters Basketball	Ages 5-7	40	20	-50%	64	220%
Soccer	Grades 3-6	0	0	n/a	172	n/a
Girls Softball	Grades 4-6	0	52	n/a	51	%
		480	499	4%	831	66.5%

Potential for Growth

There is still potential for growth in FY 09, especially in the Girls Softball League. Improving in the following areas will strengthen and build existing programs: 1) improving relationships with the local schools and principals, 2) improving field access at local schools and parks, 3) improving local park field conditions, 4) increasing marketing efforts, and 5) improving coaches and official trainings. The Sports Section staff is proud of the After School Sports Program provided this school year and is looking forward to continuing to improve and grow the program in future years.

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