



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: January 23, 2008

TO: Park and Recreation Commission

FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Barbecue/Open Fire Prohibition at Cabrillo Ball Field, Dwight Murphy Ball Field, and Pershing Park

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission concur with a staff recommendation to prohibit the use of barbecues and open fires in the following sports facilities: Cabrillo Ball Field, Dwight Murphy Ball Field, and Pershing Park, except by permit.

DISCUSSION:

Over the past couple of years, the Police Department, Fire Department, Parks and Recreation Department, and City Neighborhood Improvement Task Force have noted an increase in barbecue use and open fires at Cabrillo Ball Field, Dwight Murphy Ball Field, and Pershing Park. These ball fields do not have designated barbecues. Park users are bringing in portable barbecues and digging pits in the infield. Currently, other than the requirement to use charcoal, there are no rules governing barbecue use at park sites. The Parks Division has found and received complaints about dangerous coals left behind to smolder on sidewalks, in planter beds, and on the infield. This creates a safety hazard and increases park maintenance requirements. In addition, excessive amounts of trash and litter are common with barbecue use and open fires.

As a result, the Department is recommending the prohibition of the use of barbecues and open fires in Cabrillo Ball Field, Dwight Murphy Ball Field and Pershing Parks, except when allowed by permit. This recommendation would apply to all areas, including parking lots. This prohibition would not apply to parks where there are designated barbecues.

In addition, the Department proposes to place additional signage requiring that only charcoal be used in all parks with existing designated barbecues. However, wood logs would still be allowed in the barbecue pits at Oak Park (Main, Sycamore, and German Friendship picnic areas), and Skofield Park areas A, B, and C. New concrete hot coal

containers would also be installed at the East Alameda main picnic area and Leadbetter Beach Park where barbecues are most frequently used. Currently, there are two concrete hot coal containers at Oak Park. These hot coal containers allow park users to empty hot embers in a safe receptacle.

In summary, in order to provide safe conditions at sports facilities at Cabrillo Ball Field, Dwight Murphy Ball Field, and Pershing Park, it is recommended that barbecue use and open fires at these facilities be prohibited except by permit.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

There will be minimal costs related to this change. Costs will be for fabrication and installation of new signs.

SUBMITTED BY: Santos Escobar, Parks Manager

APPROVED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director