



## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** May 26, 2010

**TO:** Park and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Replacement of the East Beach Volleyball Court Poles and Creation of Henry Bergman Memorial Beach Volleyball Court

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission:

- A. Receive a staff report and presentation from the Friends of East Beach Association regarding the replacement of the East Beach volleyball court poles and the creation of the Henry Bergman Memorial Beach Volleyball Court and future legacy volleyball courts; and
- B. Provide direction to staff on the proposed project.

**DISCUSSION:**

The East Beach volleyball courts are steeped in volleyball history, and they are often mentioned in the same sentence with Manhattan Beach as the birth place of beach volleyball. The East Beach volleyball courts have been the training grounds for thousands of youth, some of which have gone on to play professionally and represent the United States at the Olympic Games.

The Friends of East Beach Association is proposing the funding, materials and creation of the Henry Bergman Memorial Volleyball Court to be constructed and installed at East Beach. Henry Bergman was the first of Santa Barbara's volleyball legends to play the sands and courts of East Beach. Well over a hundred of his friends and admirers have contributed the funds to make this memorial court possible. The intent of the initial memorial court is to generate donations and funding to replace all of the existing volleyball court poles with a pole that provides the same functionality but is more aesthetically appealing. In subsequent years, the Friends of East Beach Association will work with other local community non-profits and volleyball enthusiasts to dedicate other legacy courts to acknowledge individuals who have championed the sport and their involvement in the development of beach volleyball locally, nationally and internationally.

There are 16 permanently installed volleyball courts at East Beach and during the summer months an additional two temporary courts are added to ease the impact of

summer youth volleyball clinics and tournaments. The existing volleyball poles are in various stages of disrepair and functionality is achieved by using many non-conventional methods to correctly hang volleyball nets for recreational and competitive play. Staff recognizes the need to replace the existing standards and had developed a preventative maintenance plan that includes replacing one set of volleyball court poles each year at a cost of \$1,800. Due to extensive budget challenges, the replacement of the volleyball court poles for this year has been deferred and funding will likely be difficult in future years.

The Department appreciates the offer by this community group to raise funds to upgrade the East Beach Volley Ball Courts for the community and supports the Friends of East Beach Association's proposal. Replacing these volleyball court poles will be an improvement in functionality and aesthetics and will eliminate the need to replace existing volleyball poles using General Fund monies.

In preliminary meetings with the group, the Department expressed concern that enough funds be raised to replace all of remaining volleyball court poles, after the completion of the Henry Bergmann Court. This would ensure uniformity for the users and visitors that frequent the East Beach volleyball courts. Understanding this concern, the group made a commitment to completing the full project. To support that effort, they secured letters of support, formalized into the Friends of East Beach, and secured an association with the Park and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation to support their fundraising effort.

In exchange for the proposed and privately funded improvements and enhancements to the East Beach volleyball courts, the Department has offered to assist with the installation volleyball court poles, and continue to fund the existing annual maintenance agreement for the maintenance and repair of the volleyball court nets, antennas, lines and minor mechanical issues in future fiscal years. The Friends of East Beach have expressed a desire to raise additional funds which could be retained for future maintenance needs.

In closing, the Department wants to thank the Friends of East Beach Association for choosing to improve a recreation facility used by the community and visitors alike as a way for them to acknowledge the instrumental role that Henry Bergman played in the sport of beach volleyball on Santa Barbara's East Beach Volley Ball Courts.

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

