



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 26, 2014

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Joint Use Field Scheduling and Monitoring Agreement

RECOMMENDATION: That Commission receive a report on the City Parks and Recreation and Santa Barbara Unified School Districts revised Field Scheduling and Monitoring Agreement.

DISCUSSION:

Recently, the Santa Barbara Unified School District Board and Santa Barbara City Council approved a revised agreement whereby City Parks and Recreation schedules and monitors several School District athletic fields to facilitate community use of those fields. This report provides an overview of the Field Scheduling and Monitoring Agreement introduced in 2000, challenges faced with the program in recent years, and key components of the revised agreement. The agreement reduces the scope of services provided by Parks and Recreation to the District, and initiates a two-phase plan to return management of the fields to the District, which will include facilitating community use of District fields.

Background

The Field Scheduling and Monitoring Agreement with SBUSD originated in 2000, to facilitate increased public access to District sports fields in response to a community shortfall for field space. The City and District partnered to renovate four field facilities: La Cumbre, La Colina, and Santa Barbara Junior High schools and Franklin Elementary school. The agreement was implemented to maximize community use through an efficient, single source reservation process. The City would schedule and monitor use of the fields with revenue from permit fees reimbursing the City for costs to provide that service. Any revenue above expense would be held in a segregated account and reinvested in field improvements, as decided by the Joint Use Committee.

Although the agreement functioned well for several years, over the last few years, both agencies have raised concerns with aspects of the agreement. Primary issues have been poor field conditions; scheduling, use, and access issues at some

campuses; the District not being reimbursed for community use of La Colina ball field lights; lack of incentive (revenue back) to individual schools in exchange for field access; and the District's inability to provide adequate justification for field maintenance costs as specified in the Agreement to justify the \$35,500/year the City paid towards that cost.

Current Field Challenges

Field use (and revenue) has declined over the last few years, primarily due to two factors: substandard field conditions and increased afterschool programming on two campuses which has reduced public access to District fields. These changes have reduced the available field inventory from a peak of nine sports fields on four campuses to six fields on two campuses. Of the available six fields, only five currently meet the required minimum maintenance standards identified in the Field Scheduling and Monitoring Agreement. Due to anticipated SBUSD junior high afterschool sports programming in the current year, it is assumed that only three fields will be available for community user groups Monday through Friday during the peak requested times.

After meeting several times throughout the year, the City and District came to an agreement to modify the program in a two-phased approach, leading to each agency scheduling and monitoring use of its own fields and the formation of a Field Scheduling Committee to coordinate community access to sports fields.

Phase One – Fiscal Year 2014 – City Reduces Services from Four to Two Schools

In Phase One, FY 2014, the District assumes management of Franklin and La Cumbre school fields. Historically, with the large number of programs and activities taking place on the campus, the City has done minimal scheduling of the Franklin field. Likewise, La Cumbre Junior High has had changing campus priorities, and with the addition of the After School Education and Safety (ASES) program at La Cumbre, field access and community use has diminished significantly. As of August 1, 2013, the Parks and Recreation Department stopped providing scheduling and monitoring services for these two school sites, and user groups were directed to the District to complete reservation plans.

The Parks and Recreation Department continues to schedule three fields at Santa Barbara Junior High and two of the three fields at La Colina Junior High. Field #1 at La Colina is not being scheduled due to unplayable field conditions and safety concerns. Though improvements have been made at this site through increased rodent eradication and maintenance, field quality for safe play and inadequate lighting for evening requests remain a concern. Staff will continue to monitor the field quality with the hope that the full facility can return to the field scheduling inventory.

Phase Two – Fiscal Year 2015 – District Assumes Management of All District Fields and Implementation of Program to Facilitate Community Access

In Phase Two, FY 2015, the District will assume management of Santa Barbara and La Colina Junior High fields as well. The City will no longer schedule or manage use of District sports fields.

In recognition of community needs and a shortfall of recreational field space, the City and District have agreed to put in place a program to facilitate streamlined access to and equitable use of City and District Fields. In order to have a program in place by Fiscal Year 2015, the City and District formed a joint committee to develop and recommend a program and transition plan. The committee includes representation from each agency and youth and adult user groups as follows:

Rich Hanna, Sr. Recreation Supervisor, Parks and Recreation Department
Jeff Smith, Sports Supervisor, Parks and Recreation Department
Dave Hetyonk, Facilities Manager, SBUSD
Dr. Ben Drati, Assistant Superintendent, SBUSD
John Maloney, President, AYSO
Billy Gallagher, President, Santa Barbara Soccer Club
Armando Villa-Gomez, Central Coast Soccer

The committee has been meeting regularly to discuss transition plans, policies and procedures for scheduling, fees, and revenue. The goal is to recommend a plan to administration by May 1, 2014, for implementation July 1, 2014. Direction from the District is that the program provides youth groups a higher priority for use of District facilities and the recommended fee structure reflect a higher fee base for adult use of field space.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Anticipating reduced services, the Field Scheduling and Monitoring program budget of \$46,500, entirely supported by field rental fee revenue, was approved in the Fiscal Year 2014 Parks and Recreation Department Miscellaneous Grants Fund budget. To the extent field rental fees collected do not cover the City's cost of providing the scheduling and monitoring services, reserves estimated at \$17,637 may be utilized.

An additional \$23,430 is also budgeted in the Parks Division General Fund budget to reimburse SBUSD for field maintenance supporting community field access afterschool and on weekends. As part of the revised agreement, the District agreed that the City maintenance commitment will be reduced, should the District not maintain

minimum field maintenance standards for all covered field spaces over the term of this agreement.

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