



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 25, 2015

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Junior High Afterschool Sports Leagues

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive a presentation on the Junior High Afterschool Sports Program.

DISCUSSION:

National statistics show that the afterschool hours, between 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., have the highest incidents of juvenile crime and youth engaging in inappropriate behaviors. The City and Santa Barbara Unified School District (SBUSD) have partnered for many years to provide afterschool programs at SBUSD elementary and junior high schools as the programs provide essential support to families during the crucial afterschool hours. Each year, the City and SBUSD enter into agreements to define terms and budgets for the administration of three afterschool recreation programs including A-OK! and RAP at 11 elementary schools and the four Junior High schools. Parks and Recreation and SBUSD staff will present information to the Commission on the history of the Junior High Afterschool Sports Program and provide a status report on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 program.

Background

With both agencies understanding the positive long-term impacts of sports skills development and importance of engaging youth afterschool, the Junior High Afterschool Sports Program has been offered free to all participants since 1985 on all four junior high campuses. During the 16 initial years, SBUSD and the City equally split the costs to operate the program (\$85,000). Parks and Recreation administered the program and provided support staff. One of the key components of the program's success was that junior high teachers were recruited to serve as coaches and paid a stipend for their work. The teachers were able to effectively recruit students into the afterschool activities and build on their classroom relationships.

Beginning in FY 2003, both agencies faced financial challenges. The program went through several years of changes related to agency commitments, funding, and program structure. In particular, the District mandated that teachers serving as coaches needed to be paid teacher wages rather than stipends. With reduced funding, this aspect of the program was discontinued. At one point, the program was offered for a small fee, but this proved to be

unsuccessful and participation dropped significantly. With the formation of the City of Goleta, beginning in FY 2005, Goleta joined the collaborative by providing funding towards services provided at Goleta Valley Junior High. Also in FY 2005, the City restored \$20,000 in annual General Fund support for the program, which continues today.

With the economic downturn in FY 2009, both the City and SBUSD faced budget cuts. The elimination of a part-time City position that coordinated the program threatened continuation of the program. Fortunately, the Santa Barbara Police Activities League (SBPAL) stepped forward to administer the program beginning in FY 2010. SBPAL was very successful in raising funds through grants and donations to support operation of the program, in addition to funds provided by SBUSD, City of Santa Barbara, and City of Goleta. Under SBPAL, the sports league program became more structured with an educational achievement and attendance element, uniforms, and expanded end of season tournament play. SBPAL successfully ran the program through June of 2013.

In spring 2013, SBUSD informed SBPAL and the City that they were interested in administering the program, in order to return to the model that utilized certificated teachers and coaches with the goal of increasing student participation. Since teachers have the best chance of engaging student participation, the City accepted the proposal, and SBPAL redirected their energy and resources to other activities. On October 22, 2013, City Council approved the Junior High Afterschool Sports Program agreement with the SBUSD which included the City's \$20,000 funding commitment, which is budgeted in the FY 2015 Parks and Recreation Department General Fund budget.

2014-2015 Sports League Program

Santa Barbara Junior High School Principal Lito Garcia, serving as the SBUSD program administrator, will provide the Commission with a status report on the program following the transfer of the Junior High Sports League program to SBUSD in November 2013.

The first year with SBUSD at the helm resulted in 229 youth participants during the two sport league season. Conversely, during the current 2014-2015 school year, 853 youth participate in six sports; including, basketball, soccer, volleyball, and flag football. This significant increase almost mirrors participation numbers achieved during the 2004-2009 seasons when the program was operated by the Parks and Recreation Department.

The status report will include more details on the sport opportunities offered during the three-season league schedule, the number of youth served, and specific information about the structure and operation of the 2014-2015 Junior High Sports League program.

SUBMITTED BY: Rich Hanna, Recreation Manager

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