



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 24, 2017

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Golf Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Santa Barbara Golf Club and Santa Barbara Police Activities League Golf Programming

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive a presentation on the partnership between Santa Barbara Golf Club and Santa Barbara Police Activities League (SBPAL) offering local teens access to free golf instruction and an upcoming Golf Tournament.

DISCUSSION:

Santa Barbara Golf Club (Golf Club) is the City of Santa Barbara's only municipal golf course and provides recreational opportunities to residents and visitors of all ages and golfing abilities. Central to its mission are instructional programs to introduce new golfers to the game, and enhance the skills of existing players. Growing the game of golf by providing an inclusive, friendly environment is key to the long term success of the Golf Club.

Since 2015, the Golf Club and SBPAL have provided free golf instruction to participants in the SBPAL program. The program provides a fun and enjoyable golf experience which focuses on the fundamentals of golf, etiquette and teamwork. It also allows participants to experience a structured and supportive environment in order to enhance their physical abilities, knowledge and techniques. Classes have been provided by Head Professional, Sydney Wasem and Coach Larry Buker. Technical aspects are introduced, along with life lessons learned, such as respect, honesty, perseverance, and sportsmanship.

Sessions run for between eight and ten weeks, depending on the season, with a SBPAL Officer transporting and accompanying a group of between 7 and 17 teenagers once a week for one hour group instruction at the driving range. Following completion of the instructional classes, the group play a 9-hole scramble round of golf partnering with a Police Officer, Community Member, Board Member and sometimes the Chief of Police. Dinner is provided at Mulligan's Bar and Café and prizes are awarded after each tournament.

Forty-seven teens have completed the program over the last two years. The results of this program are measured by smiles, laughter, friendships, and personal development that will help them be an active and successful community resident. One graduate of the program had never participated in any sport prior to the program, and following completion of the program, has the confidence to try out for a spot on her High School Golf Team.

In order to continue to provide this and other similar programs, SBPAL will be hosting their first annual SBPAL Golf Tournament, presented by Tri-County Produce, at the Santa Barbara Golf Club on Friday, June 2, 2017. All proceeds will provide funding for golf and other programming for teens in the community. The event offers opportunities for the local business community to show their support by providing donations and sponsorships that will showcase their support for recreational opportunities for Santa Barbara teens. Further information is available at www.SantaBarbaraPAL.org.

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