



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 18, 2014

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Joint Use Field Scheduling And Monitoring Agreement

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to enter into an agreement with the Santa Barbara Unified School District (SBUSD) for Field Scheduling and Monitoring.

DISCUSSION:

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

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, the District assumes management of Santa Barbara and La Colina Junior High fields as well. 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 have formed a joint committee to develop and recommend a program and transition plan. The committee includes representation from each agency and/or user groups as follows: Parks and Recreation Department (2), SBUSD (2), youth user groups (2), and adult user groups (1). The committee began meeting in fall 2013 in order to recommend a plan to administration by May 1, 2014, for implementation on 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 \$5,000 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.

SUMMARY:

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends that the City continue support of the Field Scheduling and Monitoring Agreement. The Fiscal Year 2014 agreement was approved at the October 22, 2013, SBUSD Board of Education meeting. The agreement is for one year ending June 30, 2014.

PREPARED BY: Sarah Hanna, Recreation Programs Manager

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

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office