

**Advisory Committee on Joint Use of Recreational Property
MINUTES**

Ludwick Community Center, Assembly Room

864 Santa Rosa Street

Tuesday, May 22, 2007 12:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Cochran called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Chair Nancy Cochran, Vice Chair Terry Conner; Committee Members Colin Jones and Lisa Monreal

ABSENT: Rick May

STAFF: City of San Luis Obispo: Linda Fitzgerald, Recreation Manager; James Bremer, Facilities Supervisor and Marti Reynolds, Supervising Admin Asst.

1. Oath of Office – Hooper

City Clerk's Office representative Elaina Cano administered the Oath of Office to new Commissioner Lisa Monreal.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Consideration of Minutes

MOTION: (Conner/Jones) Approve the April 24, 2007, minutes as written.

Approved 4 yes: 0 no: 1 absent (May)

4. SLOYSA Presentation

San Luis Obispo Youth Sports Association (SLOYSA) President Jim Neville provided the commissioners with a brief history of the SLOYSA and its formulation as a composite of other user groups as a means to meet a wide variety of needs. SLOYSA is composed of the AYSO, Cal Ripken, Youth Rugby, Girl's Softball, Babe Ruth Baseball, and other youth sports organizations.

Mr. Neville also explained the development of Damon Garcia from conclusion there were more needs for a multi-use facility than could be met. The Parks and Recreation Commission then approved development of Damon Garcia for turf sports. In turn, SLOYSA, because of their non-profit status, assisted with user fees matched by the City. When the City funded \$20,000 in matching youth group fees, it eliminated the need to charge use fees. \$30,000 was put back into youth sports facilities like Sinsheimer, Taylor and C.L. Smith fields.

Jeff Whitener of SLOYSA then continued with more history on YSA partnering with youth groups. Rather than funds going into the general school district fund, the existence of bad fields prompted funding to go to YSA to facilitate the user groups. The JUC approached Council informing them that if this program didn't exist, fees would go up \$5-10 per player as well as experiencing a big difference in fields. At that time YSA was 5-7 members, then invited ex-officio groups such as the School District, Cal Poly University, Cuesta College and the City to participate. The executive board is: Jim Neville, Jeff Whitener, Ann Slate, Bill Harvey, and Betsy Kiser (ex-officio).

Jim Neville informed the Commissioners of the new projects for this year, including drainage of the lower fields at Laguna Junior High and perhaps utilizing a French drain system which can be added over time without closing the fields. New projects also include the refurbishing of Pacific Beach softball field which has considerable gopher damage and an infield size that isn't suited for young softball players.

Vice Chair Conner noted the difficult parking situation at Pacific Beach and has witnessed the impacts to the neighborhood when field users must park on the street. Conner suggested use of the Community School lot may be allowed if not fenced, and inquired about the SLOYSA approaching the County School Superintendent on that matter. Mr. Neville stated the YSA routinely discusses high usage of resources during monthly meetings and compares cost benefits with impact to community groups.

The Commissioners were also reminded of CIP projects going before Council at the upcoming meeting including artificial turf and parkland development/park in lieu fees. The Tumbling Waters Development on Orcutt was noted to potentially generate \$686,000 for park land development and some of the funds can be used to offset project costs, such as the therapy pool. However, the project will only bring in \$30,000 per year as long as it remains infill only.

In certain circumstances the SLOYSA can provide non-profit assistance (Cal Ripken and Sinsheimer for example are joint use areas the latter of which received donated funds for equipment a scoreboard, back board and uniforms). There is also speculation that community attitudes toward contributing funds may shift and improve over the next five years. Betsy noted Cal Ripken assisted with funding the repair of the Silveira Field water issues.

5. Upgrades to Stadium Public Address System

Facilities Supervisor Bremer spoke to the commissioners on upgrades to the PA system at Sinsheimer. In existence previously were two large speakers that were extremely loud and carried over vast distances with the wind, audible as far as Tank Farm and Meadow Park in the opposite direction. It was decided to replace the speakers with smaller ones pointed at specific locations. Conduit will run to these 8" speakers which will be placed on every 2-3 panels of the back fence and directed at the stands which will prove more functional for both the stadium and neighborhood. Recreation Manager Fitzgerald noted the lowest bid was \$8,800.00 for this system and that, although there is \$10,256.25 remaining in funding to spend this year, \$9000.00 would actually be adequate and adjusted motion as such. The Contractor is inspired to move ahead on the project with

installation being sometime during the season but not before the SLO Blues start this coming Memorial Day Weekend.

MOTION: (Conner/Jones) Approve the purchase of new speakers to be installed on the backstop fence at the San Luis Obispo Baseball Stadium at a cost of \$9,000 to be taken from the Facility Improvement Grant funds.

Approved 4 yes: 0 no: 1 absent (May)

6. Status Report on Stadium Use

Facilities Supervisor Bremer gave the monthly status report on the Sinsheimer Stadium use. A schedule has been finalized for this season's use of the San Luis Obispo Baseball Stadium, after a final meeting between the City, the SLO Blues and the SLO Rattlers on May 3 led to contract agreement.

Communication has been positive and a permit has been issued to all user groups. The agreement will soon be signed by the Rattlers after some clearing up minor issues with signage. As a proactive measure, Supervisor Bremer will meet with the SLO Blues tomorrow to go over all schedule dates and their intentions involving special event nights. The opening home game for the SLO Blues is Sunday May 27th. Although the SLO Rattlers open this weekend at Cuesta College & Paso Robles, their first SLO Baseball Stadium use is the following week (June). There are still some schedule changes: Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken recently was awarded another tournament bid which affected other games.

Chair Cochran inquired about the utilization of City staff in conjunction with SLO Blues staff. Supervisor Bremer informed Commissioners that we only use staff for the men's semi-professional teams and that communication between staff will take place during a walk-through of the stadium (during soda machine servicing). Recreation Manager Fitzgerald stated the City will be evaluating the season this year as preparation for 2008 by August 2007. Commissioner May had previously stated he would like to be involved along with another member of the Commission for which Commissioner Jones then volunteered. Recreation Manager Fitzgerald also reminded Commissioners that in June the subjects of the Swim Center, Tennis Courts and Stockton Field will be addressed and that, if there is not enough time to approve those priorities in June, they will be added to the August agenda to continue on to the PRC in September and Council in October.

7. Staff Reports

Recreation Manager Fitzgerald stated Director Kiser has no changes to the Joint Use Committee Agreement and is sending the bill to the School District for ranger services.

8. Additional Items

Commissioner Jones asked about future issues for Stockton Field and its conversion to baseball use requesting we discuss next month 1) any possible softball to be played and/or b) places for future softball fields in San Luis Obispo. Commissioner Jones would also like to discuss possible softball usage when the field is not being used for baseball.

Recreation Manager Fitzgerald mentioned discussion with Lee Hollister and agreed to add the item to next month's agenda, at which time there can also be discussion of other issues that would be involved such as second sets of bases, differing sizes and markings, etc.

Vice Chair Conner also brought up the subject of new innovations in lighting and possibilities for Meadow Park.

ADJOURNED

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. to the June 26, 2007 meeting at 12:00 noon, Ludwick Community Center.