

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

Ludwick Community Center, Assembly Room

864 Santa Rosa Street

Tuesday, June 26, 2007 12:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Cochran called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Chair Nancy Cochran

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

In the absence of Chair Cochran, Vice Chair Conner called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

1. Public Comment

Dave Hite from the Rattlers and John Littlehoff, a Cal Poly associate, introduced themselves to the Commission. Mr. Littlehoff spoke of his work with the Rattlers as being a fulfilling experience.

2. Consideration of Minutes

MOTION: (Jones/Monreal) Approve the May 22, 2007, minutes as written.

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

3. Approval of Priorities for Use of Sinsheimer Park Facilities

Recreation Manager Fitzgerald presented the Commission with the staff recommendations for the Priorities for Use of the Tennis Courts, Stockton Field and Swim Center at Sinsheimer Park to be extended to August 1, 2008. Baseball Stadium priorities will be addressed at the August 28, 2007 meeting.

Commissioner Jones discussed public ball fields with Recreation Manager Fitzgerald. Commissioner May questioned tennis court users groups needs which Facilities Manager Bremer explained he contacted recently and received nothing but positive feedback.

MOTION: (May/Jones) Approve the staff recommendations for the Priorities for Use of the Tennis Courts, Stockton Field and Swim Center, located in Sinsheimer Park, to be extended to August 1, 2008. Reference to the softball field to be removed under Stockton Field Priorities and the therapy pool will be listed separately with its own set of priorities.

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

4. Discussion regarding Stockton Field Use

Recreation Manager Fitzgerald introduced Rich Ogden and initiated an open discussion with the Commissioners and staff regarding potential uses for Stockton Field.

Commissioner Jones commented that, based on the adult softball schedules, more games at Stockton than El Chorro field would be preferred and later inquired as to the number of days Stockton field is actually unavailable for use. Bremer informed the field is closed for maintenance from November to February.

Commissioner Conner stated he feels the field will be appropriate for all types of uses with the installation of synthetic turf and the incorporation of portable mounds and base pegs. Discussion also followed regarding better drainage with little mud problem.

Facilities Supervisor Bremer stated that we as a community suffer from impacted sports; in other words, what were once seasonal sports such as baseball, softball and rugby, are now played year-round. With the facility at Cal Poly unavailable, we are down three fields in the area. The City has had to turn down needs of youth organizations at Damon Garcia due to impacts on the field.

Recreation Manager Fitzgerald mentioned a poll of taken by the SLOYSA on youth sports in the last few months regarding the facility needs for softball, baseball, youth football and all soccer groups except one. All in all it seems their needs are being met. Looking at future growth with enrollment in school districts rising in the next 3-5 years could point to conversion of more existing facilities with synthetic turf to broaden accommodations. Fitzgerald explained the presentation of synthetic turf at Stockton was made to Council as part of the CIP at almost \$1 million; the expense drew the negative vote. This Thursday, Director Kiser, Recreation Manager Fitzgerald and Recreation Supervisor Ogden will travel to Monterey to view two schools with new synthetic turf fields. The study session with the Council this fall will go over cost benefits of synthetic turf over natural turf. This may then become part of the mid-year capital improvement request for which acceptance will be more greatly received if more youth sports organizations attend to support.

Commissioner Conner inquired if it would be more advantageous to look at those fields that have had synthetic turf installed for at least three to five years already. Fitzgerald mentioned seeing a field that was ten years old in good shape, although eventually the fibers do breakdown. Also discussed was the possibility that Camp San Luis may be installing synthetic turf on their parade grounds which may be an opportunity for a joint use situation. The Parade grounds could hold approximately three rugby or soccer fields.

More discussion followed on costs with savings over the years in maintenance and water balancing out initial expenditure, however recycling of old synthetic materials is also to be considered. Fitzgerald mentioned the possibility of Laurel Creeks and other new developments providing some funding as well applying for certain grants. As we near

the study session time there will be more information and perhaps field trips available for the Commissioners.

5. Status Report on Stadium Use

Facilities Supervisor Bremer gave the monthly status report on the SLO Baseball Stadium use. Bremer stated that upon entering the 5th week of use by Babe Ruth and semi-professional men's baseball, the facility is getting "hammered." Also still working through logistical issues such as ground squirrels and gopher holes. Currently staff regularly fill the holes located behind the bleachers by carrying a bucket of dirt around before the games, however; they open up again by the end of the evening. It is hoped that Parks Maintenance will help remedy the situation with anticipation of the "Rodenator" device.

User group issues are being addressed as they come up. Per the mediation agreement, we will meet again mid-season as a double check. Bremer stated that in each day there is some issue with the stadium that transpires.

Commissioner Conner inquired about field wear issues for which Bremer informed of an in-depth assessment of multi-use stadiums for issues such as this. Also discussed was blocking out more time for maintenance with games starting earlier and ending later, both in the day and in the season. It was also noted that other contingencies are affected by dramatic changes at the facility and the community to be informed of such things as lighting, sound, fireworks, and parking. July 5th for example will be examined as a big multi-use day. Suggested stadium users may consider getting together regarding the synthetic turf situation and consider contributing funds based on revenues and fund raisers.

6. Staff Reports

Recreation Manager Fitzgerald had no other information to report at this time.

Commissioner Conner questioned various topics such as CIP project information and status, Islay tennis court lighting in the plan for the future, and Senior Center renovation information with potential for Cal Poly assistance as a student project. (Currently there is an ongoing project students are working on at Sinsheimer Park.) Fitzgerald explained the need for a new study which would include things the old study never had such as location and a new community center. Conner suggested that staff would need to be very involved with project work done by this student team.

7. Additional Items

Recreation Manager Fitzgerald reminded Commissioners to RSVP for the Park Tour. Fitzgerald also noted to leave more time available, perhaps an extra half hour or so, for the next formal meeting of the Joint Use Committee on August 28.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m. to the July 11, 2007 Park Tour at 1:00 p.m.,
Ludwick Community Center.