



Meeting Date: 09 / 23 / 08

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent
<input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Prepared By: Cyndi Hookstra, Management Analyst III *CH* Agenda Item No. T-2

Reviewed By: City Manager *JHM* City Attorney *J* Finance *JEC* Director of Public Works

DATE: September 16, 2008

TO: City Council

FROM: Michael Henderson, General Services Superintendent
City Manager's Office

Cyndi Hookstra

SUBJECT: Submission of Grant Application for Sports Park Project Funding

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and submit a grant application to the Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Foundation for capital construction funding for the Sports Park located at the southwest corner of Gonzales Road and Oxnard Boulevard.

DISCUSSION

Staff is recommending the submission of grant application for the capital construction funding of the Sports Park from the Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Foundation. The Sports Park is located at the southeast corner of Oxnard Boulevard and Gonzales Road in Oxnard and encompasses 21.43 acres of undeveloped parkland. The City acquired the land in March of 2006 with the intention to develop a sports park.

The proposed project is to develop a soccer, baseball and softball field complex to meet the needs of the growing youth population for these popular sports. This sports complex will help the City to meet the demand for additional sports fields and will serve the growing youth population in Oxnard with positive recreational opportunities. During the 2003 City Visioning Process, two of the top community concerns were increasing the parkland to population ratio to provide more parks and recreation facilities for the growing community and meeting the recreational needs for youth activities K-12, sports fields, new and improved parks. Approximately 40 per cent of the City's population is under 24 years of age. Youth field sports such as soccer, baseball, softball and football remain the most popular activities in Oxnard. There are approximately 8,500 youth in organized field sports citywide.

The five (5) proposed lighted fields for the Sports Park would help address the demand for sports fields in the city and allow for expanded youth participation. Based on existing field use in the City, it is anticipated the primary emphasis for these fields would be soccer with the availability for other field sports programming during the non-soccer season. With five fields, another possibility would be a shared use schedule for the various field sports. The fields are adjacent to Pacifica High School and

would provide an opportunity for a joint use agreement with the school, thus expanding the Sports Park's potential benefits.

The growth in the city population particularly the youth population increases the demand for recreation opportunities for youth and their families. The project responds to City Council's commitment to providing positive activities for our youth, to community priorities detailed in a recent community survey and the 2003 City Visioning Process. It will foster the development of new youth field sports opportunities by:

- Developing lighted sports fields for youth (K-12) activities in the Sports Park to reduce field deficiencies and increase capacity for field sports.
- Providing easily accessible and no cost or low cost recreation activity for the youth population.
- Addressing health risks of obesity and inactivity through new opportunities for physical activity that encourages healthy growth.
- Offering a positive recreation alternative for youth as a crime prevention measure.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost for constructing the sports park is \$5,550,000. Capital investment from the Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Foundation in the range of \$1,000,000 to \$2,500,000 would jump start the construction of the sports park project. The City plans to fund the remaining construction balance through future municipal financing options and public/private community fundraising events.

Annual sports park maintenance is estimated to be \$440,000 a year. It is anticipated this cost will be offset by field user fees and financial assistance from the youth sports clubs in the City.

MH/cli