



TO: Chair and Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Jaime Valdez, Interim Neighborhood Services and Public Safety Director

CONTACT: JoAnne Plummer, Parks and Recreation Manager

SUBJECT: Consideration of a Reservation Process for City-Owned Multi-Purpose Fields

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider a recommendation for a Reservation Process for City-Owned Multi-Purpose Fields.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Goleta has sixteen parks with a wide array of recreation amenities including, but not limited to, playgrounds, picnic areas, athletic fields, disc golf course, tennis courts, etc. The only spaces currently available for reservation are the three group picnic areas at Stow Grove Park. In 2019, the Parks and Recreation Commission considered a recommendation to create a reservation process for recreation amenities within City parks. The Commission's desires at that time were to remain status quo with all amenities—outside of the rentable picnic shelters—to be available to the public as first come, first serve.

City parks are experiencing an increase in use as a result of the impacts from the current COVID-19 Pandemic. Additionally, there are many businesses and organizations that are, or would like to, move their programs outdoors to provide services and comply with the Public Health Officer Order regulations. The City of Goleta does not have a process that would allow individuals, businesses or organizations to rent or even reserve a space for this type of use.

DISCUSSION:

The City's adopted Recreation Needs Assessment identified a lack of available athletic fields for use by youth sports organizations. Current open athletic field space available in City parks need turf improvements and are listed in the City's adopted Capital


Improvement project list. The addition of Jonny D. Wallis Neighborhood Park, along with the planned improvements at other City facilities creates an opportunity for youth sports organizations to utilize these spaces for practices, games, etc. Additionally, the availability of these new and renovated facilities creates opportunities for other activities to include classes, clinics, commercial recreation, etc., based on customer demand. The newly renovated field at the Goleta Valley Community Center is available for rental and/or reservation through the facility rental process at the Community Center.

As the Commission evaluates the use of the athletic fields, it is appropriate to consider a reservation for sports courts and other possible amenities. Again, these spaces could be used for practices, classes, clinics, commercial recreation, etc., based on demand. Currently there is not an approved process for individuals, organizations or businesses to provide this type of service on City-owned recreation facilities. It has been reported in the past that individuals have accessed City-owned tennis courts to conduct business, holding private tennis lessons. As the pandemic continues, reports have been received that this type of use is expanding. In Title 12, Chapter 12.15.150 of the Goleta Municipal Code, it clearly states, "*No person shall offer, conduct or deliver lessons, services or amusements within any recreation area except by concession agreement or authorization*". The development of a concession agreement may include a competitive bid or request for proposal process, resulting in a contract.

As with the reservation of the picnic shelters, creating a reservation process for any recreation amenity would offer opportunities for events and programs, providing those who reserve the space the guarantee that it is available for their use. In addition, having a reservation process in place does provide the City of Goleta with the knowledge of the use by organized groups. This information is used to respond to resident concerns and is utilized to identify future needs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Adding reservation opportunities for recreation amenities could provide an additional revenue stream for the City but would require additional staff time. At this time, there are insufficient resources that could be dedicated to this type of process or to the enforcement of reservation regulations. Determinations for additional resources will require additional review and analysis.



Jaime Valdez
Interim Neighborhood Services
and Public Safety Director