

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JOINT USE OF RECREATIONAL PROPERTY

November 4, 2008 Minutes

PRESENT: Chair Michael Parolini, Vice Chair Colin Jones, Committee Members Rick May, Terry Conner, Nancy Cochran

STAFF: Recreation Manager Linda Fitzgerald, Recreation Supervisor James Bremer

Meeting was called to order at 12:05pm by Chair Parolini

Public Comment Period

John Altman, no address given, asked the JUC what is being done to save water at the Swim Center shower areas. He has noted that there is nothing in place to control the water flow and he has seen the showers left on with no one in the shower room. He asked if some type of spring-loaded mechanism could be in place to control the water flow. Chair Parolini asked staff to investigate the situation and report back to the JUC.

September 23, 2008 Minutes

MOTION: (May, Cochran) Approve the September 23, 2008 JUC minutes as written, approved 5-0.

Tennis Report

Recreation Manager Fitzgerald presented the staff report on results of the September 24 meeting with tennis players and residents. The meeting was set up as a result of the petition received by the JUC regarding lighting the Sinsheimer Park Tennis Courts.

Vice Chair Jones made a statement that although he signed the petition, he could be objective about the issue.

Chair Parolini opened the public comment period.

Tony Skapinsky, 2456 Gerda, SLO: Lives near courts and would like to see the tennis courts with lights. Sees that increased park activity would help resolve problems with skateboarders and other issues. Says the courts are well-used. He recognizes that the neighbors could be affected and respects their position.

Scott Cleere, 1804 Viewmont, SLO: Suggests rebuilding and relighting the high school courts. He had looked at the Avila Bay Club's court lights and indicated that their lights shine down on the courts and very low spillage 15 feet away from the courts. He feels that lighting tennis courts would improve the quality of life for the community.

Paul Neel, 2553 Santa Clara, SLO: Lives behind the tennis courts. Says the park project came in before CEQA was in existence. Baseball stadium lights were in place first and the lights from the facility intruded into his living room; trees were planted to mitigate the spillage from the lights. He is not opposed to tennis. Says that the courts were not in the original park master plan. If lights were to be in place, there would be inadequate parking in the evenings with the neighborhood affected by the additional traffic; suggested that additional parking may have to be placed in the park. He agrees that there is an unmet need but does not wish to see it met at the discomfort of the neighborhood.

Peter Meertens, 2541 Santa Clara, SLO: Lives behind the tennis courts, handed out letter to JUC. Has seen increased traffic in the evenings due to baseball stadium spectators seeking out parking in the neighborhood. Noise from the tennis courts travel into the neighborhood. He says there is a need for more tennis courts but should be somewhere else. The high school courts need to be improved. Asked for an investigation on the appropriateness of a committee member who signed the petition to vote on the matter.

John Altman, no address given: Has concern about the budget for the tennis projects, says the costs are astronomical. Would like to see an EIR done for the lights. Feels it is better to upgrade the high school courts as it is not worth improving the Sinsheimer courts.

Chair Parolini closed the public comment period.

Vice Chair Jones indicated that the high school courts sidelines are too close together, no benches are in place and are not as clean as Sinsheimer. Improvements would need to be made to the courts if lights were placed at the high school. Also stated that Cal Poly's courts are underutilized by the community.

Committee Member Cochran stated that should be more neighborhood outreach.

Committee Member May requested that some sort of tennis project be proposed in the upcoming CIP process. He said that lighted tennis courts should be constructed somewhere in the community. He also indicated that the high school courts are used as much as possible.

Committee Member Conner would like the JUC to consider items #1 and 4 as options. He felt that Sinsheimer is not the best place to have tennis court lights.

Vice Chair Jones said that currently the high school court lights are not working effectively and the time change makes the high school the only place to play in the evenings.

Chair Parolini stated that he felt that improving the lights at the high school does not make the best sense.

Chair Parolini moved the discussion on to the next item.

Council Goal Setting

The committee continued their discussion from the previous meeting on their proposed goals for the upcoming financial plan process.

Committee Member Conner stated that the JUC should consider aligning themselves with other commissions' goals. He read some of the proposed PCC goals that were tourism-based and had a relationship with the JUC's scope of influence.

Chair Parolini supported a goal for bike paths and related events.

The following goals were proposed in rough form; staff would craft language and bring back to the JUC for final approval.

1. Maintain the funding to the San Luis Obispo Youth Sports Association at the current level of \$20,000 each year for field improvement (grants-in-aid) projects.
2. Support the design and construction of a community skate park in the City.
3. Support bicycle activities and construction of the Bob Jones bike trail extension.
4. Support a lighted tennis facility to enhance after-hours play.
5. Support recreational and competitive tourism-based events.
6. Resume implementation of the Sinsheimer Park Master Plan.

MOTION: (Conner, Jones) Approve the six stated goals, not in priority order and have staff get back to the committee on the final wording for the goals. Approved 5-0.

November/December Meeting

The JUC discussed possible meeting dates for their next meeting as the regular November date falls during Thanksgiving week and the December date falls the week of Christmas.

MOTION: (May, Cochran) Schedule the November meeting for Tuesday, December 2 at the regular meeting time and cancel the regular meeting for December. Approved 5-0.

Staff Reports

Recreation Supervisor Bremer gave a brief report on the Baseball Stadium. He indicated that payment by the SLO Blues has not been received.

Additional Items

Committee Member Conner requested that an item be placed on the next agenda on whether the JUC should become a subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Commission. He feels there is a duplication of acts taken by the JUC and PRC. He stated that the PCC has two subcommittees which oversee various activities.

Recreation Manager Fitzgerald stated that the Council reviews all of the advisory body structures every five years and the most recent review occurred in 2007. She had submitted Committee Member Conner's inquiry with the City Clerk, who had suggested that perhaps this request be served closer to the next review in 2012. She also stated that the JUC was originated as a request by the School Board to have citizen input on issues related to the use of Sinsheimer Park and other joint use sites.

Subsequent discussion by the JUC resulted in a request to staff to prepare a report on the item and bring it forward to the December 2 meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:42pm to the rescheduled regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 2, 12:00 noon, location to be announced.