

**Advisory Committee on Shared Use of Recreational Facilities**

**MINUTES**

City/County Library

995 Palm Street

Tuesday, November 1, 2011 12:00 p.m.

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Jesse Bilsten called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Committee Members Jesse Bilsten, David Robbins, Michael Parolini and Jeff Whitener

**ABSENT:**

**COUNCIL:**

**STAFF:** City of San Luis Obispo: James Bremer, Recreation Supervisor; Marti Reynolds, Supervising Administrative Assistant; Arnie Silacci, SLCUSD Building & Grounds Supervisor

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**1. Public Comment (items not on the agenda)**

None.

**2. Consideration of Minutes**

*MOTION: (Whitener/Davis) Approve the October 18, 2011 minutes as submitted.*

*Approved – 4 Yes: 0 No: 0 Absent*

**3. Recommendation to the Advisory Committee on Shared Use of Recreational Facilities from Committee Member Parolini**

Chair Bilsten asked Committee Member Parolini to give a synopsis of his recommendation.

Committee Member Parolini stated his recommendation is that Council approve choosing only one team use stadium in addition to historical user groups.

Bremer advised and Chair Bilsten clarified the Committee can choose to take action or agendize for future action.

*MOTION: (Bilsten) Approve recommendation to put forth to Council that, at the conclusion of the current contract agreements with the Rattlers Baseball Development Group, Inc. and the San Luis Obispo Baseball Alliance, LLC, only one collegiate team be sanctioned at the facility.*

*Motion Failed for Lack of a Second.*

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Committee Member Whitener asked for discussion regarding the support of two semi-professional rather than collegiate teams and potential difference for traditional users.

Chair Bilsten clarified no semi-professional priority given. Priority for collegiate is what has impacted stadium use.

Committee Member Parolini discussed difficulty defining collegiate and asked for better wording.

Bremer offered terminology under current to be 'non-profit/collegiate' which was changed by the Committee from the term 'semi-professional' last year.

Chair Bilsten asked Dan Ainsworth for his group's title which he clarified as a 'recreational adult league.'

Committee Member Whitener asked to change the words to "do not believe facility can support two non-recreational collegiate teams during June 1 through July 31" which was supported by Committee Member Parolini. Therefore, will amend the first and last paragraphs to state "only one non-recreational team."

***MOTION:*** (Whitener/Bilsten) *Accept recommendation to City Council that facility cannot support two non-recreational collegiate teams during June 1 through July 31.*

*Approved – 4 Yes: 0 No: 0 Absent*

#### **4. Continued Discussion on the Priorities of Use for Sinsheimer Park Baseball Stadium**

**Action: Consider input from the Ad Hoc Committee, users and staff and adopt the Priorities for Use of Sinsheimer Park Baseball Stadium**

**Chair Bilsten opened for Public Comment.**

**Jeff Hollister, San Luis Obispo**, passed a letter to each Committee Member regarding Sinsheimer Stadium priority usage. As a past president and member of the Babe Ruth League board for eight years, he has been part of numerous schedule changes to assist the SLO Blues and SLO Rattlers needs. Babe Ruth has had priority over every user with the exception of the school district. Feels the stadium was built for the youth in the community and urged the Committee to allow Babe Ruth to retain priority use.

**Dan Sutton, San Luis Obispo**, has been involved with Babe Ruth for 12 years and is also a past president. Oversees Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken and sits on the State board—representing youth of community. Feels stadium schedule worked in past albeit with compromises on both sides. Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken don't know the numbers that will be needed until later on. Feels use of the stadium by youth is crucial for the community.

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Feels when youth can watch the SLO Blues and SLO Rattlers play in the stadium, they feel pride in being able to say they will also play there themselves. Feels it is crucial to maintain the current priorities for use.

**Tom Maino, San Luis Obispo**, President of Maino Construction which is celebrating 130 years in business. Is an active participant in community and youth programs. Stated almost all contractors in the community were involved in some way in the original construction of Sinsheimer Park which was built for the benefit of the community by contributions of local contractors. Urged Committee members to maintain priority for use as it currently stands and maximize usage.

**Chair Bilsten closed the Public Comment period.**

Chair Bilsten read the action and Committee members confirmed changes from the last meeting with Recreation Supervisor Bremer. Committee Member Whitener clarified it as a set of rules for deciding priority of use in the instance of user groups inability to make schedules work amongst themselves.

Chair Bilsten asked for cooperation from the audience after a brief interruption.

Committee members asked Committee Member Parolini for assistance in interpreting his letter of findings. Committee Member Parolini discussed the letter including a clearer definition of non-collegiate, a change on 2<sup>nd</sup> page section “permit allocation and field scheduling meeting.” Explained it still gives priority to SLOCUSD and youth June 1 – July 31 and doesn’t mean can only request 60 days or that it can’t be increased over the years. All other dates are the same. Can still accommodate user if a tournament and extra time are needed.

Chair Bilsten clarified ‘reserved’ statement regarding tournaments in the 4<sup>th</sup> section and that otherwise priorities remain the same. ‘Other’ groups are segmented by date and therefore youth baseball not being penalized.

Committee Member Parolini reminded the group the proposal still needs to go to the School Board and Council.

At Committee Member Parolini’s request, Recreation Supervisor Bremer reviewed the scheduling system seven years back to its conception. The only change was the introduction of the SLO Rattlers. In 2004, Men’s Baseball had 14 uses in June and July while two years ago they had none. There was discussion about exclusive use by ‘non-recreational’ leagues.

Recreation Supervisor Bremer clarified for Chair Bilsten the definition of ‘non-professional/collegiate’ as being teams comprised of non-recreational college-eligible players.

Committee Member Robbins confirmed with audience member Dan Ainsworth that Men’s Baseball does not meet that criteria so is not affected.

Committee Member Whitener discussed last line of statement that “any field requested after November 15” should be changed to “will be treated under normal priority use.”

Recreation Supervisor Bremer explained that the 1<sup>st</sup> person gets the 1<sup>st</sup> choice regardless of priority by November 15, then all are accepted that meet the criteria. After that time it is 1<sup>st</sup> come-1<sup>st</sup> serve. If request after that time, all same requests for a date remain; go to priorities for use to settle.

Committee Member Whitener asked to cement the November 15 date and statement “any field requests received after November 15 for any remaining open *timeslots* will be treated...” (under priorities for use).

Discussion continued over June-July timeslots and Recreation Supervisor Bremer read use averages to Committee members.

Chair Bilsten asked audience member Jeff Hollister to give a historical synopsis.

**Jeff Hollister** thought numbers represented prep league which moved to Stockton Field for prep season: with no prep league the last few years they go straight to stadium.

Chair Bilsten confirmed June 1 – July 31 time period as the biggest impact: two uses per weekend (multiple games). Babe Ruth most recently totaled an average (over seven years of records) of 17 uses during that time period.

Committee members went into further discussion regarding intent for everyone to have a chance and usage of the word maximum in last sentence: Bullet 2 should read “once reserved or protected.”

Committee Member Whitener stated each user group shall be allowed to reserve one maximum and work with other groups to schedule more.

Committee Member Parolini stated since this is inferred so sentence should be left alone.

Chair Bilsten requested add sentence “intent is to allow one reserved tournament date.” Committee members agreed.

Committee Member Parolini asked for comments on definition. Committee Member Robbins suggested adding the word ‘intent’ to clarify. Thus “*the intent is not to limit any of these leagues to one tournament only.*”

**MOTION:** (Parolini/Bilsten) *Accept definition as stated by Whitener [“Any field request received after November 15 for any remaining open timeslots will be treated”.....] and keep priorities the same as are. Accept priorities in this manner and recommend to City Council.*

*Approved – 4 Yes: 0 No: 0 Absent*

Recreation Supervisor Bremer confirmed with Committee members that, as the priorities were approved in May and never changed, they would not be resubmitted to the Committee but rather to SLOCUSD then the City Council.

Committee Member Parolini addressed the users in the audience that, although this is not a rule yet, it would be good to come to an agreement in the meantime--to move forward and coordinate groups with staff.

Recreation Supervisor Bremer stated will have regularly scheduled field allocation meeting by November 15.

## **5. November/December Meeting**

Recreation Supervisor Bremer gave background on typical meeting needs of the past during the November/December time period with has recommendation to cancel one of the upcoming meetings. Group discussed sending the Committee members' goal setting information now for review in order for them to be prepared at January's meeting and to finalize in February.

**MOTION:** (*Whitener/Parolini*) Recommend that the regular SURF meetings scheduled for November 22 and December 27 be canceled and a regular meeting be scheduled for January 24, 2012.

*Approved -4 Yes: 0 No: 0 Absent*

## **6. Staff Reports**

Recreation Supervisor Bremer shared an email from tennis user Meg Taylor who thanked the Committee for listening to the women's groups' concerns at the last meeting. Bremer also reminded members of the Advisory Body Workshop being offered by the Clerk's Office next Tuesday, November 8.

## **7. Additional Items**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. to the next meeting on January 24, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. at the Ludwick Community Center.