



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: JULY 17, 2007

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PAULARINO PARK

DATE: JUNE 20, 2007

FROM: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT/RECREATION DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: JANA RANSOM, RECREATION MANAGER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: JANA RANSOM AT 714-754-5654

RECOMMENDATION:

City Council accept, modify or reject the Parks and Recreation Commission recommendations regarding designation of Paularino Park for passive use and/or installation of landscape and signage elements.

BACKGROUND:

At the October 18, 2005 regular meeting, City Council referred issues of Paularino Park usage to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review and action. At the May 23, 2007 regular meeting the Parks and Recreation Commission received public input and staff's report on park use (Attachment 1) and is recommending that Council take several actions relative to Paularino Park in an effort to eliminate the neighborhood concerns of "active sports play" occurring in the park.

ANALYSIS:

A community meeting was held at Paularino School on May 2, 2007 to gather public input on park use, specifically Paularino Park. Approximately 45 people attended the meeting. Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission facilitated the meeting and were available to respond to comments and concerns. Based on the input received at that meeting, staff presented the recommendations to the Commission at the regular meeting of May 23 for discussion and action.

The Commission received the staff presentation and public input. The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes are attached for review (Attachment 2). Commissioners questioned staff on the definitions of active and passive parks, and neighborhood and community parks. There was discussion regarding how to modify park rules to allow for families to recreate in the park, yet control or eliminate organized sports activity. After questions of staff, comments from the public and discussion between Commissioners, the following recommendations to City Council were approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission on 5 – 0 votes:

1. That Council designate Paularino Park as a neighborhood park. The following definition was tendered: A neighborhood park is defined as small in size (typically less than five acres). Facilities are typically limited to a small open area, a children's playground, and a

bench or picnic table. Walking distance should not exceed one-quarter mile, and not require crossing of busy streets. Children's playground facilities, open (preferably grassy) play area, picnic tables or benches. The primary purpose of a neighborhood park is to offer a small open-space/recreational venue of a more passive or intimate nature, internal to a specific residential development(s), whether single-family or multiple-family. These parks are not intended to serve residents city-wide, as would a community park offering more formalized active play areas or sport fields or courts. Instead, due to their small size are intended to be more liberally sprinkled throughout the community and serve residents within or adjacent to a planned residential development. Shade is important, as well as easy visibility from residences or other uses across adjoining streets to assure a more secure environment. Parks should provide a strong emphasis on quiet, passive use, such as picnic and sitting areas, and should therefore be easily accessible by foot or bicycle. (Attachment 2 of the May 23, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda Report)

2. That Council designates Paularino Park for passive recreation, defined as: *Passive recreation as defined for the [park] includes "walking, hiking and other non-motorized outdoor recreational activities that do not materially alter the landscape, nor degrade environmental quality, nor involve commercial recreational use. No organized sports that require athletic fields such as soccer, baseball or other types of active recreational uses."*
3. That Council post Paularino Park with signs that read "Passive Park. No Adult vs. Adult soccer. CMMC 12-45a."
4. That Council direct City staff to place large boulders and plant additional trees in Paularino Park after consultation with the Mesa North Home Owners Association Board of Directors, and remove the shrubs along east boundary fence.
5. That Council direct staff to consult with the Mesa North Home Owners Association Board of Directors six (6) months after implementation of improvements to review what additional measures, if any, might need to be taken and provide a report back to the Commission.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

- Council may choose to approve some, but not all, of the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Council may choose none of the options and maintain the current use and status of the park
- Council may choose to designate the park as a type, i.e. neighborhood and/or passive, and not install landscape elements and/or signage.
- Council may choose to install landscape elements and/or signage, but not make any specific designation as passive and/or neighborhood

FISCAL REVIEW:

The following costs are estimated for implementation of the recommended actions:

- Posting of signage: \$500.
- Installation of boulders: \$2,000 to \$2,500 (exact cost is dependent on the number of boulders installed and their location).
- Installation of six to ten 15-gallon size trees: \$400 to \$600 (exact cost is dependent on the number of trees installed).
- Approximately sixty (60) to eighty (80) hours of staff time.

Sufficient funding is available for the above improvements in the existing Maintenance Services Division operations account, and in the Paularino Park Capital Improvement Project for replacement of the tot lot.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney recommends that any signage (Commission recommendation #3 noted above) at Paularino either prohibit soccer entirely or prohibit all adult soccer play, regardless of whether minors are involved in the game. While this may have the effect of prohibiting parents from playing with their children, it will be difficult to enforce a rule which allows adults to play under some circumstances but not under others. Limiting the playing of soccer to those under age 18 would be legally supportable, but merely prohibiting “adult vs adult” games may give rise to enforcement and legal issues.

CONCLUSION:

City Council referred the issue of Paularino Park use to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review and action. Staff met with the Mesa North Homeowners Association and held a community meeting to gather public input. Staff presented the report to Commission for consideration, and Commission has made specific recommendations to Council on Paularino Park. It is therefore recommended that City Council accept, modify or reject the Parks and Recreation Commission recommendations regarding designation of Paularino Park for passive use and/or installation of landscape and signage elements.

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ATTACHMENTS: 1 [May 23, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda Report: Paularino Park](#)
 2 [Excerpts from the Minutes of the May 23, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting](#)