



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: APRIL 21, 2009

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: 2008 FIELD USE AND ALLOCATION REPORT

DATE: APRIL 8, 2009

FROM: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT / RECREATION DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: JANA M. RANSOM, RECREATION MANAGER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: JANA M. RANSOM AT (714) 754-5654

RECOMMENDATION

Approve recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Commission with respect to changes to the Field Use and Allocation Policy (FUAP):

- 1) Limit use of Lindbergh School (on Saturdays to two Pee Wee games or one 11-on-11 person soccer game at any given time;
- 2) Designate Back Bay High School as available for adult use on Sundays in the event that the use threshold for sustainability decreases;
- 3) Designate Rea School as an open field for unregulated "pick up" soccer;
- 4) Allow youth sports groups to use their own or rented portable lights on eligible fields if the City has insufficient number of units to meet demand and if approved by the Newport Mesa Unified School District;
- 5) Assign rugby to the Spring sports grouping (versus Fall sports such as football and soccer);
- 6) Establish regulations for Group 1 Fundraising Events/Activities.

BACKGROUND

The Field Use and Allocation Policy (Attachment 1) is reviewed with youth sports user groups each Spring. Changes suggested are then brought to the Park and Recreation Commission for approval prior to being sent to City Council for ratification. The Park and Recreation Commission recommended several changes to the Field Use and Allocation Policy at their meeting of March 25, 2009. See the attached minutes (Attachment 2).

ANALYSIS

Items discussed:

1. Lindbergh School Field Use

Last year, AYSO Region 97 requested the use of Lindbergh School field for practices and Saturday games for their "Pee Wee" program. This program utilizes smaller fields and team sizes to make the game more conducive for 4-6 year olds to play.

Staff received several complaints from nearby residents who felt that the level of activity on Saturdays was excessive. Commission recommended that no more than two Pee Wee games or one 11-on-11 person game be played at any given time on this field; staff further recommends starting games no earlier than 9:00 a.m. on this site.

2. Adult Field Use of Back Bay High School

Staff received requests to add the Back Bay High School field to the inventory of fields available for adult use. Current usage during the week by Newport Harbor High School (NHHS) and AYSO Region 97 preclude any additional use of the field there for the near term, however, as NHHS moves back on to their own campus, more hours of use will be available. Commission recommended adding Back Bay High School to the inventory of sites available for adult use once NHHS field use de-escalates.

3. Rea School Fields

City's Field Ambassadors routinely "remove" adults from pick up play at several fields that are designated for youth only. The site where most are removed is Rea School. At times staff has required Park Ranger assistance in removing groups of 20 to 40 adults.

Commission recommended that Rea School fields, unless specifically permitted for youth practices, be set aside as "open fields", unregulated except to insure that "pirate" league games are not being played (no referees, whistles, flags, or linemen). This concept is similar to providing a skatepark for skateboarders to give them a "legal" place to skate: by providing an "open" field, Park Rangers can direct players at other sites to these fields to play. Staff has indicated that there is no record of any complaints received from residents regarding use of these fields; enforcement there has been based upon unpermitted play.

There may be some additional legal issues with this recommendation before it can be implemented in which event, this recommendation may not be implemented immediately.

4. Lighted Facilities

Portable lights are currently used at The Farm (four lights on Fields 5 and 6), Parsons School (six lights, one large field) and Fairview Developmental Center (four lights, two fields) for a total of fourteen portable light units (City's full inventory). An additional light tower was made available to Costa Mesa Pop Warner in the Fall from the Orange County Fairgrounds. Additional light towers can be purchased for approximately \$9,000 per unit. No City funding is available to purchase additional units. Funding may be available from other sources (such as the leagues).

Staff anticipates requests to use lights at additional facilities in the coming years; however, City has insufficient number of light units and personnel to increase the current number of sites. Currently, portable lights on Costa Mesa fields, City or School District owned, must be owned by the City and operated by City staff (insurance and our Agreement with the School District). School sites must be approved in advance by the School District before they can be considered by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Once the School District has given their consent, the request comes before the Parks and Recreation Commission as a public hearing so that resident concerns can be heard.

The Commission recommended that the restriction that portable lights be City owned and operated be removed and entertain requests to light additional fields if groups are willing to

pay costs for lights AND the School District agrees to allow groups to operate lights on their own. This would also presume that the School District gives consent for a site to have lights and that as a result of a public hearing approval has been given by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

5. Back Bay Youth Rugby

Back Bay Youth Rugby is the City's newest Group 1 user. The Rugby season is in the Spring. Currently, Rugby is not listed as having priority in either the Spring or the Fall allocation period. Commission recommended that Rugby be given priority during the Spring allocation period as it is considered a Spring sport.

6. Group 1 User Organizations Fundraising Activities

Group 1 organizations have held both tournaments and clinics to raise funds to offset costs for their participants. Commission recommended that Group 1 user organizations be allowed to reserve fields under their Council-granted fee waiver status to hold fee-based clinics/tournaments provided that:

- 1) Fees are paid to the organization or there is a statement on the registration form that 100% of the net proceeds will benefit the Group 1 user organization (a post-activity financial statement will be required and copy of payment to Group 1 organization);
- 2) Clinician/event organizer has insurance policy which covers the City (if using a City facility) or City and School District (if using a School facility) as additional insureds;
- 3) Usage request can be accommodated during youth priority hours or on non-adult allocated fields on Sundays.

7. Banners

Last year, a Group 3 user organization requested that they be allowed to post registration banners. As the restriction on banners was set by the Planning Commission, the Parks and Recreation Commission directed that the user group should approach the Planning Commission on its own to seek a change in the Code as opposed to this being a staff initiated action.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Council could consider any of the following in addition to or instead of the Parks and Recreation Commission recommendations:

- 1) Lindbergh School
 1. Allow use to be determined by Group 1 user organization with no limitations (as is currently the case).
 2. Do not allow Saturday games at this site at all.
 3. Allow games on a limited basis, for instance – noon to 4:00 p.m. only or every other Saturday.
- 2) Adult Use of Back Bay Fields
 1. Do not add Back Bay High School field to the inventory of adult use fields when it becomes available.
- 3) Rea School Open Field Concept
 1. Do not designate Rea School for use as an open play field.

2. Designate Rea School as an open play field only on certain days/times, for instance, Sundays only, 9:00 a.m. to dusk.
- 4) Portable Light Use
 1. Do not allow user groups to purchase or rent portable lights for use on fields where City does not have sufficient units available.
- 5) Back Bay Rugby
 1. None needed.
- 6) Banners
 1. Direct staff, instead of non-Group 1 user organizations, to initiate request of the Planning Commission to consider allowing Group 3 user organizations to post registration banners.
- 7) Group 1 Fundraising events
 1. Do not allow Group 1 organizations to permit fields for activities in which funds are raised.
 2. Allow fundraising events with no restrictions.

FISCAL REVIEW

There are no financial impacts to staff recommendations. Adding Back Bay High School as an adult site may result in an increase in City revenue although at the current time field use is at its sustainability threshold. If youth use decreases and adult use is allowed the resulting fee assessment could bring in new revenue.

CONCLUSION

The Field Use and Allocation Policy is reviewed annually by staff, user groups, and the Parks and Recreation Commission to insure that it meets the needs of users, residents, and City officials. These are the recommendations approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission for Council consideration:

- 1) Limit use of Lindbergh School (on Saturdays to two Pee Wee games or one 11-on-11 person soccer game at any given time;
- 2) Designate Back Bay High School as available for adult use on Sundays in the event that the use threshold for sustainability decreases;
- 3) Designate Rea School as an open field for unregulated "pick up" soccer;
- 4) Allow youth sports groups to use their own or rented portable lights on eligible fields if the City has insufficient number of units to meet demand and if approved by the Newport Mesa Unified School District;
- 5) Assign rugby to the Spring sports grouping (versus Fall sports such as football and soccer);
- 6) Establish regulations for Group 1 Fundraising Events/Activities.

** Signatures are on the following page **

JANA M. RANSOM
Recreation Manager

STEPHEN N. MANDOKI
Director of Administrative Services

LISA MCPHERSON
Recreation Supervisor

ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Field Use and Allocation Policy](#)
2 [Excerpts from the Minutes of the March 25, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting](#)