



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2014

ITEM NUMBER: **8a**

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR A THREE YEAR PORTABLE LIGHT ROTATION PLAN

DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

FROM: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PRESENTATION BY: TRAVIS M KARLEN, RECREATION MANAGER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: TRAVIS M KARLEN AT (714) 754-5052

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve a rotation plan for the use of portable light units at Back Bay Elementary, Harper Elementary and Kaiser Elementary School fields.

BACKGROUND

The use of temporary lighting on some fields has become necessary due to the very high demand for playing fields in the City of Costa Mesa. In 2012, the Commission allowed AYSO Region 97 the use of six (6) portable light units on Harper School fields from October 2012 through March 2013, dusk until 7:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday with the condition that AYSO Region 97 bears the cost for the fuel and donation of the portable light units.

At the May 22, 2014 meeting the Commission added four new sites for portable lights. Those sites are: Back Bay School, Kaiser School, Lindbergh Field and Woodland School. The intention is to cycle the lights between the sites from year to year to minimize impact to the neighborhoods.

Residents received a verbal commitment that lights would not be allocated to Harper for the 14/15 season. Last year, the most logical site consideration for the user group was Kaiser due to the location of their participants. For the 2014/15 season, AYSO Region 97 used six (6) portable light units on Kaiser School fields from October through March, dusk until approximately 7:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

At the Kaiser Site, Staff worked with residents to mitigate issues by:

- Installing sound curtains around the portable light units to minimize sound impacts to the residents.
- Stationing of a field ambassador to ensure that field rules were being followed when units are in operation
- Meeting with residents to angle lights and minimize direct lighting impacts.
- Performing a traffic study and adding lighting on 21st street between Santa Ana Ave and Garden Lane.
- Working with user groups to ensure lights are off by 7:30pm and that lights stay off on nights that practices are cancelled. (Lights are generally on from 6pm – 7:30pm M-F)
- Identifying with the user group specific days and times the lights need to be used. The City did not turn lights on during days the user group was not using the facility, holidays, or days that the fields were not playable.

ANALYSIS

In order to continue to have enough field space for the sports programs, the City has worked with School District staff to develop a temporary lighting rotation plan. The City is recommending a temporary lighting rotation plan for three (3) sites to minimize the impact to one specific site. Fields would be lit from mid-October to March, dusk until 7:30 p.m. (ending time subject to change) Monday to Friday beginning with Back Bay High School in 2015/16. The City would follow the same protocol and number of lights as last year.

During the week of September 14, 2015, Field Ambassadors delivered and set up six (6) portable light units at Back Bay School fields (Attachment A). On September 16, 2015, the City held a lighting demonstration where residents in the area were able to express concerns and work with staff on placement of the lights.

The City is proposing a rotation plan for the placement of portable lights at additional sites on the eastside of Costa Mesa. Annually, residents will be noticed at the identified site one month before the lights will be in use for the season. The sites included in the rotation plan are demonstrated in the table below along with the initial terms of usage.

| Year | Field Allocation for AYSO 97 |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 2015/16 | Back Bay High School |
| 2016/17 | Harper Elementary |
| 2017/18 | Kaiser Elementary |

Portable lights will be caged and locked at all times. Only City staff or City-trained volunteers will operate portable lights. The City will provide an ambassador on site at Back Bay, Kaiser, and Harper sites when portable lights are being used. In addition, the City will provide sound curtains where needed as noise barriers to the portable lights at these locations.

A letter was distributed to residents within a 500 foot radius of Harper, Kaiser and Back Bay sites outlining the rotation plan. In addition, Public Meeting notices were distributed to residents within a 500 foot radius from Back Bay School and posters were placed on Back Bay School gates regarding the public hearing to be held at the September 24, 2015 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.

Recreation staff conducted community outreach to inform residents of the continuous use of portable light units at Back Bay High School fields for the 2015/16 season on Wednesday, September 16, 2015.

The City and NMUSD will continue to refine the temporary lighting policy and work toward some permanent solutions for youth sports groups to minimize the impacts to the school sites. The City has already allocated funds for feasibility studies for improvements to fields. These improvements may minimize the impacts of portable lighting for our residents.

ALTERNATIVES

The alternative is for the Commission to deny the portable lighting plan. The lack of an approved plan will result in a reduction in field space for the sports program.

FISCAL REVIEW

Funding for staff time, maintenance and fueling has been allocated in the FY 15/16 budget. Total costs for the season is approximately \$8,000 and is outlined below.

| Item | Cost |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Diesel Fuel | \$1500 |
| Field Ambassador Salary | \$2500 |
| Maintenance and Repair | \$1000 |
| Sound Curtains – 2 Additional Sets | \$3000 |
| Total | \$8000 |

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

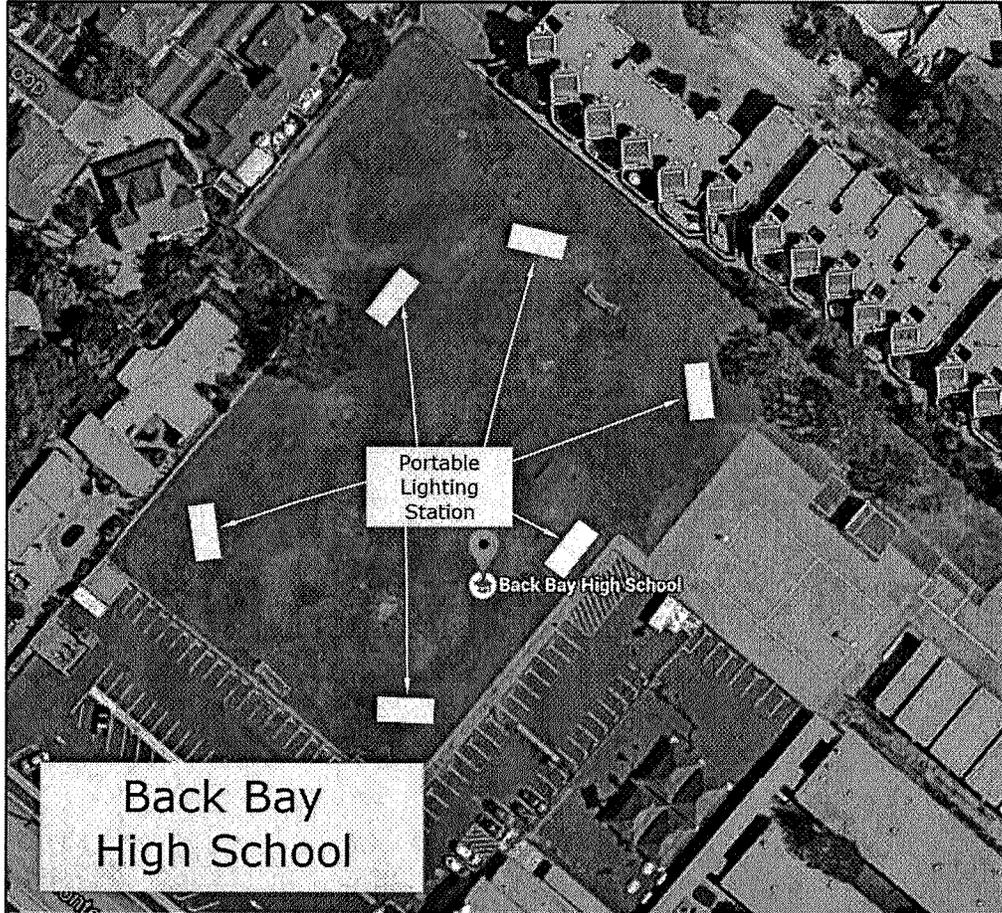
Staff recommends that the Commission approve a rotation plan for the use of portable light units at Back Bay Elementary, Harper Elementary and Kaiser Elementary School fields beginning with Back Bay High School for 2015/16.



TRAVIS M. KARLEN
Recreation Manager



TAMARA S. LETOURNEAU
Assistant Chief Executive Officer



BACK BAY HIGH SCHOOL LIGHT TOWERS