

**Advisory Committee on Joint Use of Recreation Property  
MINUTES**

Ludwick Community Center, Assembly Room

864 Santa Rosa Street

Tuesday, December 5, 2006 12:00 p.m.

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Cochran called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Chair Nancy Cochran, Vice Chair Terry Conner; Committee Members: Bob Lewis, Rick May, Richard Kriet and Mark Buchman

**ABSENT:** Ed Thoma

**STAFF:** City of San Luis Obispo: Linda Fitzgerald, Recreation Manager; Betsy Kiser, Director, James Bremer, Facilities Supervisor; and Marti Reynolds, SAA.

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**1. Public Comment**

None.

**2. Consideration of Minutes**

The minutes from the October 24, 2006 meeting were approved.

*MOTION:* (Lewis/May) Approved 4 yes: 0 no: 3 absent (Kriet, Conner, Thoma)

**3. Advisory Body Recruitment**

City Clerk Audrey Hooper informed commissioners on advisory body recruitment procedures and supplied an informational brochure to each member, requesting their assistance in filling upcoming openings. As part of the City Clerk's Office planning process for anticipated March 31 vacancies, Hooper is speaking to all advisory bodies. Applications, which can be received at any time, are held until January with interviews given in February between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> for March appointments. Initially, there will be 31 recruitments needed to fill opening advisory body positions. Of these 31 positions, only some will be able to reapply. For example, of the Joint Use Committee commissioners, only Bob Lewis, Nancy Cochran and Ed Thoma will be able to apply for another term, whereas Rick May will not be eligible. Advertisements will go out to the Tribune, RSVP Senior Group ads, United Way website, Cal Poly website, and the SLO City News. A separate flyer insert in the Tribune is planned. Hooper invited committee members to join her the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in January at a Farmer's Market information booth for which Commissioner Buchman volunteered.

It was noted by Hooper that Commissioner Buchman's December resignation means the application deadline for this particular vacancy is December 20, 2006, with the goal being to fill the position at the January 9, 2007 Council meeting. One application has been received to date.

#### **4. Review of Priorities for Scheduling Use of the San Luis Obispo Baseball Stadium at Sinsheimer Park**

Action: Maintain the current Priorities for Use of San Luis Obispo Baseball Stadium at Sinsheimer Park as approved by the Joint Use Committee on May 23, 2006. Reassess the Stadium uses for 2007 and address any changes during the annual review period in May or June 2007.

Chair Cochran opened the meeting for public comment.

*Joe Vergara, co-owner of the SLO Blues*, first spoke on the history of the SLO Blues, briefing commissioners on background such as the 1946 request by City Council to formulate a local baseball team. Vergara spoke of potential upcoming changes impacting the quality of play. Vergara then presented the video "A Day in the Park" to the commission which illustrated attendance at one of the recent July games that including music and fireworks. Vergara pointed out that attendance, commonly 500-700 a game, increased to 3,000 for these special events. Vergara stated the SLO Blues have a two-tiered objective; one being to increase the quality of baseball, and two; increase the level of entertainment, which they say they are willing to invest in to improve. Vergara informed commissioners that the SLO Blues have been a sound business for 14 years, incorporating a formula of a minimum of 35-40 home games to maintain business. SLO Blues is requesting that they be moved up in priority for use.

*Roy Howell, San Luis Obispo Rattlers*, informed the committee their intention is to promote the game of baseball at the college level and what it does for the community, citing the only facility available for use is San Luis Obispo Baseball Stadium. Howell stated it is the intention of the Rattlers to put the best product on the field while creating better baseball players. Howell stated they would like to have the ability to use the ballpark, understanding that the Blues need to use the field also. Their goal is to qualify for championship games in Wichita and to make San Luis Obispo one of the country's premier baseball locations. Their belief is that sports equal better, more productive people in society and that sports exposes character rather than builds it.

When asked by Director Kiser the number of games intended to play at the stadium, Howell stated in June & July 50 to 60 games would be anticipated in total, but not all would be home games. The Rattlers would be willing to concede 17 dates to the Blues, reserving 17 dates for themselves. Howell feels there are enough dates available to share the facility.

Commissioners also inquired about entertainment packages such as fireworks that may be anticipated as well as other parks that had been looked into for use. Howell stated there is nothing in North County or elsewhere in the county available, and the fees involved with Cal Poly would require they raise ticket prices. Commissioners also sought clarity that the goal for the Rattlers is to be included in this season's schedule for use. Commissioners stated they will refer to City staff and discuss scheduling requirements and gather other information before a decision can be made.

*Tim Golden, SLO Blues*, then spoke against having another team in the same town. Golden also stated they had already begun to schedule into August of 2007 and that the upcoming scheduling meeting with city staff on December 7 would not give them enough lead time.

*Joe Vergara* then reiterated that 17 home games, roughly the number it would be if sharing with another team, would not be enough for their team to survive; financially 35 are needed. Requesting they be put at a higher priority of use.

*Rich Reynolds, SLO Blues*, expressed concern over becoming a traveling team. There are 8 teams in the league, none of which are closer than 30 minutes.

Vice Chair Conner informed this will have to be discussed further with staff. Chair Cochran listed priorities of use belonging in order to Babe Ruth, San Luis Obispo High School, city functions, then "all other" users.

Facilities Supervisor Bremer noted that, although no conversation has taken place as of yet, he has been approached by another Babe Ruth team for use as well. As a youth sports organization, they would have priority over both the Blues and the Rattlers. Bremer will email the results of the December 7 meeting to the Board. Bremer also mentioned there is usually one representative from each group at this meeting to discuss dates.

Commissioners discussed and advised the group that this request would be change of policy for priorities of use and not able to be dealt with in an advisory board capacity. More background is needed on maintenance of the field as well as representation of other users. Chair Cochran also stated the earliest this request could be included on the Council agenda is January or more likely February. From there it would go before the School Board and not realistically be put into practice until 2008. No decision can be made today.

**Recommendation:** That this item be placed on the January 23 Joint Use Committee agenda to include discussing maintenance and allowing adequate notification all applicable groups.

MOTION: (Kriet/Conner) Approved 6 yes: 0 no: 1 absent (Thoma)

The JUC, by consensus, indicated that if needed a subcommittee could be formed to discuss the priorities for Stadium use. The decision on a special meeting will be placed on hold until after the December 7 scheduling meeting.

## **5. Council Advisory Body Goal Setting Process**

Commissioners discussed the item and requested Goal #1 be changed only to reflect the same wording as that of the Parks & Recreation Commission Goals.

**Action:** Endorse the proposed goals from the Joint Use Committee and forward final approval to the Finance and Information Technology Director by December 28.

MOTION: (Kriet/May) Approved 6 yes: 0 no: 1 absent (Thoma)

## **6. 2007 Work Program**

Commissioners reviewed the 2006 Work Program items and discussed adding new items for the 2007 Work Program, which will be brought back for final approval on January 23, 2007, as follows:

Item 1: recommend that in the next 6 months a study session including joint use groups. Also add the word “enhance”.

Item 2: Eliminate sentence one and add Cal Poly to second sentence

Item 4: Change to 2006-07

## **7. Recognition of Outgoing Committee Member Buchman**

Chair Cochran presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mark Buchman and recognized his efforts during the time he served on the Joint Use Advisory Board Committee.

## **8. Staff Reports**

Facilities Supervisor Bremer updated the Committee on the stadium PA system installation which is complete; reception is being checked this week. The box was also moved from under the center of the press box to a joint wall between the stairwell and box. Ed Thoma had visited the site with Bremer and found conduit running down the 3<sup>rd</sup> baseline toward the fence, but not completely to it, so additional work will need to be done. Bremer informed the Commissioners that it was discovered the tweeters are blown out of the speaker system, which could explain some complaints from neighbors as the sound system may have been turned up higher in the past to accommodate. Bremer will write a staff report for the next meeting with a proposal for replacement system.

## **8. Additional Items**

None

## **ADJOURNED**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m. to the January 23, 2007 meeting.

Approved by the Joint Use Commission on January 23, 2007.

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Martha M.S. Reynolds

Supervising Admin. Asst.