

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

Ludwick Community Center, Assembly Room

864 Santa Rosa Street

Tuesday, August 28, 2007 12:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Cochran called the meeting to order at 12.01 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Chair Nancy Cochran, Vice Chair Terry Conner; Committee Members Rick May, Colin Jones, Lisa Monreal and Michael Parolini

ABSENT:

STAFF: City of San Luis Obispo: Linda Fitzgerald, Recreation Manager; Betsy Kiser, Director, James Bremer, Facilities Supervisor, Rich Ogden, Recreation Supervisor, Marti Reynolds, Supervising Admin Asst. and Arnie Silacci, SLCUSD Building & Grounds Supervisor

1. Oath of Office – Hooper

City Clerk Audrey Hooper administered the Oath of Office to new Committee Member Michael Parolini, a local engineer and Cal Poly graduate with an interest in Youth Sports.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time. Public comment will be allowed specific to agenda item 6 during that discussion.

3. Consideration of Minutes

MOTION: (Monreal/Conner) Approve the June 26, 2007, minutes as corrected.

Approved 6 yes: 0 no: 0 absent

4. Joint Use Fund Report

Recreation Manager Fitzgerald presented the Committee with the Joint Use Fund Activity Report. The fund balance of \$184.30 is not committed at this time.

5. Review September 2007 Facility Use Grant Cycle

Recreation Manager Fitzgerald presented the review procedure for the upcoming facility grant cycle with an explanation to new members of the process involved in reviewing grant requests. Applications are due September 1 for facility use grants covering uses from January through June 2008; currently the balance for fiscal year 2007-08 stands at \$6,915.16 as some unused grant money from the previous fiscal year was added to the grant funds. Recreation Manager Fitzgerald explained to the Committee that there was \$1,400 remaining in the Facility Improvement fund last year, however; at the end of the year Babe Ruth had some bills from the Stockton Field improvements that totaled \$3,700. Fitzgerald used the remaining \$1,400 in grant money to go towards the project and asked the Committee's pardon for not formally requesting the funds due to the end of the fiscal year and that the funds would not roll over into the following year. The decision on this use of facility improvement funds was well received by the Committee.

6. Use of San Luis Obispo Baseball Stadium for 2008

Director Kiser opened the discussion and spoke regarding the staff and subcommittee's hard work involving hours of research and data collection to provide balanced and unbiased recommendations. Kiser asked the Committee to keep in mind the City is the manager of the property involved and that these recommendations must take into consideration that it is managed to its best use.

Committee Member May explained the Joint Use Subcommittee that worked on the preparation of this report consisted of himself, Committee Member Jones, Director Kiser, Recreation Manager Fitzgerald and Recreation Supervisor Bremer. The subcommittee investigated other parks and their fees, reviewed extensive reports, held several meetings to review data, priorities and history.

Committee Member May added comments on the following recommendations: 2) there are recommended changes to be made for Priorities for Use; 3) it was decided there is room for two semi-pro teams to play at the Stadium and the creation of an RFP which states questions and asks for input from the users. Those proposals will become part of the development of the stadium agreement for the 2008 Stadium use; 5) Fees take into consideration cost of city personnel, lights and maintenance of facilities that was gathered as part of the data collection process and that parks maintenance crews will have time scheduled each month to perform advanced maintenance tasks.

Committee Member Jones agreed there is a good framework to the report but they are open to other recommendations and changes.

Committee Member Jones noted that on page 5, 3 b) should perhaps say early August rather than July and 3c) mid-August to September rather than July.

Committee Member May informed that the RFP will be reviewed by Staff and the JUC. He stated, regarding the "weighting system" that they hadn't seen a process for this yet and that even under that system we will watch the process for important things that may be discovered. Regarding page 8, believes a facility such as this ought to run itself. The

challenges presented to the Parks and Recreation Department were numerous this year with a majority of the issues being related to the concession stand operations. Under recommendation #6 is that the Joint Use Committee recommends sending out an RFP for one concessionaire for all users. Director Kiser stated it is important to note that this concessionaire would not sell alcohol or apparel.

Limiting use was the first step for the Parks and Recreation Department. May stated the hope is we clean the slate and progress in a businesslike and professional manner. As he was part of the mediation group, although what happened there is as confidential as any mediation, be it a divorce, child custody, etc., but he could state he was frustrated seeing letters to the editor and emails regarding the mediation from other attendees calling it a fiasco. May suggested some people are trying to make this work and some are not. He hopes those not interested in working things out don't get in the way of the JUC.

Committee Member Cochran expressed the Committee's appreciation of the work done on this document.

The Committee Members entered into discussion:

Vice Chair Conner thanked the subcommittee for their hard work expressing the hope that it meets with everyone's satisfaction. Conner proposed the Committee not consider recommendations for concessions at this time as there would be too many comments on that subject alone. Conner still feels we should have one semi-pro team that exemplifies priorities and history. Conner personally feels limiting RFPs to Blues and Rattlers would be a problem and mainly wants to see the best for the facility under the City's direction.

Committee Member Jones stated he agrees with the overall recommendations, that maybe it is best to offer the use up to one user, but agrees with Vice Chair Conner in that respect.

Committee Member Parolini spoke regarding removing proposal to have concessions at this time and suggested keeping it in the format if for no other reason right now that to see the interest.

Vice Chair Conner stated the concessionaire will have to consider slow parts of the year in the timeline suggested and perhaps adjust rates to accommodate those times. He believes the subject should not take up the rest of the meeting and hopes public speakers don't include that as part of their commentary at this time.

Public Comment commenced with a three minute limit per speaker:

Dan Ainsworth, Senior Men's Baseball expressed his frustration that the information was inaccurate and did not reflect the needs of his organization.

Tim Golden, SLO Blues stated he feels the report is one-sided and never was asked to discuss the report with anyone. He asked that a decision not wait until February to be made. Golden asked the Committee to ask questions regarding what's going on in the community.

Rich Reynolds, SLO Blues and Blues Scouts - Represented the Scout team in mediation. He stated that the Blues donate everything – commended Dan Ainsworth for getting out of mediation. Stated the only difference between SLO Stadium and Cal Poly and Cuesta venues was the serving of beer.

Tom Block, SLO Blues - Noted the fundraising work SLO Blues has done for Hospice and the Shelter, marketing for the Tribune and Chamber, and feels the SLO Blues are hometown team.

Todd Dotem, SLO Blues - stated there should be one team next year and to consider the numbers, particularly the 40,000 fan base for the SLO Blues. He felt the Concessionaire idea is a bad idea.

Bryan Shoolery, Arroyo Grande Babe Ruth expressed appreciation to the Blues for their financial support and the clinics and training they give to the County's youth who look up to the players. The SLO Blues made it possible for Arroyo Grande Babe Ruth to renovate Porter Field last spring, provided jerseys and maintenance services—theirs is a mutually supportive relationship. Shoolery sees tremendous community support and emphasized that any team that draws a crowd will cause bathroom, traffic and parking problems.

Chandra Shoolery, Arroyo Grande stated her experience with the SLO Blues was as a scorekeeper last season. During that time she saw the selfless generosity by the Blues to support youth, particularly Arroyo Grande Babe Ruth. Shoolery stated that, with no disrespect intended, her feeling was that the City's facility employees were awfully young to be in their positions and would rather see seasoned staff if they were being paid – questioned how it was determined there would be room for two seasoned teams. Asked Committee to do something because it's the right thing to do rather than because it's what you *can* do.

Joe Vergara, SLO Blues Appreciates the hard work involved in the making of the report. Vergara asked the Committee Members for their help, knowing there are problems to be fixed. Expressed that he has invested heavily into the SLO Blues which represent family, community, baseball, youth sports and great tradition for San Luis Obispo. Feels however that since sharing with another business (team) their finances have been taken away. Feels these proposals will “kill the Blues” and that without the SLO Blues, tourism, local tradition and revenue would be lost as well as their community involvement and charity. Requested the community be asked what they think and that the Committee be partners with the Blues.

Barry Yancosek, Youth Director, Babe Ruth Thanked the Committee on behalf of the 120 players in the Shell Beach, Grover Beach, Arroyo Grande and Nipomo areas. Expressed to the Committee Members all the SLO Blues have done for their teams such as provide children's camps to focus on increasing skills, learning the rules and regulations of the game, and becoming better players. The SLO Blues also sponsors a Scout team to go to the Counties – for all these things he feels they should be publicly appreciated.

Public Comment closed and no further comments were accepted from the Community.

Committee Member Jones expressed his apologies to Mr. Ainsworth for not working closer with him and stated he would never support something that he felt would be the end of Senior Men's Baseball. Then asked Mr. Ainsworth to elaborate on the points of the proposal he disagreed with.

Mr. Ainsworth stated that his teams need to play twice a week requiring nights and weekends July through September in order to accumulate the necessary 10 weeks of play. Currently Senior Men's Baseball doesn't get June and July in the Stadium so their season is effectively cut in half to 5 weeks. Ainsworth stated they have no option to play other than in that timeframe. Also, he feels the costs per game in the staff report are wrong and that they can't depend on a grant from the Committee for next year.

Committee Member Jones asked further about problems with playing in June and July to which Mr. Ainsworth stated the proposal says that time is exclusive to the two semi-pro teams. Ainsworth's concern with going out of business also comes from the fact that it is the only time the coaches themselves get to play the game and that virtually every baseball coach plays in his league.

Committee Member May addressed Mr. Vergara acknowledging that San Luis Obispo is fortunate to have the SLO Blues and clarified his wording to mean "stepping out of the document" rather than "biased." It was not the subcommittee's intention that the Senior Men's Baseball League be out of the facility completely, only that the two semi-professional teams work things out and the rest to fall into place. He would rather see the teams sit down and coordinate nights and weekends to lessen the challenge on the field. There should still be time for two teams to play without harming the field. Would like to see that the concession topic not be debated at this time but to go forward with the two RFPs and schedule as amended.

Vice Chair Conner agreed with most of the public comment and commented on the RFP for stadium use. If it is not determined that two teams can occupy the same space at the same time, then may the best team win. Historically in the business, that's the team who will get the bid –the "best package gets the goodies."

Chair Cochran asked Mr. Vergara if there was anything else item-wise that would "Kill the Blues" to which he replied the main item is the possibility of not being able to play and the concessions item.

Chair Cochran then asked the Rattlers if they were planning on continuing to play as no one had spoken from their group. A representative of the SLO Rattlers, Rob Olson acknowledged they had a great season and that they feel there is more to baseball in San Luis Obispo than the SLO Blues. The response from the community, he felt, was great. Mr. Olson also noted the Tribune's results from an online poll asking the community if there was room for more than one team in town indicated 70% said yes and also indicated they'd like to see the two teams play each other. He felt the professional jealousy would not make that possible but if there was only one RFP they would consider it.

Committee Member Conner stated if use an RFP would see that it says the Users contribute toward the improvement of our field situation, installing synthetic sports turf

for example. Conner added it would be better for the teams and the Joint Use Committee's situation to allow other activities at the Stadium.

Committee Member Jones moved to table Item # 6 until the October or November meeting with the hope that something would arise by then. Vice Chair Conner suggested it could be part of a special meeting.

MOTION: (May/Conner) That Action Item 6) *Support a RFP for an exclusive food and beverage concessionaire for the SLO Baseball Stadium from January through September* regarding the subject of concessions be sent back to the subcommittee to find a solution that works.

Approved: 6 Yes: 0 No: 0 Absent

Committee Member May then moved to take the subcommittee's recommendations 1 through 5 and return to staff but hear Vice Chair Conner's comments. Vice Chair Conner asked if there are 2 teams to work with why we are stating an RFP is needed.

Director Kiser responded we were not able to reach a schedule without mediation and as the property owner; it is felt that it is a privilege not an entitlement to use the stadium. The purpose of the RFP is to have those teams present proposals in a professional manner to be reviewed by City staff to determine how the Stadium will be shared.

Committee Member May restated his motion.

MOTION: (May/ Conner) The Joint Use Committee support recommendations 1-5 with one change to the legislative draft on Priorities for Use: that being that to priority 2 d) ii) "b)" is added under a) to state "other - as available"

- 1) Concur that the use of San Luis Obispo Baseball Stadium (SLO Baseball Stadium) for semi-pro baseball teams is now "impacted" and that consideration of use by additional semi-pro teams, beyond the San Luis Obispo Blues and the San Luis Obispo Rattlers, be suspended indefinitely;
- 2) Approve amendments to the SLO Baseball Stadium Priorities for Use, to be extended until September 1, 2008;
- 3) Endorse the concept of a Request for Proposal (RFP) inviting the Blues and the Rattlers to bid for shared exclusive use of SLO Baseball Stadium for the 2008 semi-professional collegiate baseball season;
- 4) Assuming both teams meet minimum RFP requirements, direct staff to return to the JUC for a) approval of recommendations for shared use of the stadium with the number of games allocated to each team dependent upon responsiveness to the criteria set forth in the RFP; the quality of team performance during the proposal review and interview process; past performance with the City; b) final approval of use agreements; c) forward the JUC's recommendations to the Council for approval;

- 5) Endorse the updated fee schedule for use of SLO Baseball Stadium to become effective January 1, 2008.

Approved 5 yes: 1 no (Jones): 0 absent

Recreation Manager Fitzgerald stated she will have the subcommittee reconvene and bring recommendations to next Joint Use Committee meeting.

7. Staff Reports

There was no staff report.

8. Additional Items

Recreation Manager Fitzgerald reminded Committee Members of Advisory Body Training on September 20th and encouraged them to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m. to the September 25, 2007 Joint Use Committee Meeting at 12:00 p.m. at the Ludwick Community Center.