



CITY OF SAN MATEO

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Administrative Report

Agenda Number: 2., Status: Study Session

File ID: 2018-874

TO: City Council

FROM: Larry Patterson, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Parks and Recreation Department

MEETING DATE: Monday, November 19, 2018

SUBJECT:
"Recreation Facilities - Vision to Reality" Progress Report

RECOMMENDATION

Review and comment on "Recreation Facilities - Vision to Reality" Progress Report and System/Site Alternatives as presented in the report.

BACKGROUND

The City Council approved the Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan (RFSP) in September 2016. The RFSP lays out a vision for the future system of the City's Recreation Facilities- community and aquatics centers.

The current planning effort for this future system- Recreation Facilities- Vision to Reality- was launched in June 2017. The purpose is to refine this strategic plan through more detailed planning to determine what specific facilities/spaces should be included at each site, consistent with the RFSP, while addressing the various constraints and challenges that arise from this more detailed planning. This work also includes capital and operating cost/revenue estimates, and operational considerations. Once this System and Site-Specific Plan is approved, a funding and implementation plan can then be developed.

Recreation Facilities- Vision to Reality is comprised of four phases:

- Phase I- Review and analyze information and feedback gathered to date; analyze each site; conduct a community input process.
- Phase II- Develop site options and present to public for comment and input.
- Phase III- Present the findings, options and preferred alternative at public study sessions to the Park and Recreation Commission and City Council for their comment and direction.
- Phase IV- Conduct environmental review and develop a recommended plan that is consistent with City Council direction and responsive to findings in the environmental review. Present the recommended Recreation Facilities Master Plan for review, public hearing and action by the Park and Recreation Commission and City Council.

We are currently in Phase III.

Following substantial community engagement, the Project Management Team (PMT) presents this Progress Report for the Commission's review and comment. Following this, the same report, along with the Commission's comments, will be presented to the City Council for its review, comment and direction at their

Study Session of Monday, November 19, 2018.

The Progress Report provides background on the project, process, results of community feedback and how it influenced the recommendations. It provides three alternative systems of facilities for consideration, including a preferred alternative and accompanying recommendations.

Park and Recreation Commission Feedback

The Commission reviewed the strategy options at their November 7 meeting at which time a number of public comments were received. The Commission commended the project management team for their extensive public outreach efforts and for developing various development strategies that provided a range of considerations. The general consensus of the Commission supports the Preferred Strategy vision, acknowledging that this planning effort provides a once-in a lifetime opportunity to address the long term recreational needs of the community. One Commissioner preferred several of the facility options shown in the 2nd Alternative Strategy. Commissioners also shared perspectives however, that may wish to be evaluated within the context of final planning:

- There is a high desire to minimize development impacts, especially parking, at all locations with the goal of preserving as much park space as possible. The Commission encourages continued study of creative design solutions such as subterranean parking and facilities; cooperative parking arrangements with the Event Center for Bay Meadows; purchase of adjacent private properties for off site parking; evaluation of existing parking standards; and development of transportation management options.
- The Preferred Strategy vision for the Joinville District Center includes a gymnasium. Several Commissioners questioned the need for such a facility, given the pending plan to construct a new gymnasium at the adjacent Bayside Academy. Developing assumptions for long term cooperative facility use with any outside organization are risky, at best. Priorities and use patterns by the primary facility owner change and evolve over time, creating uncertainty and unpredictability for outside user groups. While the vision of the Joinville facility is to primarily support youth programs, we also envision use by the broader community, some of whom, e.g. older adults prefer access to fitness programs during the day.
- The concerns raised by the Bay Meadows neighbors regarding traffic, parking and access impacts should continue to be studied with the goal of minimizing intrusion into the neighborhood. Because of its character as a Transit Oriented Development (TOD), the planning effort should seek ways to preserve this character through exploring alternative transportation opportunities that would discourage single occupancy vehicle trips to Bay Meadows Park.

Several members of the recently convened Community Advisory Committee spoke to the merits of the Preferred Strategy and encouraged the Commission not to unduly delay implementation of the plan, noting that “time is money” as well as a genuine concern over the further deterioration of existing facility conditions. Commissioners also supported continued advancement of the plan for similar reasons as well as acknowledging that the city’s continued population growth and changing community desires for more quality park and recreation facilities will continue to place added pressure on our existing system.

BUDGET IMPACT

None at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), because tonight’s agenda item is for review and comment only and the City Council will not be taking any action, this update is not a project subject to CEQA. An environmental document will be prepared prior to the final Facilities Master Plan returning to the City Council for approval.

NOTICE PROVIDED

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

In addition, English/Spanish postcards were distributed as follows:

- Residents and owners within 750' of each of the 6 affected parks (Beresford, King, Shoreview, Joinville, Lakeshore, Bay Meadows)
- All primary account contacts in RecTrac Software whose households or organizations have registered for programs or booked facilities
- Project Notify Me list
- Social media- Twitter, Facebook, Nextdoor

ATTACHMENTS

Att 1 - "Recreation Facilities Vision to Reality" Progress Report and Appendices

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