

STAFF REPORT



Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021
To: Board of Directors
From: Michael J. Aho, District Administrator
Subject: Proposed Bike Park at Phoenix Park Outreach
Prepared By: Sean Ventura, Park & Facilities Manager

I. Recommendation

It is staff's recommendation that an expanded Bike Park be added to the considerations of any future public outreach campaigns related to the undeveloped area of Phoenix Park and to postpone those outreach campaigns until either a final agreement is made with La Vista in relation to the use of their sports fields and a budget is in place for the La Vista project, or once an agreement with La Vista is found to be untenable and therefore abandoned.

II. Background

An expanded Bike Park has been requested by Garrett McDermid and his organization, Family Freeride, since the completion of Phoenix Park's current Bike Park. Staff has worked with Mr. McDermid in order to enable communications with the Board of Directors.

Mr. McDermid has worked with similar bike groups to produce a concept design for what an expanded bike park could look like if it were to utilize all of the undeveloped land in the center of Phoenix Park. The concept includes a perimeter skill trail, a second dirt track which would be considered a flow and jump course and a concrete pump track designed for more advanced riders than those serviced by the current Fair Oaks Bike Park Pump Track.

III. Problem /Situation/ Request

Staff sees a number of issues with approving a project such as this without public outreach. First, public outreach was already completed for the area in which Family Freeride's design would occupy. The outreach approved the addition of two girls' softball fields and additional parking; however, the outreach was performed prior to

the option of attaining La Vista School's sports fields for full District use. If a lease agreement with La Vista School is approved and finalized, further outreach would be required for this proposed new design choice for the undeveloped area at Phoenix Park. If no contract is able to be agreed upon by both Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District and San Juan Unified School District (which manages La Vista School), then the girls' softball fields would once again need a definite home at Phoenix Park.

As such, staff recommend delaying outreach on the Phoenix Park undeveloped area until several things have occurred: first, that the land lease with San Juan Unified School District be agreed upon, approved, and finalized, and second, that a budget is established for the improvements needed to make La Vista School a useful and effective space for girls' softball. With both of those items completed, staff would be able to begin an outreach campaign that would both offer realistic options for the area and couch expectations within the available funds with which the District retains to complete any projects in the area.

At this point, staff time spent on an outreach campaign could potentially be wasted with no significant benefits to the residents of Fair Oaks. Even worse, the outreach could potentially be seen as promising an outcome which the District would not ultimately be able to deliver due to needing the undeveloped area for the previously outreached girls' softball fields.

In addition, by moving forward too soon with improvements to the undeveloped area of Phoenix Park, the District might unwittingly expend too much of remaining Measure J funds and thwart any improvements needed to make La Vista School a functional service to the community.

Finally, though the proposed expanded bike park design is impressive, it does not take into account the current impaction of Phoenix Park during peak use days and instead adds only a minor amount of parking while simultaneously creating a new feature which would draw an even larger number of patrons to the park, potentially during similar peak use days and times.

With all these items considered, staff recommends delaying outreach or improvements at the undeveloped area of Phoenix Park until after signing a contract regarding the use of La Vista School's fields and establishing a budget for that project.

IV. Financial Analysis

There is no financial impact to the District with this recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Aho
District Administrator