



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Albert Balagso

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 08-30-06

Approved  Date 9/8/06

COUNCIL DISTRICT: City-wide
SNI AREA: N/A

SUBJECT: ACTIONS RELATED TO HORSESHOE-PITCHING FACILITY AT COLUMBUS PARK AND GUADALUPE GARDENS MASTER PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends City Council approval of:

1. An amendment to the Columbus Park Master Plan to include a 21-court horseshoe-pitching facility.
2. Direction to staff to work with the Friends of Guadalupe River Park and Gardens and other stakeholders to develop design guidelines and incorporate a dog park into the Guadalupe Gardens Master Plan.

CEQA: Exempt, PP05-227.

OUTCOME

Approval of the Columbus Park Master Plan amendment will enable staff to implement the new Horseshoe Court project with scheduled completion in August 2007. Design guidelines and incorporation of a dog park will facilitate implementation of the Guadalupe Gardens Master Plan.

BACKGROUND

The San José Golden Eagles Horseshoe Club (Club) is a non-profit organization that was incorporated for the primary objective of coordinating an organized horseshoe-pitching program. Through an agreement with the Club, public access to horseshoe activities and organized

horseshoe-pitching programs were provided via a Club-operated 21-court horseshoe facility located at Senter Park between 1984 and 2000. In February 2000, the City asked the Club to vacate the Senter Park site to allow for the construction of the Los Lagos Golf Course.

For the past five years, staff has been assisting the Club with identifying a new facility at another location within the City. Several existing parks were considered and analyzed as potential sites. These sites included Watson Park, the County owned Hellyer Park, Kirk Park, Interstate 280 underpass at Almaden Boulevard and Third Street, Lake Cunningham Park, Cataldi Park, Mayfair Park, Solari Park and Roosevelt Park. These parks were not selected because they are either heavily programmed with active sports and/or located within residential neighborhoods. The future Bond-funded sports complexes were also considered but were not selected because their actual construction schedules are not known at this time.

As part of this exhaustive effort, City staff and the Club have proposed Columbus Park, at the corner of Taylor and Spring Streets, as the new site for the horseshoe-court facility. This site consists of an open turf area that is not currently programmed for any active sports use. It is the preferred site because of its size, configuration, access, parking availability, and ease of development. Also, it is not in a residential area so there is minimal traffic, noise and parking impact to the adjacent community that is primarily industrial. The Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens (Friends) have indicated, however, that the new horseshoe court facility will impact the two annual events that they hold at Columbus Park. Staff has coordinated with the Friends and recommended alternative event sites within and near Columbus Park for the Friends events.

ANALYSIS

Discussions between City staff and Club representatives have progressed from an initial concept that the Club would construct and operate the facility, to the current recommendation that the City construct the facility with the Club supporting maintenance through the City's Adopt-A-Park program. On May 3, 2006, the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the issues and asked staff to continue progress on completion of the project.

City staff and the Club have developed a work plan for the planning, design, and construction of a 21-court horseshoe-pitching facility at Columbus Park. The work plan consists of amending the Columbus Park Master Plan to include the project, collaborating with the Club on design, and constructing the facility as a City public works project, to be funded by the City. This project will include providing land, electrical and water supply, fencing, drainage, clearing and grubbing, site grading, and horseshoe courts. The project schedule consists of completing the master planning process by fall of 2006 and completion of construction by fall of 2007. The estimated project cost is \$450,000, of which \$40,000 was allocated in 2005-2006 (and has since been re-budgeted to 2006-07). The remaining \$410,000 was allocated for the project as part of Manager's Budget Addendum #33 (MBA #33).

As a component of the above work plan, the City will operate and maintain the horseshoe court facility. The Club agreed to provide maintenance assistance through the City's Adopt-A-Park Program. The horseshoe courts will be considered a public facility, which will be open for community use at all times. The Club will make advance reservations to the City for its tournaments and league play and pay any relevant fees.

The Friends participated in the community meetings, as well as two meetings with their technical committee, to review the proposed project. Their primary expressed concern has been that the horseshoe court facility will occupy 0.75 acre of a larger turf area (1.35 acre) of Columbus Park that the Friends have used for the Spring Guadalupe Gardens Festival and the Water Wizard Festival. Both events are one day in duration (excluding set up time) and have attendances of 3,000 and 350 respectively. Staff has responded by committing to reserving Columbus Park ballfield #2, which is located just west of the proposed horseshoe court facility, for the Friends to use for the Spring Guadalupe Gardens Festival. The ballfield is approximately 3.0 acres in size. In addition, PRNS and Airport staff have recommended use of the open turf area south of the former Hobson Street along Coleman Ave for festivals; this area is approximately 2.0 acres in size. Staff from PRNS and Airport are in the process of establishing special park use guidelines for this open turf area so that parameters exist to guide use of this area for future events.

With respect to the Guadalupe Gardens, it is the joint recommendation of staff and the Friends that a collaborative effort be initiated to develop design guidelines for the Council approved master plan for Guadalupe Gardens. The master plan is conceptual in nature and its future implementation can be facilitated by doing the necessary work now to further refine specific design guidelines and elements including a dog park. If there should be any revisions to the master plan, it will follow the prescribed community process for public input and comment as well as approvals through the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- Criteria 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criteria 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criteria 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

Staff initiated a community process that included two general community meetings (in June 28 and July 26, 2006) that were both attended by the members of San Jose Eagles Horseshoe Club

and Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens. In addition, staff discussed this project at two recent meetings of the Guadalupe Gardens technical team, following an initial discussion in 2004. This process follows the standard community outreach process for capital projects, including master plan amendments. The Parks and Recreation Commission has discussed this issue at several noticed public meetings, most recently on April 5, May 3, and August 2, 2006, and has recommended approval of the Columbus Park site for the horseshoe facility.

The Friends of the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens have reviewed the staff recommendation and accept the City's desire to proceed with the horseshoe court project. They nonetheless continue to have concerns with the project and certainty of future actions, and are expected to communicate these concerns separately to the City Council.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, the City Manager's Budget Office and the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement.

FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT

This project is consistent with the Council approved Budget Strategy Economic Recovery section in that it will spur construction spending in our local economy.

COST SUMMARY/ IMPLICATIONS

1. AMOUNT OF RECOMMENDATION: N/A
2. ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROJECT:

Construction	\$327,000
Project Delivery	90,000
Contingency	<u>33,000</u>
TOTAL	\$450,000

3. SOURCE OF FUNDING: 391 – C&C Tax Fund, City-Wide
4. FISCAL IMPACT: The increased annual operations and maintenance costs for this project are estimated to be \$6,000. The additional operations and maintenance funding will be requested in the 2007-2008 operating budget process. A proposal to undertake the recommended Guadalupe Gardens planning work is currently being considered by the Airport Commission for Airport curfew violation fine funding. Pending the outcome of that process, staff will pursue other capital sources for any additional funding needed.

BUDGET REFERENCE

Fund #	Appn. #	Appn. Name	Total Appn.	2006-2007 Proposed Capital Budget (Page)	Last Budget Action (Date, Ord. No.)
391	5189	Columbus Park Horseshoe Court	\$450,000	V - 464	8/15/06, Ord. No. 27801
		<i>Total</i>	\$450,000		

CEQA

CEQA: Exempt, PP05-227.

Julie Mark
ALBERT BALAGSO
for Acting Director of Parks, Recreation
and Neighborhood Services

For questions please contact Julie Mark, Acting Assistant Director, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, at 793-5553.