
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



**FEBRUARY 06, 2013
7:00 PM**

AGENDA

Mark Jones – Chair

Jack Noenickx – Vice Chair

Jeffrey McConnell – Commissioner

Daniel Cooper - Commissioner

Farid Tabrizy - Commissioner

Location: City Council Chamber, 24035 El Toro Road, Laguna Hills, California 92653

Any person wishing to address the Parks and Recreation Commission on any matter, whether or not it appears on this Agenda, is asked to complete a "Request to Speak" form available on the table at the back of the Chamber. The completed form is to be submitted to the Recording Secretary prior to an individual being heard by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Members of the public wishing to address the Parks and Recreation Commission can do so during the Public Comments portion of the Agenda with a time limitation of three minutes per person, an overall time limit of ten minutes for any one subject, and a total time limit of thirty minutes for Public Comments. If you are commenting on an Agenda item, your comments will be heard at the time that item is scheduled on the Agenda. If you are addressing the Commission on an item not listed on the Agenda, the Parks and Recreation Commission is prohibited by law from discussing or taking any action on that item.

CALL TO ORDER

Resolution No. 96-04-09-1 established rules of decorum for public meetings held by the City of Laguna Hills. Resolution No. 96-04-09-1 is available on the table at the back of the City Council Chamber.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONER MEMBERS:

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This is the time to address the Parks and Recreation Commission on any matter not listed on this Agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Public Comments are limited to three minutes per person, an overall time limit of ten minutes for any one subject, and a total time limit of thirty minutes.

2. MINUTES

2.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 5, 2012

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2012 REGULAR MEETING.

3. PRESENTATIONS

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1 SKATE PARK SECURITY REVIEW REPORT

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT.

4.2 LA PAZ OPEN SPACE PROJECT, CIP NO. 615A, REVIEW OF CONCEPT PLANS

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5.1 CALL FOR A SPECIAL MEETING IN MARCH 2013

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING IN MARCH 2013

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

7. ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be April 3, 2013, at 7:00 PM, in the City Council Chamber, located at 24035 El Toro Road, Laguna Hills, California.

CERTIFICATION

I, DAVID T. REYNOLDS, Deputy City Manager of the City of Laguna Hills, do hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Agenda was posted at Laguna Hills City Hall, Laguna Hills Community Center, and La Paz Center by February 1, 2013, at 5:00PM.



DAVID T. REYNOLDS
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

February 1, 2013

DATE

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, you should contact the office of the Deputy City Manager at (949) 707-2680. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure access.

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Commission after distribution of the Agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Community Center at 25555 Alicia Parkway, Laguna Hills, California, during normal business hours.

CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA
Parks and Recreation Commission
MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jones called the Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Laguna Hills, California, to order at 7:00 PM in the Laguna Hills City Council Chamber, 24035 El Toro Road, Laguna Hills.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Jones.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Present: Chair Jones, Vice Chair Noenickx, Commissioner Daniel Cooper, Commissioner Jeffrey McConnell.

Absent: Commissioner Tabrizy

STAFF PRESENT: Dave Reynolds, Deputy City Manager; Jaime Ballard, Administrative Assistant.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

2. MINUTES

2.1 REGULAR MEETING, OCTOBER 3, 2012

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2012, REGULAR MEETING, BY COMMISSIONER COOPER S/VICE CHAIR NOENICKX.
APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 4-0.**

3. PRESENTATIONS

**3.1 SHADE STRUCTURE AND SCOREKEEPER BOXES AT CABOT PARK
FOR LAGUNA HILLS LITTLE LEAGUE**

Mrs. Kim Schremp; President of Laguna Hills Little League greeted the Commission. The Commission received a presentation from Mrs. Schremp in addition to input from Mr. Don Schremp and Mr. David Spigner of Laguna Hills Little League regarding the shade structures and scorekeeper boxes at Cabot Park.

The Commission provided feedback to staff on LHLL's shade structures and scorekeeper boxes at Cabot Park.

**MOTION TO RECEIVE AND FILE REPORT BY CHAIR JONES
S/COMMISSIONER COOPER.
APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 4-0.**

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1 LAGUNA HILLS LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD PREFERENCES FOR NEW 50/70 BASEBALL DIVISION

Deputy City Manager Reynolds summarized the report in addition to public comments made by Kim and Don Schremp of Laguna Hills Little League. The Commission provided feedback regarding the Laguna Hills Little League field preferences.

**MOTION TO RECEIVE AND FILE REPORT BY CHAIR JONES
S/COMMISSIONER COOPER.
APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 4-0.**

4.2 2013 LAGUNA HILLS HALF MARATHON, 10K, & 5K EVENT AND PROPOSED HALF MARATHON ENTRY FEE INCREASE

Deputy City Manager summarized the report and indicated staff was eliciting feedback from the Commission regarding the proposed \$7 entry fee increase for the half marathon.

It was the consensus of the Commission to move forward with the proposed \$7 half marathon race entry fee.

**MOTION TO INCREASE THE HALF MARATHON ENTRY FEE RATE BY \$7, BY
VICE CHAIR NOENICKX S/COMMISSIONER COOPER.
APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 4-0.**

4.3 2013 EARTH DAY LAGUNA HILLS EVENT AND DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

Deputy City Manager Reynolds summarized the report and requested feedback from the Commission on proposed projects.

Chair Jones suggested providing free scholarships for classes in an effort to attract more participants to the event. Commissioner McConnell suggested adding more event banners throughout the City to gain community awareness and increase participation. Mr. Don Schremp of Laguna Hills suggested contacting the 4th District PTA with Saddleback Unified School District to advertise community events. Mrs. Kim Schremp; President of Laguna Hills Little League suggested working with local sports organizations to advertise community events. Mrs. Schremp offered to send email blast to Laguna Hills Little League contacts in an effort to attract more participants to upcoming events.

Commissioners Cooper suggested the continuation of the art contest in addition to the regular trail clean-ups, tree planting, and light painting. Chair Noenickx suggested light gardening, raking, and the regular trail clean-ups and tree planting.

4.4 COMMUNITY SERVICES WORK PROGRAM UPDATES FOR THE CURRENT BUDGET CYCLE AND COMMISSION PARTICIPATION IN THE 2013-2015 BUDGET PROCESS

Deputy City Manager Reynolds summarized the work programs and updates assigned to the Community Services department and budget time frames for the Commission. Mr. Reynolds indicated the Commission would have the opportunity to present budget recommendations at the Commissions' February meeting.

Vice Chair Noenickx indicated he would suggest shade structures for Little League fields.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Noenickx asked staff if it was possible for Laguna Hills Little League to use our equipment to accommodate their "Movie Night" on the major league field. Deputy City Manager indicated he would look into it and work with Laguna Hills Little League.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Parks and Recreation Commission at this meeting, Chair Jones declared the meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.

DAVID T. REYNOLDS
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

ATTEST:

MARK JONES, CHAIR

APPROVED AT MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2013

CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

ISSUE: SKATE PARK SECURITY REVIEW REPORT

SUMMARY:

The City of Laguna Hills retained Richard Fisher Associates to review the security issues related to the Laguna Hills Skate Park and to prepare a report for the Parks and Recreation Commission's review. The scope of work for this project was to interview staff, research other municipal skate parks, examine current use at the Laguna Hills skate park, and propose options for consideration.

Richard Fisher Associates report is attached to this staff report and Mr. Richard Fisher will be present at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to present the report.

ATTACHMENTS:

- City of Laguna Hills Skate Park Security Review, Richard Fisher Associates

**RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT.**

CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS

SKATE PARK SECURITY REVIEW

Prepared by Richard Fisher, Consulting Landscape Architect

The Laguna Hills Community Center and Sports Complex site, opened in December 2000, includes a moderate-sized Skate Park which was designed for beginning to mid-level skaters in the age groups of approximately 5 year-olds to 14 year-olds. The facility is unfenced and, by design, has not been staffed with City personnel. The Skate Park has signage which requires the users of the facility to wear protective equipment, referencing the Laguna Hill Municipal Code's Chapter 8-04.220, but compliance is sporadic and citations by Orange County Sheriff Department (OCSD) Officers are limited to when officers are on site and violators can be caught actually participating in skating activities.

The City currently does not provide on-site staff supervision of the park because of risk management and monetary considerations. Skateboarding is defined in the State Law as a hazardous activity, and consequently skateboarders skate at their own risk and assume liability as long as the park is not supervised. Once the City supervises the park, the City is subject to liability claims. Furthermore, the City has not pursued on-site supervision staffing of the Skate Park nor any capital improvements to the Skate Park such as fencing because of overall costs of these initiatives and the fact that they are unfunded in the current budget cycle.

Periodically, City staff has performed updated evaluations on the Skate Park Control Issues, including an Agenda Report to the Parks & Recreation Commission in December 2003, and Reports to the City Council in January 2004, November 2004, and May 2005. To date, no significant modifications to the facility or the addition of City staff providing supervision of Skate Park users has been determined to be warranted.

On-going aggressive vandalism of the restroom building, with monthly repairs being required to correct the damage has prompted the long-term closure of the restroom building beginning approximately six years ago. Exterior damage to the structure is currently visible to the public. As of the preparation of this report, the concrete picnic tables have significant displays of graffiti, and large graphics also have been drawn on the skate bowl surfacing. These activities are reported to be an on-going issue for maintenance personnel to clean up. Surveillance cameras, installed on the Community Center in May of 2004, have proven to be too distant from the Skate Park to be effective, the surveillance activity is partially blocked by the parking lot trees' foliage, and there is ineffective clarity produced by the level of parking lot lighting. OCSD Officers indicate they are unable to positively identify persons engaged in unlawful activities from these surveillance cameras.

In consultation with Police Chief Behrens and Deputy Gunsolley, the School Resource Officer for Laguna Hills High School, the following issues were discussed and herein summarized.

- o Protective Equipment is rarely worn by participants within the Skate Park area. In the intermittent presence of Officers, participants will either don protective equipment, or stop skating until the officers leave the premises.
- o The mixing of bikes with skate boards and in-line skates is a common occurrence, even though the concurrent use of bicycles is prohibited by the Laguna Hills Municipal Code.
- o The Skate Park area has become a regular location for illegal drug activity. The prominent periods of increased drug activities are from after school to total darkness. With the Laguna Hills Skate Park being an un-fenced, un-staffed / un-supervised, no fee facility, in contrast with most other Skate Parks in the region, a “bad element” of people has concluded this location is an attractive spot to conduct illegal activities with a relatively low risk of citation or incarceration.
- o A majority of the individuals engaged in these illegal activities are not local residents of Laguna Hills and may be travelling from as far as Long Beach.
- o Because the facility is unfenced, and sight surveillance is limited due to the hilly terrain bordering the Skate Park, the ability to detain participants in illegal activity is very limited. Approaching individuals from the parking lot normally results in their rapid escape around the Hockey Rink.
- o The general reputation of the Skate Park has become one where most parents of local youth know this site may not be a healthy place for their children to use. This scenario is in strong contrast with all other parks and recreational facilities throughout the City of Laguna Hills.
- o Several related conclusions have been reached by these two law enforcement officers, relative to undesirable activities in and around the Skate Park. They include the following opinions:
 - o Fencing the facility without staffing it for continual supervision is likely not going to solve the criminal activities occurring in the Skate Park area.
 - o This conclusion may be subject to modification if the Municipal Code were to be modified to state that all individuals within the fenced-in Skate Park area must be wearing protective equipment at all times (regardless if actively skating or not). Currently, a common response from occupants without protective equipment is that they are not currently skating, so protective equipment is not required. Once the Police Officers leave the facility, the users resume skating without protective equipment.
 - o The current leniency in enforcement of protective equipment is an attractive draw of the “bad element” of people, who practice a life style of not following rules and “living on the edge”, which often includes drug use.
 - o The addition of more surveillance cameras in the immediate area of the Skate Park and parking lot would “get the word out” that unlawful activity will no longer be tolerated.
 - o The frequency of graffiti activity, with nominal delays in its successful removal; the long-standing closure of the locked-off restroom building; the inability to maintain growing turf in the lawn areas; and the overall decline in appearance of the immediate facility area all contribute to a negative image of this area, directly contributing to a negative message which is compatible with drug trafficking and other illegal activities.
 - o With the close proximity to the Laguna Hills High School campus, reversing this abnormal activity within the City Limits of Laguna Hills should be a high priority to the City.

In consultation with Laguna Hills Community Services Staff, the following issues were discussed and herein summarized.

- o Concur that Protective Gear is rarely worn by participants within the Skate Park area.
- o The mixture of skaters, BMX bikers, and razor scooters in simultaneous use is a conflict with the intended use of the facility.
- o Community Services staff see a public benefit of permitting razor scooter use at the park because of its family-oriented use. Young children will use razor scooters at the park under the supervision of parents.
- o Skate time only for young children as been offered in the past, on Saturday mornings, but was stopped because of low participation. Staff was assigned to monitor the Skate Park during this time.
- o Monthly repairs to the vandalized Restroom Building were requiring an average expenditure of \$1,200 per month. Due to this exceptional cost, and the anticipated continuation of this aggressive negative behavior, the restrooms have continued to be locked off from public use.
- o Community Center-based part-time Recreation staff has continued to be reluctant to frequently visit the Skate Park during evening hours and during peak illegal activity times, due to previous incidents and the potential for negative interactions with the Skate Park Users. There is a strong reservation about having general part-time Recreation Staff enforce the closure of the Skate Park at 10:00 PM. The use of a uniformed Sheriff's Officer would be required to effectively gain compliance. An alternative trial period program might be tried where Recreation Staff checks on the facility on a 30-minute interval, knowing any lawful activity must be resolved by calling a law enforcement Officer to come to the site to correct the situation.
- o A change to the negative environment which prevails at the Skate Park in late afternoon and evening hours is warranted. Appropriate changes to the Skate Park are essential to create an understanding this is a controlled environment; one in which the bad element finds unacceptable, and local parents can become aware that the Skate Park is now a more wholesome environment for children's safe and healthy recreational play activities.

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER AREA MUNICIPAL SKATE PARKS:

In order to supplement options which might be available for the City of Laguna Hills, a review of four other Orange County Municipal Skate Parks within the region were undertaken. The following chart has been prepared to gain an understanding of other Skate Parks which reportedly are not experiencing most of the negative activities occurring at the Laguna Hills facility. The review includes Operational Hours, Fees Charged, Forms Required of Users, Operational Management, Required Equipment by Participants, Types of Equipment Allowed, and Facility Lighting.

PUBLIC SKATE PARKS IN THE AREA					
RULES, REGULATIONS, AND CONDITIONS		LAGUNA NIGUEL SKATE PARK, CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL	ETNIES SKATE PARK, CITY OF LAKE FOREST	RALPH'S SKATE COURT, CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE	HARVARD SKATE PARK, CITY OF IRVINE
OPERATIONAL HOURS					
MON-THURS	9/5 - 5/31	12pm - 9:30pm	11am - 9pm	Dawn to Dusk	2pm - 8pm
FRI	9/5 - 5/31	12pm - 9:30pm	11am - 10pm	Dawn to Dusk	2pm - 8pm
SAT	9/5 - 5/31	9am - 9:30pm	10am - 10pm	Dawn to Dusk	10am - 9pm
SUN	9/5 - 5/31	9am - 9:30pm	10am - 9pm	Dawn to Dusk	12am - 8pm
MON-SAT	SUMMER VAC.	9am - 9:30pm	10am - 10pm	Dawn to Dusk	10am - 9pm
SUN	SUMMER VAC.	9am - 9:30pm	10am - 10pm	Dawn to Dusk	12am - 8pm
FEES CHARGED					
RESIDENTS		YR PASS - \$40	ID CARD - \$0	N/A	\$0
NON-RESIDENTS		YR PASS - \$80	ID CARD - \$5	N/A	\$0
		1 x PASS - \$10			
FORMS REQUIRED					
MEMBERSHIP FORM		PROOF OF RES.	YES	N/A	NO
WAIVER FORM		YES	YES	N/A	NO
OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT					
FENCED		YES	YES	NO	YES
STAFFED		YES	YES	NO	YES
REQUIRED EQUIPMENT BY PARTICIPANT					
HELMET		ENFORCED	ENFORCED	NOT ENFORCED	ENFORCED
ELBOW PADS		ENFORCED	ENFORCED	NOT ENFORCED	ENFORCED
KNEE PADS		ENFORCED	ENFORCED	NOT ENFORCED	ENFORCED
PARTICIPANT EQUIPMENT ALLOWED					
SKATE BOARDS		YES	YES	YES	YES
IN-LINE SKATES		YES	YES	YES	YES
RAZOR SCOOTERS		NO	NO	NO	NO
BMX BIKES		SPECIAL 3x / WK	NO	NO	NO
HEELIES		NO	NO	YES	NO
SNAKE BOARDS		YES	NO	NO	NO
WAVE BOARDS		YES	NO	NO	NO
FACILITY LIGHTING					
LIGHTING		YES	YES	NO	YES

OPTIONAL ACTIONS:

There are multiple options for the Skate Park, which are summarized below. As consideration of these options is undertaken, it is worthy to review the results of the 2009 Skate Park Facility Telephonic Survey results. The table below summarizes community sentiment in response to the question *“Concerning the Skate Park facility located adjacent to the Laguna Hills Community Center and Sports Complex, please indicate which of the following options you agree with most”*.

2009 Citizen Survey Results
Table 12
Preferred Options for Skate Park Facility
(n=350)¹

	Percentage responding
Maintain current operation as is	39.9
Add supervision during peak times	21.6
Charge nominal user fee to cover additional operational costs	16.7
Fence facility and control admission with membership fees and supervision	14.1
Replace Skate Park with another recreational amenity	6.0
Add supervision and eliminate admission fee	0.9
Other, specify	0.9

Current Options for consideration include:

Option 1: Patrols of the Skate Park would be increased for a significant presence to address the consensus by users that this facility is an uncontrolled environment. During morning to post-school hours, this role would be filled by one adequately-trained Recreation Staff. From post-school hours to park closure, this role would be provided by two Recreation Staff members, with a back-up of a uniformed officer if unlawful activities are observed. The Skate Park would remain an un-fenced facility.

Option 2: The Skate Park would be entirely enclosed with an 8' high fence and possibly one-way turnstile entrance and exit accessways. This design would provide dual benefits, as follows:

- o Prohibit bringing BMX bikes into the Skate Park.
- o Provide a containment feature so that law enforcement officers can successfully detain users, as necessary, to confirm if violations are occurring.
- o In this scenario, there is a potential that OCFA will require an additional feature of an emergency exit gate for quick emergency exiting in the event of fire. This gate could be equipped with an alarm to discourage

unauthorized use of this exit feature. Also, this gate could be positioned on the parking lot side of the facility, so that if potential violators would try to quickly leave the enclosure, they would be exiting towards law enforcement or staff in the parking lot.

- o As with each Option which includes fencing in the facility, the City would be encouraged to modify the Municipal Code Section 8-04.220 to require wearing protective equipment at all times within the enclosed area. Parental supervision would be by the responsible adult remaining immediately outside of the enclosure.

This Option proposes to also demolish the locked-off restroom building. It is serving no purpose for the public in its current condition. In addition, the building mass provides a hiding area for unlawful activities. Because of its location, directly adjacent to the slope retaining wall, the public has relatively easy access to the roof of the building, as evidenced by several broken roof tiles.

In the removal of the restroom building, this area could be replaced with a sidewalk to assure the continuation of pedestrian access from the parking lot to the hockey rink, for those activities. In addition, this assures long-term access for park users who wish to walk the interior pathways of the park for exercise or passive park enjoyment.

Option 2A: This Option would include all features of Option 2, while adding the requirement that the Skate Park participant would obtain a permanent Access Card from the Community Center. This access card would be essential to gaining interior access to the Skate Park. Features which would prohibit the sharing of one access card by multiple users would need to be researched and resolved.

Option 2B: This Option would include all features of Option 2A, above, except in lieu of obtaining a permanent access card, all users of the fenced-in Skate Park would have to report in to the Community Center for access. Recreation staff would have to monitor the participant's arrival at the access gate, where staff would electronically release the accessway turnstile.

Option 3: The Skate Park would be modified to entirely enclose the facility with an 8' high fence, as described in Option 2 above, except deleting the demolition of the restroom building. As this option would include some on-site Staffing, the restroom building would be modified to continue with restroom features on one (women's) end, while the other (men's) restroom area would be renovated to become staff operational space. The level of on-site staffing would be further analyzed to determine if one or two staff personnel would be required. It may prove to be appropriate to transition from a two-staff assignment to an individual as the elimination of unlawful activities takes place over a transition period.

Option 3A: This Option would include all features of Option 3, except the enforcement of rules and conditions for the safe use of the Skate Park would be performed by uniformed Public Safety Officers. This patrol could likely be on a part time basis, and perhaps provided only during the transition period. Possible benefits to the use of uniformed officers in lieu of Recreation staff are two fold:

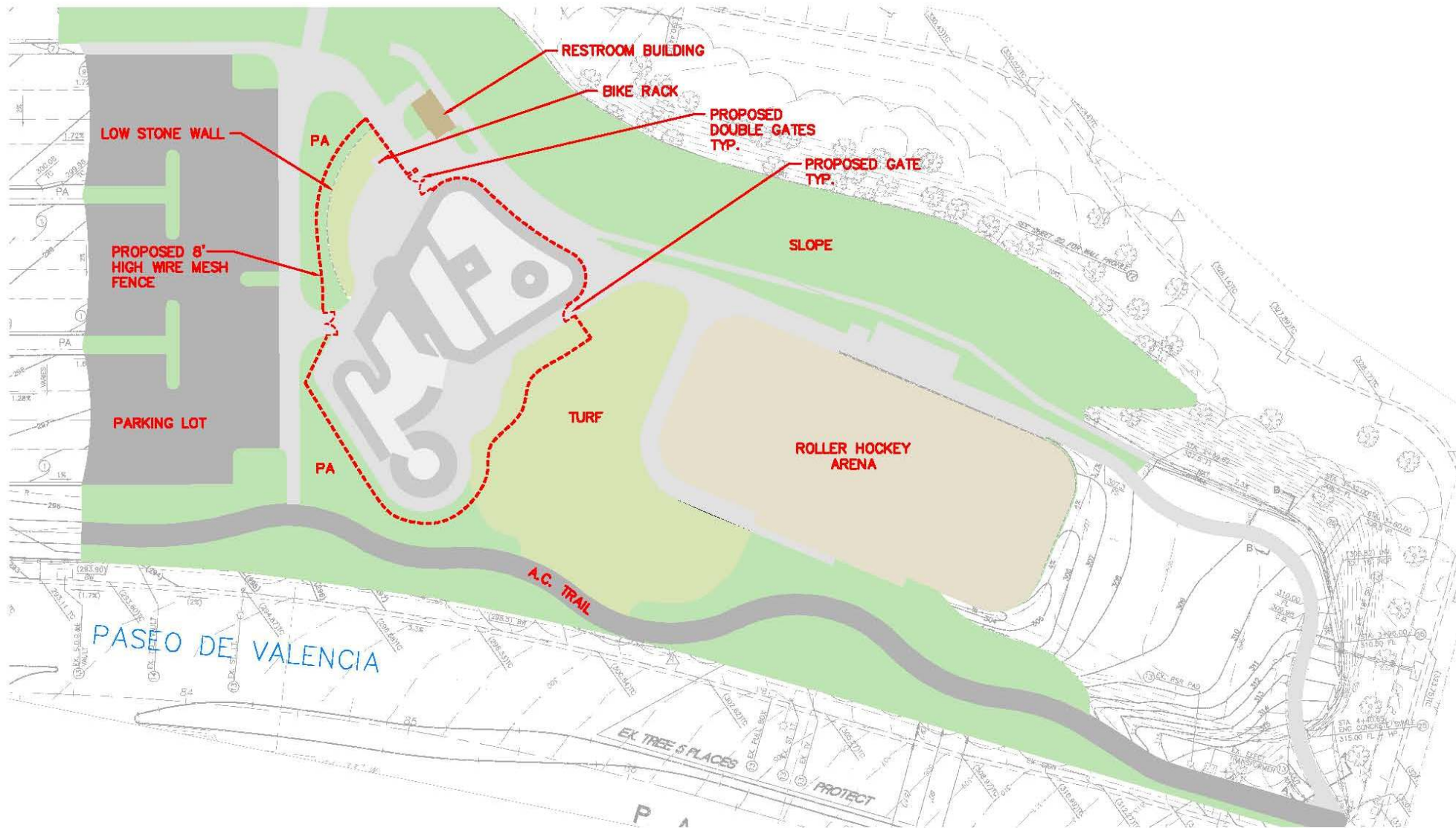
- o Sends a stronger message to violators of currently-established rules that unlawful behavior will not be tolerated any longer in and around the Skate Park.
- o Removes regular Recreation Staff from potential abusive actions by aggressive individuals.

Whether the creation of any supervisory staff office space would be required at the facility, as described in Option 3 above, would need to be resolved.

Option 4: The Skate Park facility would be demolished. Portions of the perimeter walkways could be salvaged to provide pedestrian access as described in the Option 2 description. This area of the park could be minimally replaced with irrigated turf and shade trees, or studied for development of a new recreational opportunity, such as the early child sports program.

Option 5: The Skate Park can continue to exist in its current condition. Maintenance personnel can continue to address vandalism as it occurs. Reports of illegal activity can be reported to Public Safety officers, who will respond to calls in the highest priority allowed given other incidents occurring at the same time within the City of Laguna Hills.

PROJECTED COST BY OPTION	
DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST
OPTION 1	
a. 1 P/T Staff - limited hours during peak operations	\$52,400 / yr
b. 2 P/T Staff - limited hours during peak operations	\$95,200 / yr
c. 2 P/T Staff - during all park operations	\$120,000 / yr
d. 1 F/T & 1 P/T Staff - limited hours during peak operations	\$141,300 / yr
e. 1 F/T & 1 P/T Staff - during all park operations	\$166,800 / yr
OPTION 2	
Fencing Facility	\$110,000
Demolish Restroom & Replace w/ Sidewalk & Landscaping	\$27,200
OPTION 2A	
Fencing Facility	\$110,000
Demolish Restroom & Replace w/ Sidewalk & Landscaping	\$27,200
Access Card System	TBD
OPTION 3	
Fencing Facility	\$110,000
Modifications to Restroom / Staff Space	\$9,500
Staffing	(See Option 1)
OPTION 3A	
Fencing Facility	\$110,000
Modifications to Restroom / Staff Space	\$9,500
Patrol by OCSD personnel on P/T basis (5 hrs/day)	\$6,800 / month
OPTION 4	
Demolish Skate Park & Restroom	\$82,000
Re-Landscape Area	\$32,600
OPTION 5	
Current Maintenance Costs	TBD



SKATE PARK

CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS OCTOBER, 2003

CONCEPT 'B'



0' 5' 10'
ORIGINAL SCALE: 1" = 10'-0"



2001 EAST FIRST STREET, SUITE 100
SANTA ANA, CA 92705
PHONE: (714) 245-8270
FAX: (714) 245-8275

CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

ISSUE: LA PAZ OPEN SPACE PROJECT, CIP NO. 615A, REVIEW OF CONCEPT PLANS

SUMMARY:

The La Paz Open Space Project is located along the northerly side of La Paz Road between Moulton Parkway and Alameda Avenue. The project is under design by the firm of Richard Fisher Associates, Landscape Architects, and is being coordinated with the scheduled expansion of the shopping center located at the northeasterly corner of La Paz Road and Moulton Parkway. As a part of the design development of the project, the City has implemented the "Park Planning Policy" which establishes the public participation process for this project. An initial public outreach to all residents located between Oso Parkway and Alicia Parkway were invited to a public informational meeting held on December 19, 2012. For today's meeting, all residents within 300 feet of the parcel to be improved have been invited to participate in the Concept Plan review. Three concept plans for the passive development of this approximate nine acre site have been developed and are presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review. Following public comment, the Commission is encouraged to recommend to the City Council a Preferred Concept Plan for the La Paz Open Space Project.

BACKGROUND:

The La Paz Open Space Project, CIP No. 615A, is located along the northerly side of La Paz Road between Moulton Parkway and Alameda Avenue and is the first phase of an anticipated multiple phased future project to develop passive uses and trails within this open space corridor that traverses from Moulton Parkway to Paseo de Valencia. The City's 2001 Bikeways, Trails & Open Space Master Plan identified this corridor as being an important asset to the community and an integral part of the City's overall trail system. On November 27, 2012, the City Council authorized the Landscape Architecture firm of Richard Fisher Associates to begin the design of the La Paz Open Space Project from Moulton Parkway to Alameda Avenue. The City Council also directed that the public participation process, as defined in the "Park Planning Policy," be implemented.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION PERFORM A REVIEW OF THE THREE CONCEPT PLANS FOR THE LA PAZ OPEN SPACE PROJECT, CIP NO. 615A, ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENT AND RECOMMEND A PREFERRED CONCEPT TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

The public has been invited to participate in the design development of the La Paz Open Space Project as a part of the City Council policy on public participation of “Park” development. In early December 2012, approximately 2,400 notices of a public meeting were mailed to all households located between Oso Parkway and Alicia Parkway along with notices sent to Homeowner’s Associations in the project area. A public informational meeting was held on December 19, 2012, at the Laguna Hills Community Center. At this meeting, the Landscape Architect led a discussion, provided background information and encouraged suggestions for the passive uses of the project area. The 31 residents in attendance at this meeting actively engaged in the discussion and provided the following suggestions for the passive uses of the open space. It is noted that some of the suggestions appear to be contradictory but all of the comments have helped the designer to develop alternative concept plans.

- Develop trails (walk, bike, horse) with trees and bushes, no benches, no water fountain, no exercise area
- Place the trails as far removed from homes as possible
- Minimize the use of irrigation (i.e., use drought tolerant plants)
- Use low-level lighting
- Establish landscape plantings that will attract wildlife
- Include a drinking fountain
- Provide “doggie waste disposal stations” with bag dispenser and trash cans
- Control water runoff with a “natural stream” look
- Install plant materials that may help to reduce road noise
- Provide several benches
- Provide educational signage
- Place trails in the middle to give distance from adjacent residents and the street
- Provide minimal amenities; No benches, drinking fountain, lights, etc.
- Consider the use of Cisterns to collect rainwater
- Plant large size trees
- Do not create an environment for homeless encampments

In addition to the above suggested passive uses of the open space, there have been a few suggestions for more active types of uses in the open space. A few residents have suggested uses such as a community garden, a dog park and/or an exercise course. As these uses may attract users from a “driving distance” to the site, may then require the

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION PERFORM A REVIEW OF THE THREE CONCEPT PLANS FOR THE LA PAZ OPEN SPACE PROJECT, CIP NO. 615A, ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENT AND RECOMMEND A PREFERRED CONCEPT TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

development of a parking lot and could be disturbing to the adjacent residents, they have not been included in the current concept plans. These uses are also not included in the concept plans because, in 2009, the City Council, as a part of the General Plan Update process, determined that the development of the La Paz Open Space would only include passive uses.

Attached to this staff report are three concept plans that have been developed by Richard Fisher Associates for the La Paz Open Space Project. The concept plans can be considered to be three levels of development intensity of the site with different types of amenities. Richard Fisher will present each concept plan and discuss the trail alignments, the grading work, the proposed landscaping and the amenities considered. The City Council held a preliminary review of the Concept Plans at the meeting of January 22, 2013. Some members of the City Council expressed concern over the "development intensity" of Concept Plan 1 and did not, therefore, expect that that Concept would be approvable by the City Council. The Landscape Architect will discuss alternatives to Concept Plan 1 with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

In accordance with the Park Planning Policy, all residents within 300' of the project site have been invited to attend and participate in this meeting. Following the public input, the Parks and Recreation Commission is encouraged to provide direction on the development of a Preferred Concept Plan that can then be submitted to the City Council for approval. Upon completion of this process, the Landscape Architect will develop the final plans and specifications for the project. Construction of the La Paz Open Space Project is anticipated to begin in early summer 2013.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The construction cost estimates for the various Concept Plans include the cost of construction management and a 20% contingency. The estimated cost for Concept Plan 1 is \$1,258,000, for Concept Plan 2 is \$1,199,000 and for Concept Plan 3 is \$1,072,000. Funding for this project is included in the Six-year Capital Improvement Program Budget. The project funding resulted from the proceeds of the sale of Parcel 1 of Parcel Map 2009-134 from the City to the adjacent shopping center.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Concept Plan 1

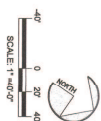
RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION PERFORM A REVIEW OF THE THREE CONCEPT PLANS FOR THE LA PAZ OPEN SPACE PROJECT, CIP NO. 615A, ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENT AND RECOMMEND A PREFERRED CONCEPT TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

- Concept Plan 2
- Concept Plan 3

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION PERFORM A REVIEW OF THE THREE CONCEPT PLANS FOR THE LA PAZ OPEN SPACE PROJECT, CIP NO. 615A, ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENT AND RECOMMEND A PREFERRED CONCEPT TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

MARCH 2012

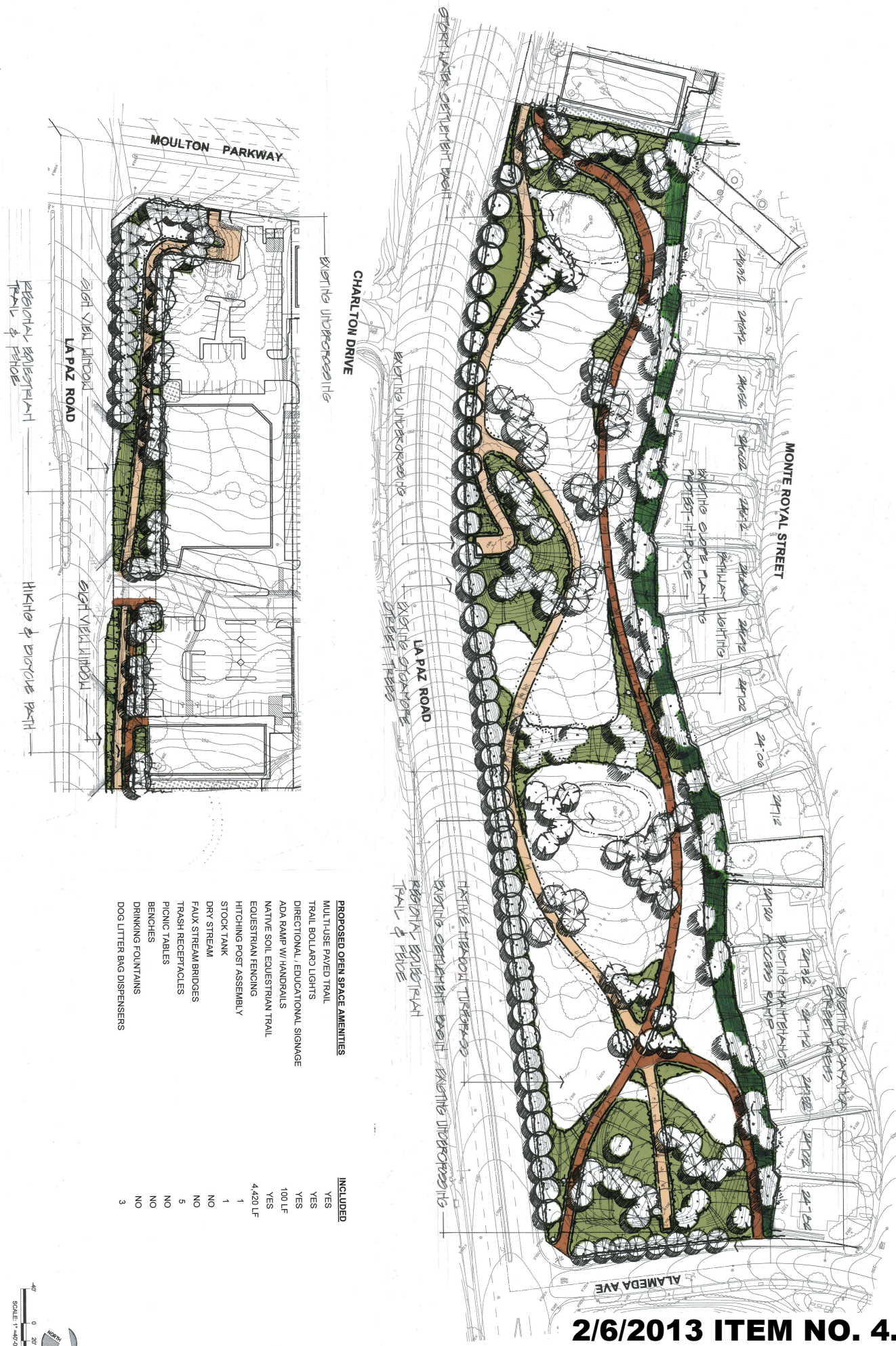
PRELIMINARY CONCEPT ONE



PROPOSED OPEN SPACE AMENITIES	INCLUDED
MULTI-USE PAVED TRAIL	YES
TRAIL BOLLARD LIGHTS	YES
DIRECTIONAL / EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE	YES
ADA RAMP W/HANDRAILS	100 LF
NATIVE SOIL EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	YES
EQUESTRIAN FENCING	4,680 LF
HITCHING POST ASSEMBLY	2
STOCK TANK	1
DRY STREAM	YES
FAUX STREAM BRIDGES	2
TRASH RECEPTACLES	5
PICNIC TABLES	1
BENCHES	5
DRINKING FOUNTAINS	2
DOG LITTER BAG DISPENSERS	3



2/6/2013 ITEM NO. 4.2



PROPOSED OPEN SPACE AMENITIES	INCLUDED
MULTI-USE PAVED TRAIL	YES
TRAIL BOLLARD LIGHTS	YES
DIRECTIONAL, EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE	YES
ADA RAMP W/ HANDRAILS	100 LF
NATIVE SOIL EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	YES
EQUESTRIAN FENCING	4,420 LF
HITCHING POST ASSEMBLY	1
STOCK TANK	1
DRY STREAM	NO
FAUX STREAM BRIDGES	NO
TRASH RECEPTACLES	5
PICNIC TABLES	NO
BENCHES	NO
DRINKING FOUNTAINS	NO
DOG LITTER BAG DISPENSERS	3

LA PAZ OPEN SPACE

CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS

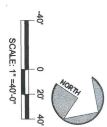
JANUARY 2013

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT TWO





PROPOSED OPEN SPACE AMENITIES		INCLUDED
MULTI-USE PAVED TRAIL	YES	
TRAIL BOLLARD LIGHTS	NO	
DIRECTIONAL / EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE	YES	
ADA RAMP W/ HANDRAILS	100 LF	
NATIVE SOIL EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	YES	
EQUESTRIAN FENCING	4,720 LF	
HITCHING POST ASSEMBLY	1	
STOCK TANK	1	
DRY STREAM	NO	
FAUX STREAM BRIDGES	NO	
TRASH RECEPTACLES	5	
PICNIC TABLES	NO	
BENCHES	NO	
DRINKING FOUNTAINS	NO	
DOG LITTER BAG DISPENSERS	3	



LA PAZ OPEN SPACE

CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS

JANUARY 2013

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT THREE



CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

ISSUE: CALL FOR A SPECIAL MEETING IN MARCH 2013

SUMMARY:

Staff is requesting a Special Meeting be scheduled in March 2013. At this meeting, staff's intention is to discuss budget related items in addition to work programs for the next budget cycle with the Commission. Staff's goal is to have these discussions prior to the City Council Strategic Planning Meeting being held on April 2, 2013.

The following is a tentative schedule of available dates to conduct a Special Meeting in March 2013:

- March 6, 2013
- March 14, 2013
- March 19, 2013
- March 21, 2013
- March 27, 2013

**RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING IN MARCH 2013.**
