Stadium Park Public Planning Process Update

RECOMMENDATION:

Council review Stadium Park Planning progress report and provide staff and planning committee direction on specific issues identified in the report as may be appropriate.

DISCUSSION:

Background: Since the Council authorized a public process be conducted by the Parks and Recreation Commission to seek public input on the issues, opportunities and future uses for Stadium Park at Pine Mountain, much progress has been made. The planning committee has met monthly for over a year, and has conducted several public workshops to develop policies and plans for the future uses of Stadium Park. Listed below, is a timeline and the milestones achieved by the committee:

March, 2006
Initial public Meeting held: Information developed since the acquisition of the property was shared including:

- Historical use patterns
- 1996 use guidelines
- 2000 use guidelines
- Current issues in Stadium Park management

April, 2006
Planning group refined the mission statement and goals and objectives for Stadium Park. Council to review and approve or modify (Please see below)

May, 2006
Public Input gathering conducted regarding:

- The issues that should be reviewed
- Concerns with the park
Potential uses for the park
Potential improvements to the park
Opportunities/Threats
Potential users
Gathered input on improvements that are desired by the public

June, 2006
Parks and Recreation Commission and planning group held a “Discover Stadium Park” Open House at the site on June 15th. There were hiking tours, information booths, a barbershop quartet and other activities. Over 150 people attended.

July, 2006
Committee reviewed the community input to date, and formed three working committees to accelerate the planning process.

City Attorney initiated discussions with neighboring property owner, Gary Renzaglia, regarding the access into Stadium Park from Capistrano Avenue.

August, 2006
Staff reports committee status to the City Council. Group sends out an updated community survey. It is distributed via the City website, to community groups and mailed to every residence in Atascadero.

October/November, 2006
Committee collects and compiles survey results. Over 990 surveys are returned (results attached).

December, 2006
Committee reviews survey results and refers information to working committees. Committee recommends that the City secure emergency public access through the Knoph property at Valle and Escarpa where a lot split is proposed.

January/February 2007
Committee decides on recommended future uses for Stadium Park (attached). Council reviews and approves the uses at his meeting. Bringing utilities into the bowl are identified as being desirable. The planning committee supports the Fire Department recommendation to retain the services of Fire Ecologist consultant to recommend a resources management plan to allow public assembly, including during fire season, in Stadium Park. Council to provide direction.
March, 2007
The planning committee recommends that a budget request be made to City Council for the coming budget cycle to fund bringing utility lines into the bowl area to serve future public uses and enhance public safety. Council to provide staff direction.

The Fire Department will solicit proposals and cost estimates for a Fire Ecologist to perform a study to create a plan for public assembly and use of Stadium Park for major events, including during the fire season. Costs for the study are estimated to be approximately $15,000. The Fire Department will make a budget request for inclusion in the budget for next Fiscal Year (July 1, 2007)

MAJOR ISSUES:

PROPOSED USES: The Stadium Park Planning Committee has compiled a draft list of proposed uses. The draft list is based upon public input from the surveys and committee recommendations. Staff recommends that Council review the list and provide any direction as may be necessary on the uses recommended. Some of these uses will direct the proposed study and resulting Management Plan and the easement to be conducted by a consultant. The Council may also want to set a maximum occupancy for public assembly in the bowl area, which would give some parameters to the Public Safety Management Plan.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS: Specific improvements such as restrooms, stage, etc. in the bowl area have yet to be determined, and semi-permanent or temporary amenities are options. However, the planning committee is recommending that underground utilities (water and power only) be brought into the bowl area. Due to the power line voltage, PG&E is requiring that the water and power be installed in separate trenches, increasing the estimated costs. The committee is recommending to the City Council that funding be appropriated for the installation of the utilities in the coming fiscal cycle. Cost estimates for the installation of the utilities are upwards of $175,250. Council direction on these improvement issues is desired.

PUBLIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN: Funding for a Stadium Park Management Plan for public safety, to be prepared by a consultant fire ecologist, is recommended by the committee and the Fire Department based upon potential public uses. The Police Department will also have input into the ultimate plan. With Council direction, the Fire Department is going to request funding (est. $15,000) for the study in the next fiscal year. The study is anticipated to take approximately 6 weeks after execution of the contract.

ATTACHMENTS:

“A” – Mission Statement and Updated Goals
“B” - Stadium Park Survey Results
“C” - Committee Recommended Future Uses