

City of Piedmont  
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

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DATE: April 16, 2007

FROM: Mark Delventhal, Director of Recreation

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE RECREATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE INSTALLATION OF NEW TURF AND FIELD LIGHTING AT COACHES FIELD.

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STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Consider the recommendation from the Recreation Commission to install synthetic turf at Coaches Playfield.
2. Consider the need for any further information, study or analysis on the efficacy of synthetic versus natural turf.
3. Consider directing staff to initiate environmental review (pursuant to CEQA) for the installation of synthetic turf including the engagement of Environmental Science Associates of San Francisco for such a review.
4. Consider the installation of field lighting as per the Recreation Commission recommendation:  

“Resolved, that the Recreation Commission recommends that the City Council take up the issue of field lighting at Coaches Playfield as a means of allowing more hours of use per the schedule outlined on page 12 of Mr. Mark Slichter’s report”.
5. Consider directing staff to secure a basic lighting plan based on the use schedule in the Slichter report (Callander Associates) in order to initiate environmental review (CEQA).

BACKGROUND:

On July 3, 2006 the City Council charged that the Recreation Commission consider options for the improvement of the turf (and field lighting) at Coaches Field. Since that that time, the Recreation Commission conducted four public hearings (October 18, November 15, January 17 and February 28) to consider the matter and take public testimony. Public notice (including neighborhood mailing) was prepared and distributed for these hearings. These minutes can be reviewed on the city web site: [www.ci.piedmont.ca.us](http://www.ci.piedmont.ca.us).

### CALLANDER ASSOCIATES REPORT:

Callander Associates was engaged to prepare a report for the Recreation Commission. This report focused on the advantages of natural turf versus synthetic turf. Copies of this report were previously provided to the City Council and were made available for public inspection. This report can also be accessed through the city web page at [www.ci.piedmont.ca](http://www.ci.piedmont.ca). Copies are available at the Office of the City Clerk and at the Recreation Department.

Callander Associates, with the encouragement of city staff, engaged the services of Mr. Bob Milano of UC Berkeley for the preparation of a Professional Peer Review Report. This report was previously provided to the City Council and was made available for public review. The Callander Report Appendix includes:

- Informal Surveys
- Soils Analysis
- Synthetic Turf Questionnaire
- Projected Use Calendar
- Field Improvement Cost Estimates
- Field Lighting Cost Estimates

### COMMISSION CONSENSUS ON TURF:

In the final analysis, the Commission concluded that synthetic turf is preferable for Coaches Field because:

- The high level use demand would be better accommodated by a synthetic surface.
- A synthetic surface would enable more use in wet weather, both organized and informal.
- The careful maintenance and rest periods required to keep a natural grass field in good condition, and the difficulty in controlling field access during wet weather to prevent field damage, were persuasive reasons for the installation of a synthetic surface.
- It would be difficult or impossible for the city to successfully maintain a natural grass surface while providing the number of hours of field use needed by community sports groups.
- Based upon testimony, the Commission concluded that the various sports groups will reach consensus on an agreeable surface solution for the baseball/softball infield.

USE PROJECTIONS:

The Scheduled Use Projections in the Calendar Report include an estimates of use hours for new natural turf (871 hours net), synthetic turf (additional 434.5 hours) and synthetic turf with lights (additional 247 hours) as per the lighting schedule contained in the report.

With the new daylight savings time (3 weeks earlier in March and 1 week later in the fall), staff carefully reviewed the lights on time and lights off time and concluded that the hours of lights on will more likely be 280 hours, 33 hours more than the 247 hours in the report.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This meeting was the subject of a public notice. Attached to this report, please find a copy of the notice and the distribution mailing list.