

**MINUTES OF A
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF CORONADO
Coronado Golf Course
2000 Visalia Row
Coronado, CA 92118
Tuesday, February 22, 2005, 3:00 p.m.**

Mayor Smisek called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmembers Monroe, Schmidt, Tanaka, Tierney
and Mayor Smisek

Park and Recreation Board Members Robert Breglio, Nancy Blair,
George Powell, Phil Hammett, Steve Sandberg

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Mark Ochenduszko
Director of Recreation Services Linda Rahn
Interim City Clerk Mary Clifford
Administrative Secretary Sandy Goodson

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

3. CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS:

3a. Review of Proposed Recreation Facility Use Fees and Policies. City Manager Ochenduszko introduced the agenda item noting that the Park and Recreation Board and Recreation staff put many hours of work into this document. It was decided to present it at a special Council meeting to give the Council an opportunity to consider all of the information and to ask questions of staff and the Board before it is brought to the Council for action. Mr. Ochenduszko stated it is important to note that the combination of activities available in the new Community Center don't exist anywhere else in San Diego County in one facility.

Linda Rahn, Director of Recreation Services, using a power point presentation, discussed the purposes of the meeting: introduction of the proposed Recreation Facility Use Fees and Policies; opportunity for questions and discussion; gain feedback and direction in order to finalize a resolution for Council consideration. She also reviewed the goals of the proposed fees and policies: sustain the provision of quality recreation opportunities and services for Coronado residents; set clear policies to be applied consistently for all facility users; set clear priorities for use.

Ms. Rahn reviewed the current facilities available including the addition of the skatepark and highlighted the coming additions: banquet room, playhouse, dance studio, art/activity rooms, fitness room, gym, and climbing wall. She noted that costs will change with inclusion of the new facility. A way to manage the increase in costs is in generating fees.

Ms. Rahn reviewed the process the Park and Recreation Board went through to arrive at the proposed fees and policies. The process included cost analyses, researching local agency practices, market rate comparisons, impacts on the community, past practices, and justification for fees. She also reviewed the current and anticipated cost to provide services as well as the potential to generate offsetting revenues. The resulting recommended fees are reasonable and based on costs; support the provision of services; offset operation expenses; enable additional programming and opportunities; favor youth and civic activities; are applied with a consistent philosophy; and are consistent with market rates and practices.

Ms. Rahn noted the Board had discussed classifying users and developed classes A-G. She reviewed the classifications as well as the recommended cost recovery for each and the rationales. Ms. Rahn answered questions raised by the Council related to fees (how they were determined) and classifications. She referenced the documents provided to the Council, specifically the Philosophies and Policies and Classification of Users sections. Additional questions asked included the cost of commercial use of the competition pool, fees for youth groups in parks that don't currently pay, when is a fee charged for selling food or products, will the fees for park use drive people to use Tidelands Park instead of City parks. Ms. Rahn noted a fee and a permit are already required by the Port for use of Tidelands Park. She also pointed out that the bulk of City park use on weekends is from non-residents.

Discussion ensued regarding enforcement of the conditions of permits that are issued. Ms. Rahn stated that Recreation doesn't have the personnel to regulate the permits issued. Chief Hutton indicated there was not active Police Department enforcement of compliance. Concerns were raised about the jump houses used at parties in the parks and the potential cost of a permit for a birthday party. Councilmember Monroe expressed his understanding that the fees were only going to be associated with the new Community Center, not the entire Recreation program.

Ms. Rahn review the chart associated with room and equipment rental fees, focusing on the banquet rooms. She reviewed the chart of costs compared to proposed fees. Mr. Ochendusko pointed out that the City cannot charge a cost that exceeds the cost of operating the facility. Councilmember Tanaka asked if the Coronado Playhouse will get a special rate to which Ms. Rahn replied that an agreement is being worked on with the Playhouse and it will be brought separately to the Council. The Playhouse will not get exclusive use of the space but will be a priority tenant.

Ms. Rahn indicated that the School District has been placed in a classification by itself and any fees charged would be based on whether they have a comparable facility or not, whether it is an official school function, or a fundraising activity. Councilmember Tanaka suggested staff might want to discuss this with the School District. He raised concerns about the need to clearly define concessions and what the concession permit entails. Councilmember Downey had questions about the definition of fundraising and whether an event would be truly to fund raise or for cost recovery.

Mayor Smisek asked for public comment at this point in the meeting. Ms. Portelli expressed commendation to Ms. Rahn for the job she had done on this major task. Mayor Smisek noted that a very thorough job had been done, that the Park and Recreation Board had done a great job. He expressed his thanks to the Board for their work. He asked that the Council move on to consideration of fees after taking a five minute break.

Upon returning from the break, Ms. Rahn reviewed in detail the charts provided to the Council outlining room and equipment rental fees, athletic facilities group use facility fees, and park rental fees. She also reviewed the chart outlining recreation facility use rental charges examples, discussing charges per facility per user classification. Additionally, she reviewed the facility use policy chart of costs compared to proposed fees.

A lengthy discussion ensued following Ms. Rahn's presentation of the program fees summary, both daily use fees and monthly and annual fees. Councilmember Tierney stated he found the definitions to be varied. Councilmember Tanaka agreed and suggested the possibility of a certain fee for anyone under 18 and a different fee for those over 18. Ms. Rahn noted the main categories suggested are youth, senior, teen and adult as well as non-resident youth, senior, teen and adult. There is also a category of resident family which is not defined other than it is up to five people. This may have to be defined more specifically.

Ms. Rahn reviewed the monthly and annual fees noting passes promote participating in the activities more frequently, provides revenue, and a rate similar to what other places are charging. She estimated there will be a combination of people who buy passes and who are one-time users. She responded to a question from Mayor Smisek concerning why there is no annual Community Center pass by stating the Citywide All Use Annual Pass includes the skatepark.

The proposal includes a recommendation to have a fee for non-resident use of the tennis courts at Glorietta. Councilmember Downey asked what percentage of the CTA is not residents and how that would be monitored. Ms. Rahn noted 10-15% of the CTA membership is non-resident. They would only be assessed a non-resident fee if they were coming to play as an individual. Many non-residents use the courts in summertime. The tennis pro is in favor of charging a non-resident fee and to do this uniformly would require longer hours at the pro shop which would benefit residents. Ms. Rahn noted the expectation of court maintenance is very high in Coronado and this is a way to offset that cost.

Councilmember Monroe pointed out that Coronado is known for free tennis and great, low fee golf. He noted the proposal is to charge the fee only at the Glorietta courts, not any others. He felt it would be a hassle for the pro to operate. Mayor Smisek noted his inclination to agree with Mr. Monroe in terms of no fee at the other courts and the fact that this could take the pro away from lessons. He felt this was something that should be thought about further.

Mayor Smisek asked the Park and Recreation Board if there had been much feedback from the public or any major objections. Mr. Breglio indicated the most vocal special interest group was the tennis group regarding the fee structure. Mayor Smisek noted part of the issue has always been affordability. Providing an affordable recreation program to the public was something the Board kept in mind. Councilmember Tierney stated the Council seems to review fees from time to time and wondered whether a formula could be built in that would automatically make changes in the cost items. Mr. Breglio said the Board adopted a five-year plan a couple of years ago which includes a regular review of the use and expense across all programs. He pointed out this is a dynamic document and several years of usage and expense will be needed to determine whether changes will have to be made. Councilmember Monroe agreed and indicated he would like to see how this plan works for a couple of years before considering adjustments.

Mayor Smisek thanked the Park and Recreation Board and staff for their work on this plan.

4. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Approved: March 1, 2005

Tom Smisek, Mayor

Attest:

Mary L. Clifford
Interim City Clerk