

Parks and Recreation Commission

Supplemental Meeting Materials

September 20, 2007

Agenda Item 14



Sacramento United Soccer Club, Inc.
Affiliated with the Sacramento Youth Soccer League
www.sacunited.com

September 19, 2007

Jim Combs, Director
Sacramento Department of Parks and Recreation
915 I Street, Fifth Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Request for Audit of Soccer Field Renovation at Granite Regional Park

Dear Mr. Combs:

On the September 6 agenda of the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC), Bob Fleming notified that funding for soccer field renovation at Granite Regional Park and other parks (CIPs LV92 and LZ36) will expire on December 31, 2007. The funding for these projects originated by City Council approval in October 2003 of \$253,000 from Proposition 12 monies after our club reported to Council the rapidly deteriorating condition of the 3 fields at Granite shortly after they were constructed. In their approval of the Granite Field Renovation Project CIP (LV92), Council stated their intent to bring the fields to "tournament standards" by this expenditure.

We use the Granite soccer fields regularly throughout the year and frequently report field conditions to your Maintenance Division. Some improvement in field conditions since 2003 has occurred in two ways: 1) the renovations have removed surface rocks that were appearing widely across the fields in 2003 and 2) the renovations included soil aeration and sand topdressing that somewhat improved soil drainage across the fields. However, several severe problem areas that existed in 2003 and still exist today have not been fixed; these problem areas occupy about 20% of the fields' area and continue to severely detract from their usability and safety.

We hereby request a detailed audit of the expenditure of the \$253,000 by your Department's Maintenance Division. Specifically, we request answers to these questions:

- On what types of items was the money spent and how much on each?
- What was accomplished?
- What was not accomplished?
- For what specific reasons was the intent of City Council not achieved?

The purpose of this audit is to understand why the soccer fields at Granite have not improved substantially and what needs to be done next to achieve the City Council's intent.

The problem conditions existing since 2003 that have not been corrected are the following:

1. The irrigation system (including controller timing and sprinkler head operation) delivers wildly fluctuating soil-moisture status, varying between, on one hand, severe soil drought that causes dead grass across large areas and, on the other, severe overwatering that causes swampy conditions that kill grass and prevent mower operation; and
2. Specific areas have underlying soil-drainage issues that cause either grass stress and death from inundation (center zones of Fields # 1 and # 2) or invasion by swamp plants (south edge of Field # 3 and northeast quarter of Field # 2).

The specific problem areas cited in item # 2 have been repeatedly identified for Maintenance staff since 2003. In October 2005, these problem areas were in especially bad condition with a large youth tournament coming in November. At that time, I gave a map of the fields with hand-drawn annotations showing the locations of the problem areas to Dan Giammona and Randy Will (copy attached). Maintenance staff have repeatedly said they will fix the problem areas but that has not happened.

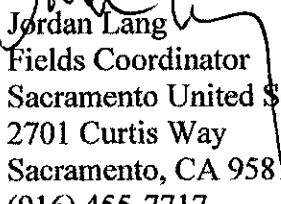
Our observations of the renovation implementation and results since 2003 have led us to conclude the following:

1. renovation treatments have not been designed based on on-the-ground knowledge of the field conditions,
2. renovation treatments have not been focused on correcting the specific, repeatedly identified problems (but rather on conditions assumed to occur), and
3. renovation treatments have not been implemented or supervised by knowledgeable persons who diligently care about the results of the treatments.

It is important to determine the causes of renovation failure with the coming "expiration of Proposition 12 grant funding" for renovation services. Mr. Fleming's report to the PRC cites 4 options for ongoing field renovation. However, none of these options is viable as long as the prior expenditure of \$253,000 has led to so little improvement of the Granite fields.

Thank you.

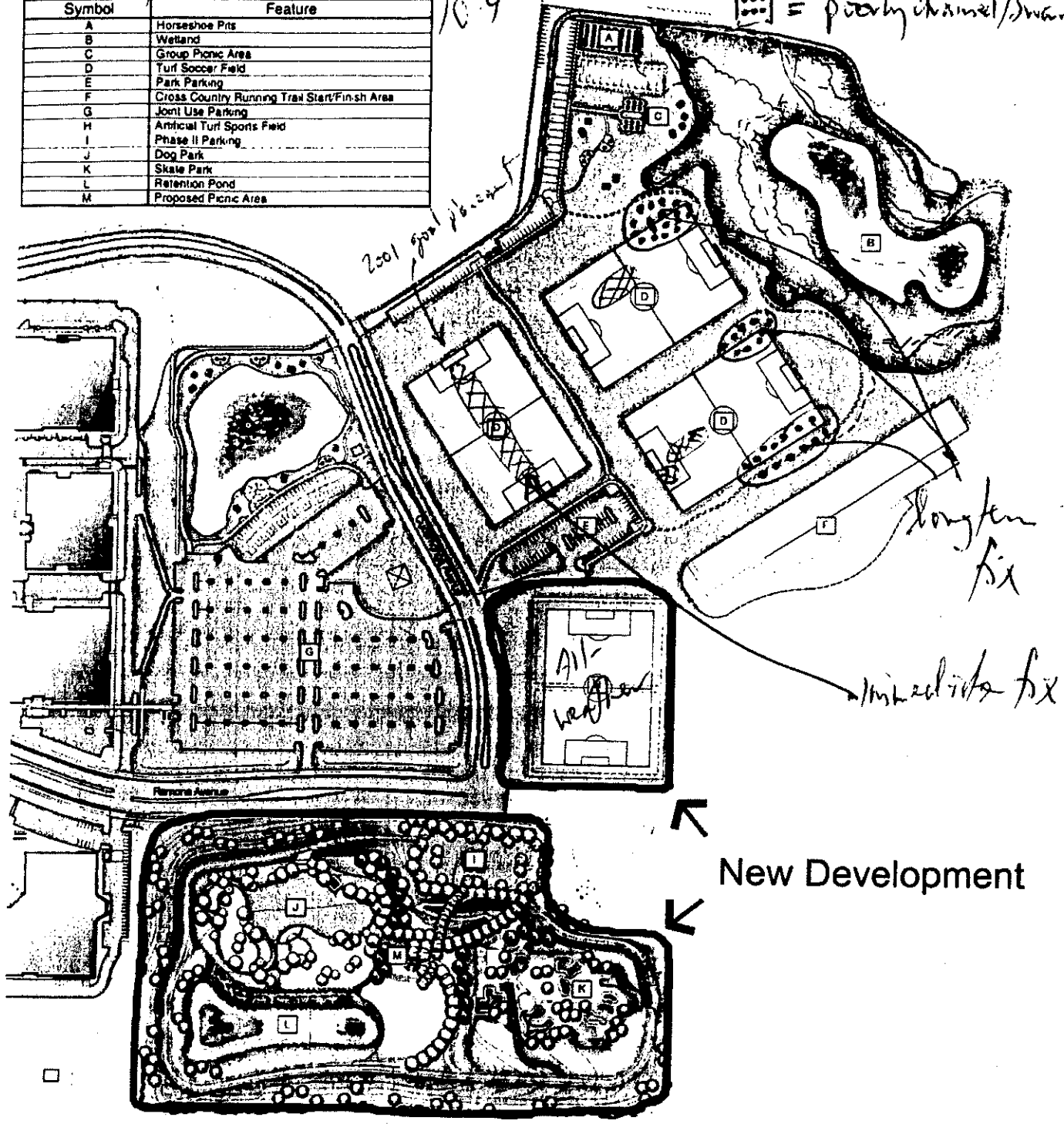
Sincerely,


Jordan Lang
Fields Coordinator
Sacramento United Soccer Club
2701 Curtis Way
Sacramento, CA 95818
(916) 455-7717

cc: Councilmember Kevin McCarty
Mayor Heather Fargo
Janet Baker, Operations Manager
Robert Fleming, Maintenance Manager

Copy to Randy & Stan
 10-4-05
 Granite Problem Areas
 10-1-03
 [Symbol] = compacted/stepped depression
 [Symbol] = poorly drained/swampy

Legend	
Symbol	Feature
A	Horseshoe Pits
B	Wetland
C	Group Picnic Area
D	Turf Soccer Field
E	Park Parking
F	Cross Country Running Trail Start/Finish Area
G	Joint Use Parking
H	Artificial Turf Sports Field
I	Phase II Parking
J	Dog Park
K	Skate Park
L	Retention Pond
M	Proposed Picnic Area



The HJA Group, Landscape Architecture & Planning, Inc.

NTS



City of Sacramento,
 Landscape Architecture Section
 Project Manager, Roy Tatman
 (916) 808-5326
 ratman@cityofsacramento.org
 915 I Street, 5th Floor / Sacramento,
 California 95814

Granite Regional Park

Developed Area Master Plan
 Sacramento, California
 June, 2005

Handout under ideas +
questions from
George Raya

Proposal for the Creation of a Urban Forest Services Commission: George Raya – September 6, 2007

When the new Director for Parks and Recreation gave his first Director's Report, Director Combs stated that he would like to see a **trees services advisory committee** created. As we plan for the reorganization of Urban Forest Services to the Transportation Department, I believe now more than ever is the time to finally create a City Commission on Urban Forest Services.

A little history: In 1992, Wolfe Mason Associates prepared the City of Sacramento Urban Forest Management Plan. This 1992 Plan was the first to advocate creation a new advisory group to implement the Urban Forest Management Plan.

Twelve years later, in 2004, Robert Tate Associates in their Sacramento Tree Services Best Management Practices Review and Report also called for the creation of a strong and well-recognized **citizen advisory group** to aid in setting policy, provide checks and balances, and advocate for the urban forest.

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/parksandrecreation/urbanforest/pdf/tree-practices-aug04.pdf>
(page 4)

in 2006, the City Council adopted the Urban Forest Services Best Management Practices Implementation Plan. Once again, the creation of a Citizen's Advisory Group on Trees was included in the plan.

The Urban Forest Services Committee of the PRC has served in a limited capacity as a citizen advisory group as called for in the Wolfe Mason Report and the Tate Report. The Tate Report, papers 34 and 35, enumerated quite clearly the duties and responsibilities of a Citizen Advisory Group on the Urban Forest:

1. Advise the Mayor, City Council, and appropriate City departments on urban forestry concerns.
2. Review of project plans for major publicly sponsored developments, civic improvements, and changes to public right-of-way relative to their projected impact on trees and make recommendations regarding these projects to the Mayor, City Council and appropriate City Departments.
3. Encourage early and continuous public participation in urban forestry projects and programs.
4. Facilitate the cooperative interaction of tree-related activities within the City among various city, state and federal agencies, as well as among businesses, non-profit groups, and the public.
5. Provide a regular forum, according to an establish, publicized agenda, of scheduled topics for public discussion of urban forestry issues.
6. Assist with the development of policies that affect trees.
7. Ensure the effective implementation and administration of the Urban Forest Best Management Practices Plan.
8. Assist and support public education efforts on the value and benefits of the urban forest.
9. Identify and support procurement of adequate funding, especially alternative funding opportunities, and staffing to ensure that the needs of the urban forest are effectively addressed.
10. Actively advocate and champion the commitment of adequate resources for tree programs.
11. Monitor and annually report on the state of the urban forest.
12. Hear tree appeals regarding street trees, Parks and Recreation Commission would continue to hear tree appeals for trees located in City parks.

**Area 1
Neighborhood
Advisory
Group
(NAG)
Meeting**

*In Partnership with City of Sacramento
Neighborhood Services*

June Agenda

Monday 16, 2003 6:15 – 8:30 PM
Hart Community Center at 27th and J Streets

6:15 PM Complimentary Refreshments

6:30 PM Welcome & Introductions

6:50 PM Police Department Activity Report

7:10 PM Neighborhood Announcements & Updates

▶ Sutter Health District

▶ Railyard Development

▶ HOV Lanes on Highway 50

▶ Two-way Conversion Study

▶ St. Francis Church Step Ministry

▶ New ??????

7:30 PM Gus Vina, from City of Sacramento, Department of Finance will give an update and provide information on the FY 2004/04 Proposed Budget.

7:45 PM The ongoing discussion regarding the possible formation of a Tree Commission continues led by Steve Schweigerdt, Sacramento Tree Foundation, Martin Fitch, City Trees Superintendent and George Raya, Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association.

8:10 PM Kristin Arnold, is one of the Directors from Sac Dog, a group advocating for off-leash recreation for dogs and their responsible owners. Tonight Kristin will present ideas being proposed for an off-leash dog park to be located in Sutter Landing Regional Park.

8:30 PM Adjourn

For more information call Susan Moe, NAG Chair 498-3258 or Yvonne Riedlinger, Neighborhood Services Department 264-7859
Area 1 Neighborhood Advisory Group
PO Box 161851
Sacramento, California 95816

Sacramento Tree Services Best Management Practices Report

and a laborer with an aerial tower and chipper and all appropriate hand tools. Best industry practices for most conditions inaccessible to an aerial lift includes 2 trimmers and a laborer with one box truck and chipper and all appropriate hand tools. Traffic control for any operation is best addressed with unskilled labor as appropriate for each traffic condition.

- Contract grow and store all street trees at local nurseries. Many of the species that are planted are readily available in the open market, at a competitive price and without the holdover costs, which lowers the City's tree procurement costs. Utilize minimum nursery staff required to conduct planting and post-planting care. Trees can be retrieved at a contract nursery as required immediately prior to planting. Modesto and other municipalities have found that a nursery is an unnecessary cost for a city. There are only 3 reasons for a municipality to grow trees, as follows:
 - If desired species are not available (e.g. male Ginkgo and male Pistache).
 - If the City purchasing office requires selection of the low bidder without consideration of quality and pricing.
 - If free labor and strong, knowledgeable leadership is readily available to administer and maintain the nursery.
- Develop and implement a process to competitively bid and contract the majority of tree removals, pruning, IPM, planting and post-planting care.
- Ensure that personnel are used at their highest level of training and education. Minimize the use of overqualified staff for lower level tasks (e.g. watering and inspections).
- Establish a regular work audit program and enforce productivity and performance standards for in-house and contract operations.
- Establish an appropriate number of two person limb-down and hangar crews with proper equipment (aerial lift with chip box, chipper and all appropriate hand tools and equipment) to most cost-effectively remove all reported fallen limbs and hangars. This crew should work on clearing obstructions to traffic devices, street lights, lower priority customer requests and low-limb work when not responding to fallen limbs and hangars. For all exceptionally large fallen limbs that cannot be handled by this two-person crew, a supervisor can request appropriate labor and equipment.

7.5 Citizen Advisory Group (CAG)

Define and regularly convene a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) to review and aid in setting policy, provide program feedback, and protect the community's urban forest interests. The CAG will ensure that Tree Services and City management best identifies and achieves desired tree benefits into the future while ensuring and enhancing public health and safety through the urban forest. Specifically, the CAG should be charged with:

- Advising the Mayor, Council, and appropriate City departments on urban forestry concerns.
- Review of project plans for major publicly sponsored developments, civic improvements, and changes to the public right-of-way relative to their projected

Sacramento Tree Services Best Management Practices Report

impact on trees and make recommendations regarding these projects to the Mayor and appropriate City Departments.

- Encourage early and continuous public participation in urban forestry projects and programs.
- Facilitate the cooperative interaction of tree-related activities within the City among various city, state and federal agencies, as well as among businesses, non-profit groups, and the public.
- Provide a regular forum, according to an established, publicized agenda, of scheduled topics for public discussion of urban forestry issues.
- Assist with the development of policies that affect trees.
- Ensure the effective implementation and administration of the UFMP.
- Assist and support public education efforts on the value and benefits of the urban forest.
- Identify and support procurement of adequate funding, especially alternative funding opportunities, and staffing to ensure that the needs of the urban forest are effectively addressed.
- Actively advocate and champion the commitment of adequate resources for tree programs.
- Monitor and annually report on the state of the urban forest.

The CAG should be composed of 12 members, 11 voting members, including:

- a. Director of Street Tree Services, who shall act as Chair and serve as a nonvoting member;
- b. Director of the Department of Public Works, or designee;
- c. Director of the Neighborhood Services Department, or designee;
- d. Director of the Planning and Building Department, or designee;
- e. Director of the Department of Convention, Culture and Leisure, or designee;
- f. General Manager of the Sacramento Municipal Utilities Division, or designee;
- g. One representative of the Sacramento Tree Foundation;
- h. Three representatives from the community who have demonstrated an active interest in the health and welfare of the urban forest through community activism or membership in a community service organization, appointed by the Council;
- i. One representative from a newspaper that serves the community; and
- j. One at large representative appointed by the Mayor

CAG appointed members shall serve for two years and can serve successive terms if re-appointed. The CAG should meet at least 4 times per year, but may meet as often as the CAG determines is required to adequately address issues and challenges.

7.6 Public Relations and Public Information Program

Develop and implement a strong public relations and public information program focused on regularly informing and educating city residents about: