

**City of Culver City, California  
Agenda Item Report**

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| Meeting Date: <u>02/05/13</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  | Item Number: <u>A-1</u>                                                                           |  |
| <b>PRCS COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM: (Continued from the December 4, 2012 PRCS Commission Meeting) – (1) Receive and Review Public Input Regarding the Proposed Fox Hills Park Basketball Court Improvement Project (PZ-960); and (2) Consideration of a Recommendation to Staff Regarding Implementation of the Project.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |                                                                                                   |  |
| Contact Person/Dept.: Dan Hernandez,<br>PRCS Director                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  | Phone Number: (310) 253-6655                                                                      |  |
| Fiscal Impact: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  | General Fund: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                 |  |
| Public Hearing: <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  | Action Item: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attachments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| Public Notification: (Email) Subscribers of Culver City News and Events, Parks, Recreation & Community Service Department Updates, Meetings and Agendas – Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission, Senior Citizens (01/22/13 and 01/31/13);(Email) Interested Parties from the 12/04/12 PRCS Commission Meeting (01/22/13 and 01/31/13); (Email) Fifteen Residents – Fox Hills Park Neighborhood (01/24/13 and 01/31/13); (Email) Fox Hills Park Neighborhood Association (01/31/13).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                   |  |
| Department Approval: Dan Hernandez<br>(01/30/13).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | City Attorney Approval: N/A                                                                       |  |
| Chief Financial Officer Approval: N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  | City Manager Approval: N/A                                                                        |  |
| <p><b><u>RECOMMENDATION:</u></b></p> <p>This Agenda Item is continued from the December 4, 2012 PRCS Commission meeting. Staff recommends that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission(1) receive and review public input regarding the proposed Fox Hills Park Basketball Court Improvement Project (PZ-960); and (2) consider making a recommendation to staff regarding implementation of the Project.</p> <p><b><u>BACKGROUND:</u></b></p> <p>Over the past few years, staff has been approached by members of the Fox Hills community who have requested that local youth have the opportunity to play regulation youth basketball at the Park. Currently, such play cannot be accommodated since the basketball court is configured as two half-courts. In past years, the topics of both basketball and organized youth sports at Fox Hills Park were high profile issues that sparked spirited debate among area residents.</p> <p>During the years of 1980 and 1981, there were numerous problems at Fox Hills Park relating to noise, group size, violation of park rules and excessive use of the basketball court by drop-in players late into the night. In order to address the concerns voiced by residents, the City Council voted to relocate the picnic areas, limit the size of picnic groups, eliminate the basketball hoops and provide more</p> |  |                                                                                                   |  |

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enforcement of park rules. Since that time, measures have been taken to increase opportunities for organized youth sports at Fox Hills Park. Below is a summary of some of the changes that have occurred at the Park over the years:

| <b>Date</b>                          | <b>Body</b>                      | <b>Action</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07/21/81                             | PRCS Commission                  | A Public Hearing regarding resident complaints at Fox Hills Park is held.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 08/24/81                             | City Council                     | Several Council Actions are taken to restore order at the Park, including the removal of the basketball standards, an earlier closing time and the prohibition of large groups/activities.                                                                                                                                                    |
| 07/16/96                             | PRCS Commission                  | Sends letter to City Council recommending that basketball be allowed to resume at Fox Hills Park.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 09/24/96                             | City Council and PRCS Commission | During a joint-meeting, the Council directs Commission to conduct extensive public outreach and hold a public meeting on the issue.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 09/09/97                             | PRCS Commission                  | Hears testimony from the community and once again recommends that the City Council consider allowing the resumption of basketball at Fox Hills Park. The Commission notes the establishment of the Park Patrol and the development of the Hauptman Hoop Lock as factors that will mitigate the previous negative impacts to the neighborhood. |
| 01/12/98                             | City Council                     | Approves a 90-day trial period for one basketball standard at Fox Hills Park with play be limited to the hours of 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.                                                                                                                              |
| 03/16/98 – 06/13/98                  | PRCS Department                  | 90-day trial period held at Fox Hills Park; monitored by Recreation staff.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 06/29/98                             | PRCS Commission                  | Results from the trial period are favorable and the one half-court is left in the Park to remain open during the specified hours. A follow-up was scheduled to investigate adding another half-court.                                                                                                                                         |
| 09/14/98                             | City Council                     | Approves the addition of another basketball half-court and the implementation of a Park Permit system at Fox Hills Park.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| September 2000 through December 2000 | City Council                     | The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) is allowed to practice on the field at Fox Hills Park for a limited time due to the closure of the High School fields for renovations.                                                                                                                                                          |
| 06/05/01                             | PRCS Commission                  | Recommends to the City Council that Departmental sports activities and special events and picnic use by permit for large groups is allowed at Fox Hills Park.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 04/14/03                             | City Council                     | The City Council approves organized youth sports at Fox Hills Park on a six-month trial basis. As a result, AYSO is allowed to practice on the field again.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 10/13/03                             | City Council                     | Approves continuing the permitting of local, organized youth sports activities at Fox Hills Park.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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*December 4, 2012 PRCS Commission Meeting*

As noted previously, this Agenda Item is continued from the December 4, 2012 PRCS Commission meeting. Extensive public outreach was done to notice the December 4 discussion: 518 postcards were mailed to the occupants of residences adjacent to Fox Hills Park along Buckingham Parkway and Green Valley Circle on November 13, 2012; emails were sent to over 3,000 subscribers of the City's email notification system on November 21 and 29, 2012; a slide noticing the Agenda Item appeared on Channel 35/37 from November 26 through December 4, 2012; and, notices were posted at Fox Hills Park from November 27 through December 4, 2012. A summary of the public comment received on or before December 4, 2012 is included on the table in the "Discussion" section of this report.

Also of interest from the December 4 meeting, the following information was culled from the Park Patrol logs for Fox Hills Park for the twenty-three (23) months from December 2010 through October 2012. This information, along with the "Calls for Service Report" below it, seems to indicate that excessive noise and large disruptive gatherings are no longer issues at Fox Hills Park.

| <b>Infraction Logged by Park Patrol</b>  | <b>Incidences</b> |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Dog in Park with Owner/Companion         | 38                |
| Illegal/Unauthorized Parking             | 3                 |
| Smoking                                  | 3                 |
| Trainer Using Park for Personal Business | 3                 |
| Biking                                   | 2                 |
| Dispute between Patrons                  | 2                 |
| No Permit                                | 2                 |
| Skateboarding                            | 2                 |
| Stray Dog                                | 2                 |
| Unauthorized Signs                       | 2                 |
| Digging/Metal Detector in Park           | 1                 |
| Dispute between Patron/Staff             | 1                 |
| Golfing                                  | 1                 |
| Graffiti                                 | 1                 |
| Improper Use of Water Fountain           | 1                 |
| Personal Grill                           | 1                 |
| Soccer on Tennis Courts                  | 1                 |
| Tree Climbing                            | 1                 |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>67</b>         |

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| <b>Culver City Police Department Calls for Service Report for<br/>Fox Hills Park: January 1, 2012 – December 4, 2012.</b> | <b>Incidences</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Noise/Nuisance Complaint relating to a Person or Persons                                                                  | 7                 |
| Noise/Nuisance Complaint not relating to a Person or Persons                                                              | 3                 |
| Extra Patrol Requested                                                                                                    | 3                 |
| Marijuana/Drugs                                                                                                           | 2                 |
| Suspicious Person                                                                                                         | 2                 |
| Injured Person (usually related to fire)                                                                                  | 2                 |
| Animal Control                                                                                                            | 2                 |
| Call/Report to Main Desk                                                                                                  | 1                 |
| Theft                                                                                                                     | 1                 |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                              | <b>23</b>         |

**DISCUSSION:**

The Fox Hill Park Basketball Court Improvement Project (PZ-960) was funded and approved by the City Council during the Fiscal Year 2012/13 Budget Hearings. The project proposes to convert the existing half-courts at Fox Hills Park to one oversize full court incorporating two smaller side-by-side youth basketball courts within the larger court to allow for improved recreational use (Attachment A).

Over the past two years, some City Council members, the PRCS Director and the Parks Manager have attended Fox Hills Neighborhood Association meetings and spoken to past and present members of the Association Board and other Fox Hills neighborhood residents regarding the upcoming project. This evening's meeting provides community residents with another opportunity express their views on the proposed court renovations.

**Summary of Public Comment**

| <b>POSITION on Fox Hills Park Basketball<br/>Court Improvement Project</b>                                                                                                                       | <b>Recorded<br/>on or before<br/>12/04/12</b> | <b>Recorded<br/>after<br/>12/04/12</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Support</b>                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1                                             | 2                                      | <b>3</b>     |
| <b>Conditional Support</b> – (1) Will support if hoops are closed and locked after children play to discourage adult play; (2) Will support if the activity is regulated / supervised by adults. | 2                                             | 0                                      | <b>2</b>     |
| <b>Oppose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                    | 7                                             | 1                                      | <b>8</b>     |
| <b>Conditional Opposition</b> – Oppose if foliage and habitat are disrupted or destroyed either during or after construction.                                                                    | 1                                             | 0                                      | <b>1</b>     |

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All public comment received by staff during the period December 5, 2012 through 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2013 regarding the basketball court renovation is provided as Attachment B. Any public comment on the issue received since that time will be placed on the dais for the Commissioners and/or be read into the record at this evening's meeting.

**The Proximity of the Fox Hills Basketball Court to the Nearest Residence**

In 1998, staff prepared a memo listing the distance from the basketball courts at several Culver City park locations to the nearest residence. Staff believes that this information is still relevant today and may be of interest to Commissioners and the public:

| <b>Distance from Basketball Court to Nearest Residence (in feet)</b> | <b>Park or Playground</b>  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 30'                                                                  | La Ballona Playground      |
| 45'                                                                  | Blanco Park                |
| 71'                                                                  | Blair Hills Park           |
| 87'                                                                  | Lindberg Park              |
| 97'                                                                  | Veterans' Memorial Park    |
| 110'                                                                 | El Marino Park             |
| 145'                                                                 | Culver West Alexander Park |
| 195'                                                                 | Syd Kronenthal Park        |
| <b>278'</b>                                                          | <b>Fox Hills Park</b>      |

**FISCAL ANALYSIS:**

Should the PRCS Commission make a recommendation to staff to proceed with the implementation of the Fox Hills Park Basketball Park Improvement Project, the Project will entail purchasing new basketball standards and hiring a contractor to resurface and re-stripe the court, with the total cost estimated not-to-exceed \$20,000. There are currently sufficient funds available in Account Number 41980000.730100.PZ960 (Park Facilities Fund - Quimby Fees/Fox Hills Park Basketball Court Renovation) for this expenditure.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Aerial view of the proposed Fox Hills Park Basketball Court Improvement Project (PZ-960).

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- B. Public comment received regarding the Fox Hills Park Basketball Court Improvement Project from December 5, 2012 through 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2013.

**MOTIONS:**

That the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission:

1. Receive and review public input regarding the proposed Fox Hills Park Basketball Court Improvement Project (PZ-960); and,
2. Make a recommendation to staff to begin implementation of the Project;

OR

3. Provide staff with alternate suggestions.