

**MOORPARK CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: The Honorable City Council

FROM: Mary Lindley, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director 

PREPARED BY: Peggy Rothschild, Active Adult Center Supervisor 

DATE: January 26, 2006 (CC Meeting of February 15, 2006)

SUBJECT: Consider Upgrading Bocce Ball Courts at Tierra Rejada Park

SUMMARY

The Council is being asked to consider the use of funds previously allocated to design and construct a shade pavilion for improvements to the Bocce ball courts located in Tierra Rejada Park. The Moorpark Active Adult Center strives to provide a well-balanced mix of recreational opportunities for older adults. As a part of the Active Adult Center Advisory Committee's commitment to enhancing the lives of older adults, they support the upgrading of the two existing Bocce ball courts, in lieu of constructing an adjacent shade pavilion.

DISCUSSION

In 2003-04, the City Council allocated funds for the design and construction of a shelter (pavilion) adjacent to the Bocce ball courts in Tierra Rejada Park. At that time, the Active Adult Advisory Committee (Committee) anticipated the need for a shelter to provide shade for players during monthly games (played once a month during spring, summer and fall) and the biennial Senior Games Tournament. However, since the Council action, the Committee has reconsidered its previous recommendation. The Committee no longer believes a pavilion is needed and is now requesting that the funds allocated for the pavilion be used to upgrade and enhance the existing Bocce ball courts.

The existing two Bocce ball courts were built by in-house staff. The perimeter of the courts is lined by a wood header and the base is decomposed granite. At both ends of each court there is a players' bench. Each bench has been retrofitted to hold a large

umbrella to provide the players with shade. The position of the umbrellas can be adjusted to accommodate the rotation of the sun. The umbrellas provide sufficient shade for the players as they wait for their turns. This has proven more convenient for players than would standing under a pavilion, farther away from the courts. Monthly games consist of an average of 8 to 10 players. For the biennial Senior Games, the Active Adult Center uses a large canopy to provide a shaded area to host lunch for the players. The Committee is happy with this arrangement and considering the limited amount of use a pavilion by the Bocce ball courts would receive, they believe they would benefit more from upgraded courts.

Before recommending improvements to the existing Bocce ball courts, the Committee discussed other potential sites locations and visited Arroyo Vista Community Park (AVCP). While available space at AVCP provides convenient access to a pavilion, restrooms and storage, the Committee had concerns about the amount of foot-traffic and resulting damage to courts if they were to be relocated to AVCP. Therefore, the preferred location is Tierra Rejada Park.

The Committee researched design and construction specifications for tournament style Bocce ball courts and is recommending the following:

Size and Positioning

Two courts, positioned side-by-side, 80-feet long by 15-feet wide.

Court Surface Composition

Surface smoothness is critical to the game. The preferred top surface is ½-inch to 1-inch thick of screened decomposed granite.

Court Curbs

The most durable and preferable curb material is concrete. Curbs should be built about 12-inches-high from the top surface of the court. The tops of the curbs should be perfectly level, so that they may be used as a guide to level the court surface. Pressure-treated wood should be attached to the inside of the cement curb, so the balls bounce off the curbs.

Drainage

There should be drainage underneath, to allow water to drain out from under the court, through drainage pipes, covered by gravel and other material under the courts. There should also be drains through the curbs, so surface water can drain off the court.

Water

A hose bib already exists adjacent to the Bocce ball court site in Tierra Rejada

Park which allows for the courts to be sprinkled as needed to prepare the surface before games.

The FY 2005/06 Budget includes \$30,000 for a pavilion adjacent to the Tierra Rejada Park Bocce ball courts. Staff and the Committee recommend using the funds for Bocce ball court improvements. Using a landscape architect consultant already under contact with the City, a construction plan will be drawn consistent with the specifications identified above. Staff will seek proposals to complete the work.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Authorize staff to use the \$30,000 previously appropriated for Bocce ball court improvements at Tierra Rejada Park as outlined in this Agenda Report.