

**PACIFIC GROVE RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION BOARD
Minutes – Special Meeting - Tuesday, March 9, 2004**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board chair Gary Anderson. This portion of the meeting was a site visit to the Municipal Ballpark on 17 Mile Drive to view prototype scoreboards. It began at 6:30 p.m.
2. Members present: Bell; Manuian and Tansill. Absent: Cotham

Recreation Director John Miller and Senior Coordinator Don Mothershead presented different models of where a new scoreboard might be located. Miller and Mothershead also briefed the Recreation Board members on the history of the ballpark.

The site visit portion of the Recreation Board meeting concluded at 6:50 p.m. and was adjourned to the Community Center for the start of the regular meeting.

The regular portion of the meeting began at 7:04. Board member Teri Cotham arrived at 7:12 p.m. In attendance were several Morris Dill Tennis Court neighbors and some representatives of Pacific Grove PONY Baseball to address issues of concern to them.

3. All items listed under the consent agenda were approved.
4. There were no oral communications.

To accommodate the schedule of the guests in attendance, item 7a and item 8a were moved to this portion of the meeting by unanimous consent of the Recreation Board.

7a. John Miller reported that he had two phone calls and an e-mail from neighbors of the Municipal Ballpark indicating they were not opposed to having a new scoreboard in the outfield. Don Mothershead indicated that he had talked to two other neighbors, who also were in favor of the plan. Letters had been sent to all neighbors within a 300-foot radius, inviting them to view the prototype scoreboards and to attend the meeting, but none came to the meeting. There was some discussion about the ease of maintenance if the board is placed above the fence versus the need to keep it out of vandals reach. Rich Russo, Randy Karasek and Bernadette Villareal, all from the PONY League, spoke and said they favored a scoreboard in centerfield high off the ground. The Recreation Board directed Mothershead to get more information about the impact resistance of the scoreboard, how well it is weatherproofed, the effect of sun reflection and other maintenance issues. Also, it was discussed that during youth tournaments, a temporary fence is often brought in, and it is unclear whether this would obscure the view if the fence were placed lower to the ground.

8a. Four neighbors of the Morris Dill Tennis Courts attended the meeting to share their concerns about what proposed improvements to the courts might mean. These guests were: Peter Drakos, Jerry Norton (both from 14th Street) and Dan Miller and Frances Grate (from Gibson Avenue). To date, nearly \$17,000 has been raised from public donations to resurface the courts, with the promise of a State grant if this amount can reach \$22,000. John Miller gave a brief update on the fundraising effort to resurface the courts. Approximately \$17,000 has been raised, including \$2,700 from a benefit spaghetti dinner held at Breaker's Café. Miller said that it has been more than 12 years since major work has been done to the courts. He said that additional court improvements would possibly include new fencing, improved drainage and landscaping. He assured the neighbors that lights were definitely not planned. Peter Drakos and Frances Grate both praised the Recreation staff for having the courtesy to include the neighbors in the preliminary planning stages. Grate suggested that the City look into the possibility of having diagonal parking on the court side of Gibson Avenue to accommodate the increased volume of players and tournament spectators. Dan Miller said he would like to see four, rather than five, courts. He added he does not want to see trees damaged or cut by any work done to the courts, and he hopes that the improved courts will not dramatically increase the play time and parking. Finally, he said that the security of the courts has to become a greater concern, and that he has seen -- and reported to the PGPD and tennis pro Mark Sydnor-- numerous acts of vandalism and after-hours trespassing. He said that this must be addressed. Both Miller Peter Drakos spoke about the noise issue, with tennis lessons beginning as early as 8 a.m. on some weekends. Drakos also complained about discourteous parents picking up and dropping off children for lessons parking illegally on 14th Street, making it difficult for him to enter and leave his home. A suggestion was raised that 14th Street become a one-way street. Jerry Norton said he hoped that a buffer zone might be formed on the 14th Street side of the court that would give at least a few extra feet of separation between the court and the homes. He suggested that the hours of operation and the number of tournaments be limited and that a committee composed of neighbors, players and a Recreation Board member be formed to draft an agreement. He also echoed Drakos and Miller about the vandalism issue. Tennis pro Mark Sydnor said his main concern is maximizing the court improvements so they will serve the tennis community for many years. He added that he is aware of the vandalism problem and has made an effort to lock the courts at night, but

that it is possible to slip under the fence. He will work to correct this. A committee similar to that suggested by Jerry Norton will be formed. Gary Anderson will represent the Rec Board, with John Miller and Mark Sydnor acting as ex-officio members. Two neighbors and two from the tennis community will be solicited. The first meeting is planned to start within a few weeks.

8b. One day before the Recreation Board met, Randy Karasek, representing PONY Baseball, met with John Miller to discuss building covered dugouts at George Washington Park, similar to those at Arnett. Although this was not on the agenda, Miller allowed Karasek and fellow PONY Board member Rich Russo to present their plans to the Recreation Board for their review and conceptual approval to move forward. The plans would not involve removing or altering the trees and planting and would be configured so that walking areas would not be limited. PONY Baseball volunteers would do the construction and no City funds or manpower would be used. The Recreation Board had no objections, so John Miller will discuss this with Community Development director Jon Biggs to see what steps are required.

6a. Coordinator Walter Davis said that plans have begun for the Spring Adventure Camp and Marine World trip which will both occur during the school's Spring break. The Youth Center will also have a dance for Middle School students.

6b. Coordinator Donald Mothershead reported that youth basketball ended on March 6th after a successful two months. The Hot Shot skills contest will be held at the Boys and Girls Club on March 13th. The younger divisions of PONY Baseball will begin on the 13th with the older divisions starting a week later. The adult basketball playoffs will take place soon, with the end of the season in mid-April.

6c. Davis said he is working on the 2000 Per Capita Grant, which his for \$159,000. The historic preservation grant for Chautauqua Hall has been recorded.

8b. Jim Manuiian was nominated and unanimously selected to serve as the Recreation Board representative to the Golf Advisory Committee.

The meeting concluded at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 13, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. at the Pacific Grove Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Miller
Director of Recreation