

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 02-387

DATE: November 6, 2002

C.D. 5

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: DONATION AND INSTALLATION OF FIELD LIGHTS AT WESTWOOD RECREATION CENTER BY AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION

J. Combs  
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J. Duggan  
H. Fujita

J. Kolb  
M. Tamuri  
M. Matthews



General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Accept donation from the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), Region 70, of material and labor valued at \$36,000 for installation of field lighting at Westwood Recreation Center; and,
2. Direct staff to issue a right of entry permit for this project.

SUMMARY

AYSO has submitted a plan to pay for and install lights at Westwood Recreation Center on the field that AYSO uses for soccer on a nonexclusive permit basis. AYSO, which has been using Westwood for its programs since 1989, has requested that the Department approve this project which will benefit its players and be made available to all park users. The lights would enable AYSO to hold practice later in the evening during the fall and winter season to accommodate an increased number of registered youth players.

The scope of the project includes installation of four 40-foot light poles, with eight lights each, on the southeastern field at Westwood adjacent to the boundless playground. The plans have been approved by Department staff and meet all Los Angeles City requirements for light poles, including consistency with Los Angeles City Standard Plan Number 539.

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The work will be performed by Musco Lighting, and the project duration is anticipated to be for three weeks. Upon direction of the Board, Department staff will issue a right of entry permit, inclusive of appropriate insurance for this project. The project will be coordinated to minimize potential impacts on recreational users of the park.

The plans were presented to the Park Advisory Board (PAB), and a subsequent community meeting was held on August 15, 2002, with no opposition to the light plan.

The Environmental Management Section has determined that the proposed installation of the sports field lighting is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1 (12) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

In addition to the 300 children currently registered with AYSO to play soccer at Westwood, other users and groups will also benefit from the installation of the lights. AYSO indicates that they will need the lights until 7:00 p.m. for a period of 10 weeks per year. After that, the lights would then be available for other programs or permit groups. Timers on the lights will be controlled by Department staff.

It should be noted that the Department is in the process of adding a provision to the Rates and Fees Schedule, Youth Sports Group section, which would require all Youth Sports Groups to reimburse the Department for utility use. A fee of \$2.00 per hour for use of lighted sports fields during practice times is proposed. Upon proper public notification, and approval of the Board, the new utility fee will be adopted and AYSO's permit fees will be adjusted accordingly.

Council District 5 concurs with the recommendations of this report.

Prepared by Maile Marquand and Linda Clifford.