

RECREATION AND PARK GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: July 26, 2010
ITEM: New Business

SUBJECT: Policy re Complimentary Golf

Submitted by _____
Craig Kessler

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee refer the development of a policy re complimentary golf to the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee.

BACKGROUND

Very recently the Department of Recreation and Parks reversed long-standing policy re employee complimentary golf in favor of a blanket denial of complimentary play in all circumstances. Whether this draconian reversal was based upon some mistaken belief that the old policy resulted in lost revenue or was based upon some misplaced sense of impropriety is anybody's guess.

The reversal represented a departure from normative practice of virtually every other municipal golf program in Southern California; it was based upon the false premise that its cancellation would somehow result in increased revenues; it was based upon an additional false premise that the general public resents the practice; and it is guaranteed to deplete employee morale even further at just the moment when continued public delivery of the golf system has come under intense and most public scrutiny.

In short, the reversal struck many as hasty, ill timed and poorly conceived. What could and should have been a rational review followed by a tightening of the old policy was instead an unwise overreaction to phantom concerns.

The Policies and Procedures Subcommittee can perform that missing review and do it by investigating the policies of similarly situated municipal systems and applying the wisdom contained therein to the specific circumstances of the city's current situation. Whether the Department will pay heed to a common sense policy consistent with normative business practice is not knowable. However, what is knowable is that absent such an investigation cum recommendation, the current decision will stand, and with it the undesirable consequences referenced herein.

Such a review should not take particularly long, nor should it prove particularly difficult.