

AGENDA REPORT

Agenda Item 5. C Approvals: Dept. Head Manager Admin. Asst.

BEACHES, PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Meeting Date: June 10, 2014

Department:

Beaches, Parks & Recreation

Prepared By:

Sharon Heider, Director of Beaches, Parks & Recreation

Subject:

PARK MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT TO JIM JOHNSON MEMORIAL SPORTS PARK.

Fiscal Impact: The current Marblehead Coastal developer has committed to reimburse the Parks Acquisition and Development Fund for the \$600,000 previously identified for Courtney's SandCastle construction less any funds expended to improve the area.

Summary:

Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park has an approved master plan that includes Courtney's Sandcastle Universally Accessible Playground. Since Courtney's Sandcastle has already been constructed at the Vista Hermosa Sports Park, staff recommends an amendment to the approved park master plan to provide an open

turf area in the former Courtney's Sandcastle site.

Background:

In 2003, Courtney's Sandcastle Universally Accessible Playground was relocated from its proposed location at Richard T. Steed Park to the Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park in the Marblehead Coastal development. The development agreement required Courtney's SandCastle Playground to be constructed at the developer's expense then identified as \$600,000. The Marblehead Coastal development, including the park, was placed on hold, and with the uncertain future of the park, Courtney's Sandcastle was again relocated and ultimately constructed in the Vista Hermosa Sports Park.

Discussion:

The Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park is currently master planned to include three unlighted soccer fields, a basketball court, restrooms, and a playground. Staff has reviewed the proposed master plan for Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park, and is recommending that the former site of Courtney's Sandcastle be replaced with an open turf area. Staff assessed that this park has a high density of athletic fields, and open turf can provide great benefits as a warm-up or transition space for sport groups which appears to be lacking, and may be useful as a gathering place for park events. The proposal will still retain the playground area planned in the northwest corner of the park.

In the original development agreement, the developer of Marblehead Coastal agreed to fund construction of the Courtney's SandCastle Playground in the amount of \$600,000. Recent discussions with the current Marblehead Coastal developer have yielded a commitment to reimburse the \$600,000 to the Parks Acquisition and Development Fund less any funds expended to improve the area.

Recommended

Action:

STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission

recommend to the City Council to amend the master plan of Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park to replace the area identified for Courtney's Sandcastle with open turf.

Attachments: Park Master Plan

Notification:

None

