

May 30, 2002

Chairperson and Members of the
Parks, Recreation and Community
Resources Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting of
June 4, 2002

SOUTH PARK PARKING ISSUES

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission:

1. Request improved parking enforcement coverage for South Park; and
2. Direct staff to obtain improved signage and disseminate program information to direct park users to alternate parking on 6th Street; and
3. Receive and file this report.

Background

At the May 7, 2002 meeting, the Commission requested consideration for adding parking on the Greenbelt adjacent to South Park.

At a subsequent City Council meeting, a resident from Loma Drive expressed concern about parking issues at the upper lot and the impacts on Loma Drive.

Analysis

At the November 7, 1989 election, voters approved a taxation measure to allow a 4% Utility Users Tax (UUT) for the acquisition of the Hermosa Valley Greenbelt (then known as the A.T. & S. F. Railroad Right-of-way). Contained in that referendum was an amendment to the zoning code that served to outline the future use of the park (Attachment A). Specifically related to the prospective addition of parking, is the following:

Improvements to the O-S-1 zone shall be as follows:

Improvements to only those two existing parking areas located within the Greenbelt Area across from Clark Stadium and City Hall consistent with or necessary to maintain and assure designated parking spaces, without expanding the existing parking area.

This item would seem to preclude consideration of adding parking adjacent to South Park absent a ballot measure.

Notwithstanding the above, with the addition of the Extended Day after school program and the success of youth programs, the use of the park during peak hours during the School year and weekends has intensified. Parking has also been in short supply due to the increased use of the field for non-scheduled activities (e.g., club soccer teams, pick-up football).

Summer scheduled use is less problematic with the absence of the school program and the addition of numerous beach activities for youth (Attachment B-identifies Scheduled Programs at South Park).

To help solve parking shortages, staff recommends as an initial approach, to better utilize nearby public parking through improved signage and program information. Specifically, including City Yard employee spaces, there are an additional 26 spaces on 6th Street available during most of the Park's high use times (just north of South Park)—almost doubling the available parking. In addition, the Greenbelt Parking is a little over 1/10 mile from the Park (two blocks) and depending on the time of year, may have spaces available.

Increased use of alternative spaces needs to be combined with attention to parking enforcement, particularly in the upper lot where there have been reports by Loma residents of illegal parking. Once park users are cognizant that regulations will be strictly enforced, the issue should subside.

Finally, the City is employing a consultant to develop a master plan for City Yard. Staff will request that employee parking on 6th Street be examined for an improved striping configuration and aesthetics to clarify that it is public parking.

Parking shortages are not unique to South Park and are evident in other recreation facilities during their peak hour usages. Enthusiasm and support for recreation programs, particularly youth programs, is strong and the demands for facility use have grown commensurately. Staff makes and will make every effort to consider impacts of programs that are scheduled concurrently and to address opportunities to assist with parking demands where solutions are available.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Attachments:

- A. Ordinance No. 89-1001
- B. Scheduled Programs at South Park

Respectfully submitted:

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Director, Community Resources