

CITY OF ALBANY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
STAFF REPORT

Agenda date: September 8, 2011

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director  
**SUBJECT:** Sports Field Scheduling in Albany

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Information only

**BACKGROUND**

The City of Albany owns and operates two sports fields; Ocean View and Memorial. Ocean View is used for a variety of youth and adult sports and Memorial is primarily used for a variety of youth sports. The Albany Unified School District owns and operates Cougar Field Sports Complex. Cougar Field has an artificial turf field used for a variety of sports including the high school football and soccer teams. The Cougar complex also has a track, and two grass softball fields. The outfield of the two softball fields is also used for other sports such as youth soccer.

The priority use of Ocean View, Memorial, and Cougar fields are governed by the Joint Use Agreement (JUA) between the City and the School District. For the City facilities, the City also has a Master Fee Schedule and a General Rental Policy that are used to assess fees and priority. The JUA and the rental policy are attached.

Each year City staff meets with youth sports organizers as needed to discuss the upcoming seasons. Typically a schedule is generated from those meetings that is agreed upon by all users and adheres to the JUA and City policies.

To summarize the JUA, the School District has first priority for School District facilities and the City has second priority. Similarly, the City has first priority for City facilities and the District has second priority. As the JUA pertains to sports fields, the “in-season” sport is given priority over the sports that are not in season. For example, fall is considered soccer season; therefore, in the fall the City gives soccer priority before scheduling baseball given that baseball is considered a spring sport. At the meetings with the field users each group is sensitive to the reality that most sports prefer to practice year-round and after discussion and compromise, a schedule is hammered out that typically allows the off-season sports to have some field time. For example, in addition to youth soccer, baseball’s “fall ball” program will use Memorial Field through November. Memorial and Ocean View close from approximately December 1 through January

31 each year so that the grass can regenerate before springs sports begin. Extra maintenance is also completed during the winter field closure.

Ocean View is the only field the City has with lights and is reserved for adult sports in the evenings Monday through Friday from 7:00pm to 10:30pm. Cougar has lights on the artificial turf field; however, due to the agreement the District has with the City of El Cerrito, using the lights is extremely limited to only a few times per year.

Although not pertaining to field use priority, sports field maintenance may be of interest to the Commission. The City contracts with Albany Little League (ALL) for sports field maintenance at Ocean View and Memorial. ALL takes care of the basic needs of the fields such as mowing, weeding, watering, etc., for \$1800 per month per field or \$3600 total.