

ACTION ON ITEM REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

- E-5 "Adopt resolution approving the standardization of solid state meters for residential and small commercial application with Itron, of Spokane, Washington"

Council Member Hansen pointed out that the use of electronic meters would be more efficient and result in reduced staffing and cost savings.

Mel Grandi, Electric Services Manager, reported that the solid state meters are installed at new homes and through an attrition process. He stated that Electric Utility plans to establish a program and deployment policy regarding automated meter reading and the associated cost. Electric Utility is attempting to incorporate automated meter reading with its fiber network that it is deploying at this time.

Council Member Johnson asked that a presentation be given to Council in the near future regarding this topic, e.g. how soon it can be implemented, options, and funding issues.

Council Member Hansen commented that others are way ahead of Lodi on fiber optics and are offering it as a benefit to their ratepayers and as a revenue source. He asked the City Manager if the program could be accelerated and expressed support for Mr. Johnson's suggestion.

MOTION/VOTE:

The City Council, on motion of Council Member Hansen, Johnson second, adopted Resolution No. 2005-64 approving the standardization of solid state meters for residential and small commercial application with Itron, of Spokane, Washington. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members = Hansen, Johnson, Mounce, and Mayor Beckman

Noes: Council Members = None

Absent: Council Members = Hitchcock

F. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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- Dyric Ramirez distributed a report to Council (filed). He stated that the Community Service District of Elk Grove maintains full-time security at its skate park. He believed that safety equipment was a parent's responsibility. In Elk Grove, helmet and pad compliance is 20%. Non-skating youth have entered the skate park three times and physically assaulted some of the children. Mr. Ramirez stated that skate parks are only successful with some level of proactive supervision and programming. He offered several suggestions and recommended that Council contract with a skate park operator.

Council Member Hansen recalled that the original cost of the skate park was \$500,000 to \$600,000. In addition, a citizen donated \$10,000 recently to repair the equipment. He expressed doubt that the park would remain open and noted that liability is a significant concern.

G. COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Council Member Mounce announced that she attended the reorganization meetings of the Sister City Committee and Lodi Improvement Committee and was very impressed with both.
- Council Member Hansen reported that he attended another San Joaquin Council of Governments Regional Transportation Impact Fee Policy Committee meeting, which continues to be a challenge. Addressing Community Development Director Bartlam, Mr. Hansen thanked him for his service to the City, noting that he had a difficult job and yet he always maintained a professional attitude, was responsive, and held fast to what he believed in.

Filed 4-6-05
Dyric Ramirez
Item F



Lodi California
A Recreational Life Line



A Citizens Report
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Elk Grove Skate Park checkpoint.. .

Preface:

My name is Dyrlic Ramirez my personal ministry is serving skate board and BMX children. I achieve this goal by serving City Leadership Teams.

I do not own a board shop or business of any kind. I do not profit or get reimbursed for any expenses.

In just a Dad trying to observe, learn, and serve the needs of skate parks.

Operational Model

Elk Grove Community Services District operates a non-supervised park. SB994 allows municipalities to avoid liability with proper signage.

EG CSD maintenance full time security to keep bikes and non-skaters outside the park.

Helmet & Pads compliance is around 20% and growing. Safety equipment is a Parent responsibility.

ffi Neaative news...

Hired security to keep bikes out & ensure park safety.

NON skating youth have physically assaulted our skate board children three times. Zero problems with skate board children in and around the park.

Fired our first security company for better service.

Soon to use a combination of Off Duty Officers and security company or just Off Duty Officers. Pending final decision.

Youth on Youth crime is occurring throughout Elk Grove. This is a growing community problem not a skate park problem.

EG Positive news...

Zero problems with skate board children in and around the park.

Estimated 150+ participants a day. We have a higher number of youth adults and a growing number **of** parents skating. Since we **are** an unsupervised **park**, exact numbers are unknown.

We are aggressively re-evaluating bike access. California Code 831.7 states “bike racing and jumping” is **protected** under the “Hazardous Recreation” liability law. City of Piedmont has allowed bikes into their park since 2002 without any claims or damage. No pegs allowed in the park.

The Parent Advisory Board has completed its first meeting. We have 56 registered parents to date.

Classes & Camps have been confirmed and scheduled.

We are hosting the California Amateur Skate Boarding League on 4/16/05.

We’re pending approval of a safety grant.

We are currently developing a safety program, league contests, Education Skate Program (Edu-Skate).

Recommendation for Lodi Skate Park...

Unfortunately skate parks can only be healthy with some level of pro-active supervision & programming.

Three options:

1. Continue as-is but the participants will never fully comply with posted rules. Children may continue to break into park. Bikes will ignore rules. Eventually equipment may be sold.
2. Contract with a skate park operator to eliminate city liability & ensure all rules are followed.
3. Offer a non-supervised park with onsite security. Rotate days between skate boarding and BMX. Security Officer will not enforce pads but ensure park security & bike rotation.

All options should include a growing recreational program to engage parent participation.

Park Adversity:

Often we are frustrated **with** the amount of energy spent on maintenance and rule compliance.

Park Solution:

- Please consider maintenance **as** a “Field Preps”. (Field Preparation)
- Providing pro-active security and programming allowing us to channel our energy in a positive direction. The overall programming goal – Build a strong parent support group. Delegate as parents join.

Funding:

Funding Preface:

Elk Grove completed a sports field study. They concluded a sports field cost \$10,000 dollars a year to maintain. This DOES NOT include programming staff costs. Elk Grove tax payers pay an estimated \$610,000 dollars a year to maintain 61 sports fields. Tax payers cost recover is less than **4%**.

Elk Grove has 60,000 children in the EG Unified School District.

Only 7,500 EG children participate in the Elk Grove Youth Sports Association (main stream sports).

Application to Lodi:

Lodi has **22** sports fields (baseball & soccer only).

22 x \$10,000 = \$220,000 a year field maintenance cost only.
(Programming staff not included).

\$2,200,000 ten year maintenance cost for **22** parks.

Lodi funding recommendation:

Think of park security cost as a “Field Maintenance Cost”.

\$50,000 a year for vendor security.

\$10,000 a year for park tune-up.

\$60,000 total is only **27%** of what Lodi currently pays for sport fields.

It's recommended one FTE be added to build & maintain a parent driven skate park program. Assign other work as City grows and skate park programming settles.

Conclusion:

Skate Boarders and BMX do not have coaches or programs. If we can meet their needs in a pro-active manner, there behavior will follow. Please do not give up on the Lodi skate board / BMX children. They just need a little funding and pro-active attention.

Thank you,

Dyric Ramirez

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