



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



May 7, 2019

File ID: 19-0243

TITLE

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF DEVELOPING DESIGNATED OFF-LEASH, FENCED DOG AREA AT ROHR PARK

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council consider the project and provide direction to staff as appropriate.

SUMMARY

Staff is proposing to develop a fenced, off leash dog area at Rohr Park. Staff has identified a viable location for a fenced dog facility at Rohr Park and, if Council approves, staff in the Development Services Department will design the fenced dog area and contract for the construction of the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The proposed Project has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and it has been determined that the Project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Class 1 (Existing Facilities), Section 15303 class 3 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. Thus, no further environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Parks and Recreation Commission had a scheduled Special Meeting on Monday, April 15 to consider the Rohr Park dog park as well as the proposed unfenced off leash dog park pilot. The Parks and Recreation Commission did not have a quorum that evening with only three Commissioners present. This item was presented to the members who were present, and the Vice-Chair allowed for discussion. The Commissioners who were present expressed no concerns regarding the proposed dog park project.

DISCUSSION

The City of Chula Vista parks system comprises of 68 publicly maintained parks, of which, six include designated off leash, fenced dog runs. The first fenced dog runs built in Chula Vista were in the 2007 development of Veterans Park and Monteville Park. The other parks with off leash, fenced dog runs are Mt. San Miguel Park, Orange Park, Stylus Park, and Eucalyptus Park. As identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update, which was adopted by the City Council on August 7, 2018, there are 9 additional future

parks identified to have off leash, fenced dog runs as part of the park program. The closest fenced, off leash dog area to Rohr Park is Eucalyptus Park, which is 4 miles away and serves a different community base.

City staff have identified several viable locations within Rohr Park to develop the fenced dog area, including a Eucalyptus grove above Rohr Field #17, a flat dirt area between Rohr Field #17 and Field #18, a small section of grass just east of Lot A near a picnic shelter, and a large area of relatively unused space at the westernmost portion of the park. Staff identified the large area in the westernmost portion of the park as the ideal location to develop the fenced dog area due to the proximity to restrooms, parking, and pathways, as well as the size of the location. The Eucalyptus grove and the dirt sites had ADA accessibility issues that would be costly to address, and the smaller location did not provide enough space to warrant the development of a fenced dog area.

With the site identified, staff have estimated the design, including overall size, and amenities to be included in the fenced dog area. The estimated size of the identified area is about 1.4 acres in entirety. This would include one section for smaller dogs, and one section for larger dogs weighing more than 25 pounds. Since this area is not immediately accessible from the paved walking path, ADA accessibility would need to be addressed in the final design and development of the fenced dog area.

The identified site is adjacent to 4 residences on the western edge of the park. The setback for the dog area would be at least 25' from the property line of the park to allow for parks maintenance staff to maintain the grounds between the property line and the dog area, as well as provide a buffer for the new activated space and the residences. Two of the residents have expressed concern with the proximity of the dog park to their residences, as well as the potential increased activation of the space.

If the City Council approves of this project, the Community Services Department will work with the Development Services Department to design this area and contract for the construction of the project.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the property holdings of the City Council members and has found no property holdings within 1,000 feet of the boundaries of the property which is the subject of this action. Consequently, this item does not present a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under California Code of Regulations Title 2, section 18702.2(a)(7) or (8), for purposes of the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code §87100, et seq.).

Staff is not independently aware and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision-maker conflict of interest in this matter.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

The current year fiscal impact to the general fund to develop the fenced, off leash dog area would include construction costs of up to \$95,000 for fencing around the perimeter of the identified area including double gate access, concrete mow curb under the fence line for reduced future maintenance, posts and signage for rules and regulations, dog waste bag dispensers and bags, waste containers, dog play equipment, and ADA

accessibility retrofits to the turfed area. There may be additional costs for turf repair if damaged due to improper use of the facility.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

Annual expenses would include the weekly replacement of dog waste bags and turf repair. The annual fiscal impact to the general fund for subsequent years is estimated at \$500.

ATTACHMENTS

None

Staff Contact: Tim Farmer, Parks and Recreation Administrator