

Report of the Working Group on the Impact of the Mar Vista Artificial Turf Field on the Westdale Neighborhood

February 5, 2007

The Honorable Bill Rosendahl
Los Angeles City Council Member
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Room 415
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Recommendation of the Working Group on the Mar Vista Park Artificial Turf Field

Dear Council Member Rosendahl,

The following is the report to you from the Working Group you constituted on November 29, 2006 to explore options and arrive at a consensus to mitigate the unexpected adverse consequences on the Westdale neighborhood caused by the addition of artificial turf to the soccer field in Mar Vista Park.

- 1) **Fence:** A perimeter fence should be constructed around the artificial turf field. The working group has reached the consensus that a perimeter fence is required to establish hours of use for the artificial turf field. It was determined that the Los Angeles Police Department, the Office of Public Safety, and Department of Recreation and Parks will not enforce hours of use without a fence which clearly defines the artificial turf field and posts the hours of closure. The working group could not reach consensus on a fence height. The discussion considered fence heights of five feet (5') (an extension of the existing fence), eight feet (8'), ten feet (10'), and twelve feet (12'). The factors discussed included cost (which increases with height), effectiveness as a deterrent (which increases with height), and aesthetics for park visitors and spectators (which decreases with height). The fence should be a brown vinyl coated chain link fence, with maximum cross bracing to prevent vibration and rattle, with a double maintenance gate and two pedestrian gates, all lockable. The pedestrian gates should be positioned to encourage pedestrian entrance from Palms and discourage entrance from Woodbine. The existing outer park gates at the corner of McLaughlin and Palms and Woodbine and McLaughlin should always remain unlocked to encourage parking along McLaughlin and discourage parking in the residential neighborhood. The artificial turf field gates will remain unlocked during the designated open hours of use for the field. Locking and unlocking the field gates is the responsibility of the Department of Recreation and Parks and is a condition of fencing the field.
- 2) **Net over fence:** A net should be installed above the new fence at the north perimeter of the soccer field at a height of at least sixteen feet (16') from the ground, which would prevent soccer balls from going over into the neighborhood.

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- 3) **Hedge:** A four-foot (4') high hedge should be planted along the north perimeter outer fence along Woodbine. The hedge would reduce the noise especially caused by soccer balls hitting the outer park fence without obstructing law enforcement's view of the area.
- 4) **Hours:** The winter (November 1 to March 31) artificial turf field hours should be 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., the summer (April 1 to October 31) should be 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. with the weekend period 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. being reserved for family style open play, no organized games. The Department of Recreation and Parks should establish a schedule that encourages youth use of the artificial turf field consistent with Proposition K guidelines.
- 5) **No Field lighting:** Field lighting should not be installed in or around the artificial turf field due to the close proximity of residential housing
- 6) **Restrooms:** The Park must be staffed with restrooms open whenever any park facilities are open.
- 7) **Eliminate Metro League Play:** In keeping with the guidelines of Proposition K and the status of Mar Vista Park as a regional park we recommend the elimination of Metro League soccer play at Mar Vista Park.
- 8) **Signage:** Signs with the artificial turf field's schedule, hours of use, and rules of use, and telephone numbers for Los Angeles Police Department and the Office of Public Safety, should be posted. Signs requesting park users to respect the neighborhood and its residents, such as in Rustic Canyon Park, should be posted in prominent areas. Signs should state that there is no use of air horns and other loud noise making devices. Signs should be in both English and Spanish.
- 9) **Parking Spaces:** Onsite parking should be increased by converting the maintenance yard, at the west end of the current parking lot on Woodbine Street, to parking. This would also enhance security by providing an open space and better view from the park offices to the artificial turf field. In addition, there should be a review of whether the five parking spaces currently reserved for staff are necessary.
- 10) **Completion Date:** The completion date for Items 1 through 9, above, is April 1, 2007.
- 11) **Neighborhood Parking:** The Council Member should assist residents who favor permit parking on their street to obtain permit parking.
- 12) **Private Security Services:** Private Security Services should be paid to patrol the park hourly and call Los Angeles Police Department and the Office of Public Safety if they observe illegal activity or groups in the park after hours. This cost could be paid for by the WHOA, the MVNA, the MVCC or a combination of those groups.

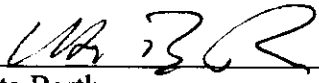
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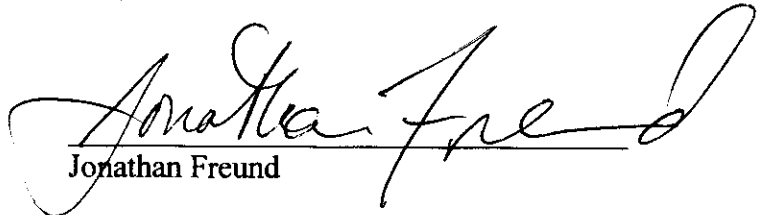
- 13) **Proposed Legislation:** A citywide ban on groups of people congregating in unlit areas in city parks after dark should be initiated by Council Member Rosendahl's office.

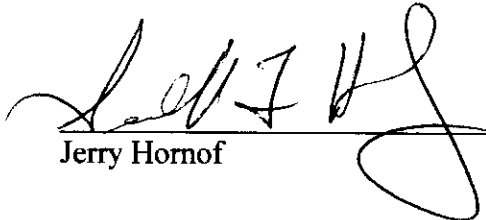
These recommendations are intended to be permanent changes.

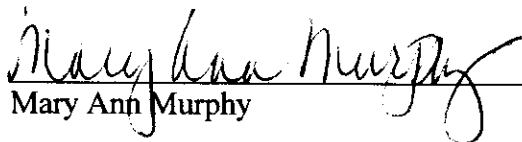
Thank you for the opportunity to serve our community.

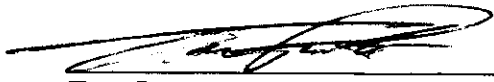
Respectfully submitted,


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