Meeting Date: February 17, 2009

TOWN OF MORAGA STAFF REPORT

To: **Parks and Recreation Commission**

From: **Jay Ingram, Parks and Recreation Director**

Subject: **February Agenda Items**

Unfinished Business

Revisions to Municipal Code Chapter 12.08.180 – A draft version of the ordinance is provided in the packet. Some of the changes for the current ordinance include:

-Presence at Hacienda – no major changes made
-Presence at Commons Park – eliminated any off-leash allowance, under proposed change, dogs must be on-leash at all times.
-Presence at Rancho Laguna – Dogs only allowed off-leash before 9am AND 4-6p (Standard Time) and 6-8p (Daylight Savings Time). *Mr. Salvago-Toledo has expressed interest to go from 4pm to park closing every day to make it simple.* Also, the off-leash allowance will only be on the turf and paved path area at Rancho. *Mr. Salvago-Toledo has stated that if this language is approved, the dog owners will all become law breakers.* Staff recommends this language for is for safety of park patrons. Dogs should not be allowed to run off-leash in the playgrounds, picnic areas, amphitheater, and sand volleyball court – so a specific area was designated. There are two acres of turf at Rancho.
The other change for Rancho is clarity that there will be no dogs allowed off-leash during a time of any event approved or sponsored by the Town. This implies that dogs can come to the park during an event approved or sponsored by the Town, but them must be leashed.
In the previous section C.2 – The area at Rancho Laguna Park designated for training for hunting, obedience, tracking, show…… has been taken out completely. Nobody knows what "that area at Rancho Laguna Park" really is or where it is located. Since removing the language, I have spoken with Barbara Miess a local resident and the only person that regularly renews her permit through the Parks and Recreation office. It appears that her permit has been issued since 2005, but there is no fee attached. Apparently this permit allows her to go to the park and train her animals regardless of time of day. She usually goes when no one is around so she can set up her training course. Ms. Miess is one of the original members that was part of making Rancho Laguna more accessible to dogs. I'm open for suggestions on this issue? I don't believe

it is good policy to include something in an ordinance that allows for this when only one person takes advantage of it.
-Presence at Mulholland Open Space Preserve – stays pretty much the same. I don't like the vagueness of dogs needing to stay on the paved portion of Donald Drive, but who is going to enforce that!
-Presence at Lamorinda Skate Park – No major changes.

If the commission can arrive at a decision/recommendation at this meeting, staff will provide the draft ordinance to the Town Attorney. If the Town Attorney can "wordsmith" the document but keep the concepts the same, then the draft ordinance will be forwarded to Town Council and not return to the Park and Recreation Commission.

Commission Goals 2009 - The Town Council will be looking for a focused discussion on Commission/Department Goals for 2009. I suggest that the focus be the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and/or the Hacienda Business Plan.

1) The Master Plan attached costs estimates to Priority Level 1 improvements:

Acquire special use area/site for multi-generational community center	$ 4,250,000.00
Develop a Master Plan for gym/multi-generational community center	$ 100,000.00
Develop gym/multi-generational community center	$ 7,000,000.00
Implement Hacienda de las Flores building improvements	$ 1,000,000.00
Reconfigure sports fields at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School	$ 205,188.00
Implement other school sports field improvements	$ 500,000.00
Conduct a feasibility study for gym/multi-generational community center	$ 75,000.00

2) The Hacienda Business Plan provided a three step approach for facility improvements: marketing and cost recovery:
Step 1 – More aggressive marketing effort, better signage, some 2 per day weddings
Step 2 – Modifications to the La Sala, reconfigure parking spaces
Step 3 – Construction of a 5,000 sq. ft. building to replace Casita

Cost figures identified from the Hacienda Business Plan:
3) Master Plan Hacienda property $ 25,000.00

4) In addition to the above priorities, the Parks and Recreation Commission had expressed interest in installing synthetic turf at Rancho Laguna Park.

5) Provide a long term vision for Commons Park

Out of this discussion we need to identify 2-3 topics to discuss with Town Council on March 3, 2009 – 6:30pm. A source of funds for development of recreational amenities or land acquisition will come from East Bay Regional Parks Bond Measure WW. The Town of Moraga will receive $737,587. Other options include Palos Colorados and other funding mechanisms.

New Business

Draft Summary Report – Community Facilities Tour – A PowerPoint presentation based on this report, will be given to Town Council on February 25th. I will take 10 minutes of your time to share the presentation with the Commission.

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair – Commission needs to vote on a Chair and Vice-Chair for the balance of 2009 and the beginning of 2010.