Meeting Date: October 20, 2009

TOWN OF MORAGA STAFF REPORT

To: **Parks and Recreation Commission**

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

Subject: **October Agenda Items**

Unfinished Business

Fields sub-committee report – This sub-committee has not met since September 17, waiting for estimates from Colony Landscaping for the Camino Pablo field and MIG for Rancho Laguna Park. The sub-committee was due for a recommendation to the joint boards in late September. That joint meeting has been rescheduled to October 27. While the sub-committee discussed all town and school district fields using either synthetic or natural turf, they seemed to focus on natural turf at Camino Pablo and other minor improvements to Rancho Laguna Park. Camino Pablo was attractive because it is currently almost unusable due to poor drainage. The sub-committee believes that drainage and irrigation upgrades and new natural turf would be a great addition to playable turf in Moraga. The sub-committee also likes Rancho Laguna because if the turf and drainage receives minor improvements it could offer an additional small playable surface that could allow the Town and the School District to start "resting" certain fields. The process of resting fields, allows natural turf fields to last longer because they are not overused and damaged.

The fields sub-committee is scheduled to meet next on October 21, 6:00pm at the Hacienda. One goal is to have a recommendation to the Town Council and Moraga School District Board ready for a Tuesday, October 27 joint meeting.

Rancho Laguna Program Plan sub-committee report –The sub-committee just completed additional community outreach at the Oktoberfest. Two community workshops are planned, the first is Sunday afternoon, October 25 (Rancho Laguna Park), 4:00pm and the second is Thursday, October 29 (Hacienda), 7:00pm. Our next sub-committee meeting will be October 22. At October 22nd meeting, the sub-committee will establish the format for October 25. The meeting at Rancho Laguna Park will be interactive as we walk the site to generate ideas and suggestions. On the 29th, we hope to summarize the 25th workshop and continue with a roundtable discussion exercise. Surveys have been received daily in good numbers and will be accepted through November 4, 5:00pm.

New Business

Upper Commons Playground recommendation – The Commission is asked to make a recommendation to Town Council on playground improvements to the Upper Commons play structure. Last November, when State grant funds were still available, the Commission selected the play structure presented by Miracle PlaySystems Inc. However, last December the grant funds were frozen, forcing the Town to stop the project. Within the last few months the State has opened the funding again and has said the sooner we use the money the better off we are. Acting on this playground improvement now leaves the Town eligible for $44,680 is State grant funds. Staff has been working with three play ground suppliers trying to get the best deal for the least amount of money. Attachment A is the table that shows the costs. If you would like to view the PDF drawings of the proposed playgrounds, they will be available before the meeting in the Parks and Recreation office at the Hacienda.

The Town has the option to use the California Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS) program to purchase playground equipment. CMAS is a program offered through the Department of General Services for the State of California and it local agencies where the projects have in essence already been bid. Most large commercial play equipment can only be obtained from a single, factory-authorized regional distributor. As a result, it is not possible to obtain competitive bids through the normal bid process and that is why many cities use the CMAS program. Walnut Creek, Concord, Oakland, El Cerrito, Fairfield, Richmond and many other local jurisdictions have successfully purchased playground equipment through the CMAS program. All three companies can provide their equipment through the CMAS program, but Big Toys is in the process of finalizing the CMAS paperwork with the state. The Miracle PlaySystems quote includes a CMAS discount of $8,102. The Playcraft Direct CMAS discount is $5,093.54. As of publication date, Big Toys has not provided a CMAS discount but has offered a 10% discount on equipment.

Please consider the three playground proposals as we will discuss in more detail at our meeting. Staff had numerous conversation with all three companies and believes strongly that the wisest choice will be Miracle PlaySystems Inc., the company that was selected back in November.

The Park Foundation has committed up to $6,000 for this playground upgrade. The available grant money is $44,680. The total cost, without change orders/contingencies is about $46,600. Without the Park Foundation assistance, we could be about $1,920 short.

Recommendation – Staff suggests that the Park and Recreation Commission recommend Town Council authorize the purchase and installation of Miracle PlaySystems Inc. equipment for the upper Commons Park playground. The purchase will be made through the CMAS program.