Meeting Date: November 17, 2009

TOWN OF MORAGA STAFF REPORT

To: **Parks and Recreation Commission**

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

Subject: **November Agenda Items**

Unfinished Business

Fields Committee Update – On Tuesday night, October 27 the Fields Committee Chairperson, Joe Rosenbaum, presented the committee recommendation to the Town Council and Moraga School District Governing Board. The recommended project was a complete re-build of the 2.7 acres of playing fields at Camino Pablo Elementary School. This includes addressing the inadequate drainage, irrigation and new sod. The money used for improvements would come from East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), Measure WW. The Town of Moraga is eligible for $737,000. Town Council and School Board has agreed with the Fields Committee recommendation. The next step will be for the Town and School District to work on a site specific agreement for Camino Pablo that will satisfy Measure WW grant funds requirements. The hope is for the Town to submit a grant application to EBRPD between February 1 and March 31, 2010.

Rancho Laguna Program Plan sub-committee update – Survey results are complete and some highlights are listed below.

- How often do you visit the park – Monthly = 33%, Weekly 28%, Daily 15%
- How have you used the park – Playgrounds 46%, Picnic 39%, Exercise 36%, Off-Leash 33%
- Facilities typically used – Walkway 57%, Turf 52%, Playgrounds 46%
- What do you like best about the park – Natural Setting 65%, Quiet 40%, Off-Leash 32%
- What do you like least about the park – Off-Leash 46%, Soggy Grass 39%
- What facilities would cause you to visit more often – Better Lawn 24%, Fenced Dog Area 21%, Playgrounds 20%

In addition to the surveys, the Sub-Committee has hosted regular Sub-Committee meetings and community workshops, provided updates at recent Park and Recreation Commission meetings and had a presence at two community events.

The Sub-Committee continues to move forward based on the July, 2009 direction of Town Council. That direction was for the Park and Recreation Commission to expeditiously study a permanent spatial separation solution that would provide for a separation between the dogs and other users of the park with sufficient acreage to make it a proper dog park facility.

The Sub-Committee started their November 5 meeting with staff reporting information from a few of the questions asked on the survey. The next item was to discuss nine suggested park designs. The Sub-Committee eliminated four, leaving five potential designs on the table for discussion on November 19. The five remaining designs are included in this packet. The Sub-Committee would like to complete their task by November 19, presenting a recommendation to the Park and Recreation Commission for the December meeting.

It appears that the Rancho Laguna II project (development project off of Rheem Blvd.) is on the Town Council agenda for January 27, 2010. This being the case, the Rancho Laguna Park item could be pushed back to a meeting in February.

New Business

Service Club Recognition on play structures – It was requested at the October Commission meeting to address volunteer efforts of local service clubs, specifically recognition on playground efforts. The lower "tot-lot" at the Commons Park was installed with the assistance of Kiwanis of Moraga Valley. The request before the Commission tonight is to allow some form of recognition for the Kiwanis efforts on the lower tot-lot.

According to the adopted Memorial and Donation Policy, the Town may accept "other" donations subject to a review by the Park and Recreation Commission. The Town may, at its discretion, bring any donation proposal to the Park and Recreation Commission for review and approval.

Staff recommends the Commission approve a plague be placed on the tot-lot structure. The plaque would be the same one used in the Heritage Walk and new memorial benches. The exact location of the plague would be determined upon installation, but would not interfere with the playability of the structure. Wording would follow the Memorial and Donation Policy as well.