



Meeting Date: July 16, 2013

TOWN OF MORAGA

STAFF REPORT

To: Park and Recreation Commission
From: Jay Ingram, Parks and Recreation Director
Subject: July Agenda Items

New Business

Item VIII. A. Assessment Process for Commons Park – (discussion/action)

The summary report from Dr. Chris Chamberlain is provided as part of this agenda packet. Some highlights include a fairly good response rate of 18.8% with a total of 564 responses. Regarding a questions on improved services related to the park itself, 35 of the responses addressed improving parking, lighting, dog parks, more holiday programming and more programs for teens and young adults. Also, more than 93% of the respondents use the park.

Regarding the specific questions on uses of the “Back 40” and the Sand Volleyball area, the top three suggestions for the Back 40 included; leave it as is, dog park or youth soccer field. The top three suggestions for the Sand Volleyball area included; leave it as is, replace with grass, or replace with tennis courts.

The original intent of this pro-bono park needs assessment was to address community wants and desires five years after the consultant led 2008 Town of Moraga Parks and Recreation Master Plan process. It is a good recommended practice to review a community based master plan every five years. Oftentimes a project or two comes from a current community assessment.

Staff and the Commission have been working with three frequent requests regarding the Commons Park over the past six years; what to do with (if anything) the Back 40, Sand Volleyball area and bocce ball courts? One of the goals of this process was to possibly indentify a project or two that the community wanted changed/modified/added in the park. If something was clearly identified the Commission could address it and task staff with further research such as costs and alternatives. Potentially, a park improvement project or two could be recommended to Town Council at a later date.

The Commission should also address the question in the summary report regarding next steps. Does the Commission want to organize focus groups to further research and

discuss some of the responses from the survey? Are there other options available to the Commission that could prove beneficial for a continued process?

Recommendation

Receive and review the summary report, discuss, provide feedback and direction to staff as to next step(s).