



Commissioner Scammell asked what type of activities would use the field. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated he anticipated lacrosse, rugby, soccer, softball, Little League baseball. Commissioner Aschwald asked about any groups that have contacted staff regarding use of the field. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated he has been approached by Central Marin Soccer, Twin Cities Little League, Redwood Club Rugby, Ross Valley Lacrosse, Marin Girls Softball, and Mill Valley Soccer. Commissioner Blauvelt asked about cricket. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the cricket group is not interested in using the field. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated he has had discussions with some of these groups about possible donations to the field.

Commissioner Scammell asked about the purchase of the Zamboni machine. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated it was included in the cost of the turf.

Commissioner Wall stated it was the City's choice to purchase a synthetic field and he did not believe the fee structure should be based on paying off the debt. Commissioner Blauvelt understood his point but stated some of these athletic groups charge thousands of dollars per child to participate and they are the only ones who can afford to use these new fields. She asked staff about the fee schedule for the existing fields. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the fee was \$21 per hour for youth and \$26 per hour for adults. Commissioner Wall stated he had a problem with charging a premium for this new field. Chair Hauser stated the synthetic field was far superior and they would not have as great a debt with a grass field. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated there could be Stated Water Bond funds available to help service the debt. Commissioner Wall asked if a "break even analysis" had been performed. Recreation Director Wilkinson said "no". There were other factors that went into the decision to get an artificial turf, including saving water, and pesticide use. Chair Hauser asked if there was a mandate to cover the debt. Recreation Director Wilkinson said "no". Commissioner Wall stated users of the field should not be penalized because the City chose to purchase a synthetic field. Chair Hauser discussed the benefits of this type of field. Commissioner Wall stated any differential price structure should be based on that fact and not the debt. Chair Hauser suggested they seek a compromise and factor in the savings from the maintenance into the debt load thereby giving some of it back to the community. They would be covering part of the debt with the savings in the maintenance. Commissioner Blauvelt asked about the term of the loan. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated they were basing the debt financing on the eight-year warranty of the field. He thought they would get about 15 years of use from the field. Commissioner Aschwald stated these were beautiful fields and this one will be in great demand. Commissioner Scammell stated the fee structure should be in line with other synthetic fields in the area.

Recreation Director Wilkinson asked the Commission about an adult vs. youth fee. Commissioner Scammell stated she would like to encourage adult use of the field and \$75 per hour might be too expensive. Chair Hauser stated it was reasonable if the group had 15 to 20 participants.

Chair Hauser asked if the field would be fenced off. Recreation Director Wilkinson said “yes” but there would be access points for the public.

## 2. Joint Meeting with City Council

Recreation Director Wilkinson presented the staff report. He reported the Joint Meeting with the City Council was scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>. He asked the Commission for any agenda items they would like to discuss. The main reason for this meeting was the fee schedule issue related to the Corte Madera Parks and Recreation Commission. The Larkspur School District has told the Town of Corte Madera they can not use school facilities if they choose to charge different fees for their Summer Playground Program. The Town of Corte Madera is now charging all participants a flat rate. Larkspur Mayor Dan Hillmer suggested that both Commissions and Councils get together to discuss this issue. Commissioner Wall stated this issue should be handled at the Council level. Commissioner Scammell stated the Commission has repeatedly expressed their displeasure with the differential fee structure.

Recreation Director Wilkinson asked the Commission if they would like any other issue on the agenda. Chair Hauser stated he would like to discuss the possible formulation of a plan for lights at the new multi-use field. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated this issue may be a bit premature and they should wait until the completion of the field. He stated the conduits would be in place. Commissioner Scammell asked if they are installing conduit at the Redwood High School field. Recreation Director Wilkinson said he did not know.

## RECREATION DIRECTOR’S ORAL REPORT

Recreation Supervisor Whitley reported the Niven Playground was installed and the dock will be installed soon. The Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> and there were approximately 400 children. There was a Magic Show for the kids in the gym after the hunt. The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Traffic Safety Rodeo, sponsored by Larkspur AAA, will be held on Saturday from 10:00 to 2:00. This event was advertised in the Independent Journal and throughout the schools. The entire family is welcome. Staff will begin the registration process for the Ross Valley Summer School Program tomorrow in the Recreation Department Community Room. There are over 300 registration forms.

## COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS/OUTREACH PROGRAM REPORTS

Commissioner Wall reported a larger American Flag would be installed on the Piper Park flagpole, when the current flag needs replacing.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis  
Recording Secretary