



## **6. Discussion Items**

### **6.1 Hollister Heat Batting Cage**

A presentation was given by David Super and Bill Baer regarding the installation of a new batting cage adjacent to Hollister Heat field #1. The structure would cut into the Heat Field #1 left field fence about 6 to 9 feet just behind the maintenance shed. Special considerations would be taken to ensure access to an old abandoned well located somewhere in this general area. The commission had concerns with the existing park capacity in regards to the addition of new elements and the unknown potential of a grant opportunity that might cause the structure to be removed or torn down. Shannon Hansen commented on the parks not benefiting the kids and "we should do what we can to keep the kids in Hollister and off the streets." Commissioner Muenzer inquired if the "ping" from the ball hitting the bat would be heard around the neighborhood. He was informed the type of balls would not cause this sound. Commissioner Gallagher brought up the point if the grant is successful a complete park reconfiguration would be required at the county's cost.

*The motion to continue this item until the outcome of the park grant and the location of the well was know was made by Commissioner Muenzer and seconded by Commissioner Gallagher. Motion passed 3-2 (Commissioner St. John and De La Cruz voted No).*

### **6.2 Facility Operations Report**

Mike reported to the commission on operations status during the last quarter. Rentals were high, basketball lighting income was down, we had one damaged tree, one small incident of graffiti, and the newly west side tot lot playground is receiving many positive comments from the public.

### **6.3 Proposed Fee Schedule**

Mike presented a cost comparison of the current Veterans Park facilities to other similar facilities in this general area. The results showed the current county rental fees to be the lowest in the area for meeting rooms and bar-b-que areas. Due to the actual expenses required to operate the county parks, and fee increase would not bring the park's budget to a self sustaining break even point. Parks will still require support from the county general fund to operate. A fee increase would simply ease the burden on this general fund. Commissioner Muenzer asked if staff had a recommendation on an equitable fee structure. Steve replied that this item was currently being presented to gather the wishes of the commission. Once direction was given, staff would begin action steps. He added that with the recent improvements to the Bertha Briggs Building, we are doing a disservice charging the older rates.

During public comment, Joe Love inquired where the dollars from park rentals went. Commissioner Del La Cruz explained the park fees, general fund, and county budget process.

The commission was in support of continued reasonable fees increase to be presented during the next meeting. Commissioner Hawkins added that monitoring should continue and if rental usage began to fall, an adjustment could be made again at that time.

### **6.4 Water Metering Report**

Mike reported to the commission regarding park water metering. All the meters have been installed and a map was presented to show the locations of each meter and the area that was being monitored. Preliminary usage was presented with the exception of Babe Ruth and one Little League field due to their recent installation. Steve updated the commission regarding the current water supply systems, current agreement, and relationships between the city and county. The gathering of water usage data for a year will be utilized during the negotiation of future water

supply agreements with the city. The county is also investigating the existence of an old well for possible supplemental or alternative supply source. Communications has occurred with the city, all user groups, and continue during the status update portion of this commission meeting. Commissioner Hawkins wanted to ensure statistical data was available regarding baseline costs so when talks begin with the City and County, equitable results would be established.

**7. Adjournment**

*There being no further business to come before the Veterans Memorial Park Commission, Commissioner Muenzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Gallagher. Motion passed 5-0.*

The next regular meeting of the Veterans Memorial Park Commission will be held on Monday, February 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mike Hodges, Staff Analyst  
San Benito County Veterans Memorial Park Commission