

To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Adam Howard, Senior Recreation Manager
Date: 04/24/2018
Subject: Report of Temporary Lighting trial on Cubberley Turf Field

Recommendation:

Staff will present the results of the temporary lighting trial at Cubberley Turf Field. No action is required.

Background:

During the winter months, when daylight saving time ends, there is a high demand for lighted athletic fields in Palo Alto. The City of Palo Alto currently has three fields that are lighted and available for rent; Mayfield Sports Complex (2) and El Camino Soccer Field (1). The three lighted fields are booked 7 days a week, with peak times being 4pm-10pm Monday-Friday. During the peak times there is no available free space. Youth and adult leagues are continually looking for additional space during winter months.

Discussion:

The City of Palo Alto was approached by Palo Alto Soccer Club (PASC) with a proposal for a one month trial that would place temporary lights on the Cubberley synthetic turf field for the month of February. The proposal was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) on Tuesday January 23rd and with feedback from the PRC, the trial was approved.

Palo Alto Soccer Club provided a proposal that included the following highlights (full report included as attachment A):

- 4-6 temporary light stations brought onto Cubberley turf field
- Lights are solar powered with generator as backup
- Lights only used Monday-Thursday, Sunset to 8:30pm (lights off at 8:30pm)
- All additional activity will go through Cubberley Community Center, no pick up/drop off on Nelson Ave
- Additional time on field will be used for practice only
- Lights are secured and have 24/7 tech support

- Lights will be placed to have least disruption to field and track, with safety precautions taken to keep participants and the public safe from running into the lights

The trial period began on Monday February 12th and ended on Sunday March 11th. Prior to the trial beginning, staff conducted outreach to the neighborhoods surrounding Cubberley fields. The greatest concerns were avoiding traffic on Nelson Drive, limiting how late the fields were used and limiting light pollution.

Post-trial Information:

The following provides the key points of the trial period:

- Roughly 60-80 participants a day (4-6 teams)
- 6 light stations were used as it was determined after the first night that 4 stations would not be sufficient.
- Solar power provided all the lighting needs. Generators were never used
- Schedule of Monday – Thursday, sunset to 8:30pm was followed with no reported incidents.
- Minor congestion on Nelson but issues seemed to be well monitored.
- Lighting stations had minimal impact on track but could impact full field use.

Post-Trial Public Outreach

- Staff contact information was provided to neighbors before the trial, during the trial and after the trial. Staff was contacted one time regarding Nelson drop off, which was immediately remedied.
- Staff delivered a post-trial survey to the 18 residents that border Cubberley Field.



Residents were provided a self-addressed, pre-paid envelope and had the option to take the survey online as well. City staff received a total of 8 responses. Survey questions and results are below.

Questions	Yes	No	Comments
Were you aware of the temporary lighting trial on Cubberley Turf Field?	8	0	1) Impossible to miss them
Did the lights from the trial have any negative impact for you or your family?	1	7	1) We hated them. Noisy, bright, and in the way of usage of the field. Soccer is the only one use of the field and lights degraded all other uses 2) Parking and street congestion was well managed 3) Great to have this activity in the evenings 4) No problem whatsoever 5) probably has some cars sometimes on Nelson, but overall not a problem and we want kids to be able to play soccer
Would you approve of a similar lighting plan taking place next winter (January - March) with the same restrictions as this year?	6	2	1) Please have someone continue to monitor- that coaches are telling players/parents to park at Cubberley. Thanks 2) While well intentioned, they were the dominant thing we could see out of the kitchen window or from street. 3) Too few participants! Possibly precedent setting. And this is not essential

Next Steps:

Staff will meet with the Parks and Recreation Commission Field Ad-hoc Committee for additional debrief and to discuss next steps, if any, moving forward.

Attachment A: Lighted Field Plan Proposal

Attachment B: Survey results

Prepared by

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City of Palo Alto