



Staff Report

RECOMMENDATION APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF TWO ADDITIONAL PICNIC AREAS FOR RESERVATION PURPOSES

Honorable Chair and Commissioners:

Summary

Currently, the Large Group Picnic Area is the only picnic area available for reservation purposes in the City of Belmont, with all other satellite picnic areas being used on a first-come first-serve basis. The Subcommittee is making a recommendation to the Commission to designate two additional picnic areas for reservation purposes. The two recommended picnic areas are located in the Twin Pines Meadow and the area adjacent to the Twin Pines Lodge Playground. All other satellite picnic areas would remain available on a first-come first-serve basis.

Background

At the May 7, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, an Ad-Hoc Subcommittee was assigned to evaluate the existing first-come first-serve policy in regards to use of all existing satellite picnic areas within the City of Belmont. Commissioners King, Cheechov and Gervais were assigned to the Subcommittee. Commissioners King and Cheechov (Gervais absent) met on Friday, June 13, 2008 with Facilities Coordinator Mason and Interim Co-Director Brunson to discuss potential picnic area locations that could be designated for reservation purposes.

Over the years, Department personnel have received numerous inquiries regarding the ability to reserve the Twin Pines Meadow Picnic Area, due to the close proximity of the existing parking facilities. In addition, many of the Large Group Picnic Area rental groups have found the distance from existing parking facilities to be prohibitive for the elderly, as well as logistically difficult for delivering supplies and equipment to that area, which is located at the far west end of Twin Pines Park.

The Subcommittee was in agreement that it would be beneficial for City of Belmont residents to have the ability to reserve other picnic areas located within Twin Pines Park. This would alleviate the need for residents to arrive at dawn to set-up (stakeout) on tables, to ensure the use of the picnic area for their function, which may not be scheduled to start until the afternoon. In addition, the Department would have the ability to charge a rental fee for residents and non-residents alike, generating additional revenue for the City.

Discussion

During the Subcommittee meeting held on June 13, 2008, discussion centered on providing the best alternatives for the residents of the City of Belmont, as well as other user groups that rent the recreation facilities located within Twin Pines Park. By providing the ability to reserve the Twin Pines Meadow area, someone renting the Twin Pines Senior & Community Center would also have the ability to reserve and utilize that area for their event. Currently, they do not have the option to do so.

Furthermore, under the present first-come first-serve policy, there is no distinction between resident and non-resident for use of the existing satellite picnic areas.

Staff recommended designation of the Twin Pines Meadow Picnic Area and the Twin Pines Lodge Playground Picnic area for reservation purposes. Designation of the two additional picnic areas would not interfere with first-come first-serve utilization of the other existing satellite picnic areas located within Twin Pines Park, or other locations throughout the City of Belmont.

The Subcommittee reached consensus on designating the two additional picnic areas identified for reservations, with reservation of the Twin Pines Meadow Picnic Area limited to weekends and City Holidays only. The remaining weekdays would remain available on a first-come first-serve basis.

The Twin Pines Lodge Playground Picnic Area would be available for reservation purposes daily. The Subcommittee agreed that the ability to reserve the area adjacent to the playground structure would be beneficial to those hosting birthday parties and other celebrations, as many parents utilize the area with their children.

The Subcommittee turned the discussion to appropriate rental fees for reservation of the two additional picnic areas. After the review of select cities (see Table 1) rental fees, and discussion of our existing fee structure for the Large Group Picnic Area, it was determined that all designated picnic areas would have the same resident and non-resident rental fee requirements.

City	Resident	Non-Resident	Deposit	Alcohol
Belmont	\$75.00	\$125.00	\$0	\$30.00
Redwood City	\$80.00	\$160.00	\$0	NA
Saratoga	\$45.00	\$60.00	\$0	NA
San Mateo	\$50.00-\$100.00	NA	\$100.00-\$200.00	\$15.00
Mtn. View	\$48.00	NA	\$0	\$43.50
San Bruno	\$95.00	\$190.00	\$0	NA
Fremont	\$75.00	\$100.00	\$100.00-\$200.00	NA
El Cerrito	\$42.00/hour	\$52.00/hour	\$71.00	NA

Table 1

General Plan/Vision Statement

Distinctive Community Character –

“Our strong sense of community and enjoyment of the town’s assets and activities deepen as we become better informed and connected”.

“We connect with each other in all kinds of gathering places”.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated revenue generated from additional picnic area rentals is \$7,500.00 annually.

Public Contact

Posting of Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda.

Recommendation

It is the Subcommittee recommendation that the Commission designate two additional picnic areas for reservation purposes. The two areas identified are the Twin Pines Meadow Picnic Area and the Twin Pines Lodge Playground Picnic Area.

Alternatives

1. Take no action.
2. Deny the recommendation.
3. Refer back to the Subcommittee for further discussion.

Attachments

- A. Facility Use Policy; Section V, Fee Schedule: Other Facilities

Respectfully submitted,

George Brunson
Interim Co-Director Parks & Recreation

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V. FEE SCHEDULE: Other Facilities

TWIN PINES LARGE GROUP PICNIC AREA: *Does not include satellite picnic areas and playground.

Resident - A non-refundable reservation fee - \$75

Non-Resident – A non-refundable reservation fee - \$125

Belmont residents may reserve the Large Group Picnic Area up to twelve (12) months in advance. Non-residents may reserve the Large Group Picnic Area up to eleven (11) months in advance.