

**TO:** James L. App, City Manager

**FROM:** Ann Robb, Interim Director, Library & Recreations Services  
Doug Monn, Public Works Director

**SUBJECT:** Pioneer Skate Park

**DATE:** June 20, 2006

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**NEEDS:** For the City Council to consider alternatives for Pioneer Skate Park operations.

- FACTS:**
1. Pioneer Skate Park was built to provide skating opportunities to Paso Robles youth. Attendance at the park is estimated to be 6000 annually. Some in the community have expressed concerns regarding behavior at the Skate Park, which led to a special 3-month observation assessment of park activities.
  2. During the observation period, (August 22 – November 22, 2005) city staff was instructed to close the park upon observation of rules violations. Instances of staff intervention were recorded by Police and Public Works personnel. Records show that 45 contacts were made with 39 citations issued and 61 violators removed from the park. Documentation also shows:
    - 25% of the violators were bicyclists. Bicycles are not allowed in the park.
    - 44% of the violators were using the park during school hours, 26% after school, and 30% during the weekend.
    - 44% of the violators were adults.
    - Officers reported backtalk and disrespectful language in approximately 50-60% of the enforcement contacts.
  3. Several options for the skate park have been identified:
    - a. ***Open park after school hours, and on weekends, school vacation and holidays under the supervision of a paid city monitor/supervisor.***

This option offers a supervised environment for park users during the hours that most minors are available to use the facility. Staffing costs are estimated at \$40,000 annually, based on the park being open 3 hours after school and full days on weekends, summer and other school holidays, (approximately 2200 per year). A \$2 gate fee could partially offset costs (by an estimated \$10,000 per year). The gate fee is consistent with the partial cost recovery for youth activities adopted by City Council.

- b. *Continue to operate during all daylight hours without staff or security.*

Skaters' behavior during the three month examination indicates that even with response to violations, they are not likely to maintain an acceptable standard of behavior. Frequent response and intervention, as was undertaken during the observation period, is neither feasible nor effective.

- c. *Open park only for special events or through facility use requests.*

Allow park use only upon reservation (with or without a fee) including requirement to pay for supervision. Costs would include staff time to process facility use requests and administer/support special events.

- d. *Open park during after school hours, weekends, school vacation and holidays under contract with another party.*

Third party interest in, and the possible cost of contracting, skate park services is unknown.

- e. *Close the park.*

**ANALYSIS &**

**CONCLUSION:** After 5 years of operation, Pioneer Skate Park remains a popular place for Paso Robles skaters. A three month observation confirms that without supervision, violations of safety rules are frequent. Changes could be made at the skate park to ensure safe skating practices. Costs are dependant upon which option is selected. A park with more supervision is more likely to be a community benefit. Some operating costs could be offset by a gate fee. Special events and private rentals could contribute to additional revenue.

At their June 13, 2006 meeting, Parks and Recreation Committee voted to recommend **Option a**, with two changes:

- That City Council review skate park operations two years after supervision begins; and
- That the gate fee be unspecified to allow staff to develop options such as monthly passes or punch cards, but that the revenue expectation remain at \$10,000 annually.

**POLICY**

**REFERENCE:** None

**FISCAL**

**IMPACT:** Depending on option selected, ranges from 0 to \$40,000 annually

- OPTIONS:**
- a. Adopt Resolution No. 06-xx authorizing a budget appropriation of \$40,000 annually for part time staff to supervise the Pioneer Skate Park. This appropriation is anticipated to be offset by \$10,000 in gate fees.
  - b. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.

Attachments (1)

- 1) 3 month observation chart

**Pioneer Skate Park  
Response to Violations  
August 22 – November 22, 2005**

Activity	Police	PW/ LRS	Total	Notes
<b>Enforcement contacts</b>	43	2	45	All = skateboarders, bikes, no pads, no helmets etc.
<b>Number of violators removed</b>	61	0	61	
<b>Citations issued</b>	39	0	39	
<b>Park Closures</b>	14	2	16	
<b>Number of contacts involving skateboarders</b>	35	*	35	
<b>Number of skateboards seized</b>	2	0	2	
<b>Number of contacts involving bicycles</b>	11	0	11	Approximately 25% of PD contacts involved bicycles in the park
<b>Number of bicycles seized</b>	2	0	2	
<b>Contacts/reports non school hours</b>	13	8	21	26% of reports/contacts made during weekday non school hours
<b>Contacts/reports school hours</b>	10	25	35	44% of reports/contacts made during weekday school hours
<b>Contacts/reports weekends</b>	20	4	24	30% of reports/contacts made during the weekend.
<b>Juvenile offenders</b>	46	*	46	56% of offenders were juveniles
<b>Adult offenders</b>	36	*	36	44% of offender were adults
<b>Behaviors problems (rude, talk back etc.)</b>				Not documented but officers stated about 50-60% of the contacts included rude and inappropriate comments from offenders
*Unknown, as PW & LRS reported offenders to police. Police made almost all of the enforcement contacts.				

**RESOLUTION NO. 06-**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES  
APPROPRIATING \$40,000 FOR PIONEER SKATE PARK OPERATIONS**

WHEREAS, Pioneer Skate Park was built to provide skating opportunities to youth; and

WHEREAS, a three month observation period revealed significant violation of posted rules; and

WHEREAS, a supervised skate park is more likely to provide a community benefit;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles to appropriate \$40,000 to the Fiscal Year 2007 budget program 100.411.5102.188

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Mecham, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Robinson, Deputy City Clerk