

APPROVED

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

JAN 04 2006

NO. 06-08

DATE January 4, 2006

BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 1

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ELYSIAN PARK - INSTALLATION OF A PILOT DISC GOLF COURSE

J. Combs _____
H. Fujita _____
S. Huntley _____
B. Jensen _____

J. Kolb _____
F. Mok _____
*K. Regan
M. Shull _____

Robert H. Jensen (fa)
General Manager

Approved

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the installation of a pilot disc golf course on the hillside above Solano Canyon in Elysian Park, and;
2. Direct staff to issue a Right of Entry permit to Discsports in Southern California to install the pilot course.

SUMMARY:

Discsports in Southern California (DISC) is a non-profit (under Internal Revenue Service Code 501 (c)(3)) corporation whose mission is to provide free and low-cost disc related recreational and educational opportunities to residents of Los Angeles County and the surrounding region. In 2003, there were 1,250 US disc golf courses and 1,500 disc golf courses world wide. However, there are none in the City of Los Angeles.

DISC has requested permission to install a disc golf course on the hillside above Solano Canyon in Elysian Park. This is an area of Elysian Park that has no organized activities.

Disc golf players use special 'frisbees' (golf discs) instead of balls and clubs and then throw them at an above ground target instead of a hole in the ground. The disc golf target is a steel basket over which chains hang (see attachment). There will be eighteen above-ground targets on the course.

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Each target is thrown from one of the eighteen 5' x 10' flat areas that will be constructed of decomposed granite packed within treated lumber frames. These areas will be flat and basically flush to the ground. Also, eighteen tee signs will be installed in a bias from the front of the tee areas (6' or so from the front). The tee signs and the targets will be installed in concrete plugs 2' deep and 1' in diameter.

Park patrons will play the course free of charge and must provide their own golf discs. Disc golf is played all year round in many types of weather conditions.

DISC has the written approval of the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP) to install the disc golf course as a pilot program for a duration of one year. At the end of one year, the Department staff, DISC and CCSEP representatives will evaluate the course usage before agreeing to allow the course to stay in the park on a permanent basis. CCSEP believes that the installation will create additional affordable recreation for park patrons and will have a positive effect on the Solano Canyon section of Elysian Park. CCSEP also believes that the course will be a deterrent to the homeless population that frequents the area.

The Department's staff has determined that the subject project will consist of an agreement between the Department and a non-profit organization to permit the installation of minor accessory structures and conduct some minor repair or alterations to existing pedestrian trails in the Solano Canyon area of Elysian Park. Therefore, the project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(3), Class 4(7) and Class 11(6) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

DISC will install the disc golf course at no expense to the Department. Maintenance staff estimates that it will take an additional two hours per week to maintain the course. This will be handled by making adjustments to the existing maintenance priority list of duties.

Report prepared by Tom Petrique, Management Analyst II, Metro Region.

ATTACHMENT



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