

Committee Member Glass moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Committee Member Roselle, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: ***Committee Member – Glass, Roselle, Silva***

NOES: ***Committee Member – None***

1. Parks, Hillside, and Utilities Committee Special Meeting Minutes of January 31, 2024
Approved and filed the Parks, Hillside, and Utilities Committee Special Meeting minutes of January 31, 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

2. Park Facilities Improvement Plan

Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Director Swan responded to questions from the Committee regarding possible impacts of the planned residential development on future park improvements at the La Puerta Sports Park; how approving the Plan will impact the budget, given the \$900,000 shortfall between the proposed improvements and the anticipated ten-year budget; the possibility of amending the Plan to include only those improvements for which funds are expected to be available; how improvements were prioritized, given available funding; how the budget for the Lewis Park Improvement project changed from the initial proposal to the final project; how the City plans to deal with earlier projects that may incur cost overages that use funding allocated for future projects; and possible plans for additional spaces for dogs.

Chair Silva invited public comment.

Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant, announced that 35 written public comments had been received on this item.

Dr. Edward Blews, Claremont resident and AYSO U14 Commissioner, spoke regarding the need for sports field improvement at City parks. Dr. Blews feels that the fields are unsafe due to gopher damage and rocks, and that the field conditions cause injuries.

Randall Gonzalez, Claremont resident and AYSO Division and Extra Coordinator, has witnessed several players suffer twisted ankles on the fields at Padua Park and dislocated his knee by stepping into a gopher hole while refereeing a match. Mr. Gonzalez urged the City to prioritize the safety of the youth players and to remedy the damage caused by gophers, coyotes, and rocks.

Anna Jacobsen, Claremont resident and member of Better Claremont Playgrounds, thanked staff for the work that went into the Plan and spoke in support of the language regarding inclusive, sustainable, and innovative playground design. Ms. Jacobsen noted that Better Claremont Playgrounds is looking to become a non-profit organization to apply for grants and community-based funding to help in the City's efforts.

There were no additional requests to speak.

Chair Silva closed public comment.

Director Swan responded to additional questions from the Committee regarding the process by which the analysis and recommendations for sports field improvements will be reviewed and approved, and the tentative timeline for a sports field improvement plan development and review.

Committee Member Glass encouraged Better Claremont Playgrounds to follow through with registering as a non-profit and to provide annual updates to either the Parks, Hillside, and Utilities Committee or to the Community and Human Services Commission.

Director Swan responded to additional questions from the Committee regarding public comment requests for additional lighting, especially at sports parks, and agreements with adjacent neighborhoods regarding dates and times lights are allowed.

Committee Member Glass moved to approve the Park Facilities Improvement Plan and forward the Plan to the Community and Human Services Commission for approval, seconded by Committee Member Roselle, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: ***Committee Member – Glass, Roselle, Silva***
NOES: ***Committee Member – None***

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Silva adjourned the special meeting of the Parks, Hillside, and Utilities Committee at 7:29 PM.

Dirk Silva
Committee Chair

Dawn Bonnell Ross
Recording Secretary