



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2013

ITEM NUMBER: 10d

SUBJECT: MODIFYING VOLCOM SKATE PARK HOURS AND POSTING SIGNAGE

DATE: OCTOBER 4, 2013

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT - RECREATION DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: BOB KNAPP, RECREATION DIVISION MANAGER

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LISA MCPHERSON
RECREATION SUPERVISOR (714) 754-5322**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend to City Council the approval of the proposed hours of operation and installation of additional signage inside the Volcom Skate Park.

BACKGROUND

At its September 26, 2013 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, Vice Chairman Kim Pederson requested staff to provide information regarding the modification of Volcom Skate Park's hours of operation. This request was a result of public safety concerns due to recent incidents at the skate park.

The Volcom Skate Park at TeWinkle Park opened to the public in June 2005. City staff worked with the Costa Mesa Police Department, the Mesa Del Mar Homeowners Association and local skaters to establish the skate park's design and hours of operation. This facility is a permanent 24,000-square-foot skate park that is unsupervised and it is free of charge.

Currently, the skate park is open to the public year-round and the hours of operation are as follows:

- Monday thru Sunday, from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., except on Tuesday.
- Tuesday, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The skate park is closed after 3 p.m. for maintenance

The facility is opened by the City's Maintenance Services staff and monitored and closed by the City's Park Rangers. The Recreation Division Field Ambassadors may also assist with the closing of the skate park when Park Rangers are not available.

During 2006 through 2009, the Recreation Division operated a staff-led skate program, which provided skating lessons during the Newport Mesa Unified School District's holiday breaks. In 2009, the Recreation Youth Skate Program was eliminated due to budgetary constraints. The City replaced the program with instructional contract classes where a third party instructor provides skating lessons for children. These classes continue to be offered during the Newport Mesa Unified School District school year and holiday breaks. City-permitted skate instructors were required to wear city-issued badges to assist Park Rangers and Police officers in identifying authorized skate instructors utilizing the facility.

In 2010, the City reduced its Park Ranger staffing levels from three (3) to one (1) Park Rangers due to budgetary constraints. During this period, staff was directed to allow for private instructors to conduct lessons at Volcom Skate Park without the Recreation Division verification process that included: obtaining a Business License, and providing proof of Insurance Liability and Endorsement Letter, which is a common practice utilized with private fitness instructors at City Parks.

At the July 25, 2013 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, Police Lieutenant Mark Manley presented to the Commission the public safety concerns with skate park participants, incidents and increase in citations issued by the Police Department.

ANALYSIS

After the July 25, 2013 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, Recreation staff and Police Lieutenant Mark Manley met to discuss issues and develop a plan of action for your consideration that will help eliminate the current safety concerns at the skate park facility. Additionally, staff conducted a skate park survey with surrounding Orange County cities with skate park facilities. Recreation staff surveyed a total of six (6) skate parks; five (5) of which are owned by surrounding cities and one (1) that is privately owned (Attachment 1). Three (3) out of the five (5) City-operated skate parks (Irvine, Laguna Niguel and Lake Forest) have established school year and summer operation hours that are comparable to the hours recommended by staff.

Staff recommends the following actions for the operation of the skate park, which can be implemented immediately. These recommendations are as follows:

Hours of Operation

Modify the Skate Park hours as follows:

- School Year Hours of Operation
 - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Tuesday, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Early Closure for Maintenance)
 - Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Summer Hours of Operations
 - Monday thru Sunday (last week of June thru Labor Day), from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The proposed hours of operation would become effective November 4, 2013. This would allow for proper notification to skate park patrons of the new hours of operation. The adjustment in hours of operation will bring the facility into alignment with other Municipal skate parks in the area. This will decrease the amount of traffic and facility usage that we see when these other municipal facilities are closed. We see this same impact at the Costa Mesa Bark Park when other regional facilities are closed for maintenance. In addition, it will reduce the facility accessibility during those daytime hours when the majority of the safety rules violations occur.

Signage

Installation of signage authorizing City personnel to close the skate park temporarily should skate park patrons refuse to follow the skate park rules. The closure clause signage would read: "*City personnel have the right to close the park temporarily to ALL skaters if one or more refuse to comply with rules and/or refuse to leave the park upon request*". The sign would alert skate park patrons that the City has zero tolerance for behavior that is not permissible under the skate parks rules and regulations and that those that utilize this City asset will be held responsible for their collective action.

Additionally, staff is recommending additional signage with the skate park rules and regulations inside the facility. Currently, signage is only placed on the exterior of the facility.

ALTERNATIVES

The Commission may wish to recommend one of the following alternatives:

1. Recommend that the skate park hours be modified and additional signage be installed as proposed by staff.
2. The Commission may choose to not approve the modified skate park hours and additional signage proposed by staff.
3. The Commission may choose to modify staff's proposal for proposed skate park hours and additional signage.

FISCAL REVIEW

An estimated amount of \$461.65 will be necessary for the purchase and installation of the new closure clause sign and additional rules and regulations signage inside the skate park. Funding for signage is available in the Maintenance Division - Street and Signage budget for FY 13-14.

LEGAL REVIEW

The City Attorney has reviewed the proposed hours of operation and signage. The proposed recommendations were deemed appropriate and do not pose any liability issues to the City.

CONCLUSION

In efforts to reduce and prevent future public safety concerns at the Volcom Skate Park, the Recreation Division and Police Department staff developed a plan of action with recommendations that will help resolve these issues. Additionally, Recreation staff surveyed surrounding skate parks to obtain operational information. Public notices were mailed to residents within a 500 foot radius of the skate park, to local skate shops, and contacted Volcom, National Scholastic Skateboarding League and the Mesa Del Mar Homeowners Association President regarding the proposed modified hours. Staff recommends the Commission approve the modified skate park hours and additional signage proposed by staff.



ROBERT KNAPP
Recreation Manager



ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

- ATTACHMENTS:
1. Surrounding Cities Skate Park Operation Survey
 2. Proposed Draft Signage

Other Skate Park's Operation Information Survey

City	Square Footage	Lights	Gated	Supervise	Staffing and Program cost	Provide Program	Entrance Fee	Staffing	Operation Hours
Irvine	10,000	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$100,000	No	Free	3 PT	School Year M-F 2-8pm Sat 10am-9pm Sun Noon-8pm Holiday's & Summer M-F 10am-8pm Sat 10am-9pm Sun Noon-9pm
Laguna Hills	20,000	Yes	No	No	No Staff	No	Free	No staff	Year Round Mon-Sun 8am-10pm
Laguna Niguel	22,000	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$140,000	Yes	Annual Pass: \$30 Residents \$60 Non Resident \$10 day pass	1 FT 10 PTs	School Year Mon-Fri Noon - 9:30p Weekends/ Holidays and Summer 9am-9:30pm
Lake Forest	40,000	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$250,000	Yes	Residents Free Non Res \$5	1 FT 15 PTs	School Year Mon- Th 11am - 9pm Fri 11am-10pm Sat 10am-10pm Sun 10am-9pm Summer M-F10am-10pm
San Clemente	12000+	No	No	No	No Staff	No	Free	No staff	Year Round Mon-Sun Dawn-Dusk
The Block Vans	30,000	Yes	Yes/indoor	Yes	Vans Corporate office will not provide information	Yes	Annual Pass: \$25 Day Pass M F \$7 for members and \$10 for Non members Sat-Sun \$12 for members and \$17 for Non members	2 FT 20 PTs	Year Round Mon-Sun 10am-10pm

SKATE PARK HOURS

SCHOOL HOURS

MONDAY / WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY / FRIDAY 12:00PM - 8:00PM

TUESDAY
(MAINTENANCE CLOSURE) 3:00PM - 8:00PM

SATURDAY / SUNDAY 10:00AM - 8:00PM

SUMMER HOURS

MONDAY - SUNDAY 10:00AM - 8:00PM

TUESDAY
(MAINTENANCE CLOSURE) 3:00PM - 8:00PM

“CITY PERSONNEL HAVE THE RIGHT
TO CLOSE THE PARK TEMPORARILY
TO ALL SKATERS IF ONE OR MORE
REFUSE TO COMPLY WITH RULES
AND/OR REFUSE TO LEAVE THE PARK
UPON REQUEST”.