



Wednesday, August 20, 2003

Sports teams look for home at Bass Lake Park

By Ryan Rose

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The local away teams hope to find a new home at the proposed Bass Lake Park, and are making sure their voice is heard.

“The [athletic] groups actually mobilized, and flooded the Board of Supervisors,” said Chris Codioli, former president of the Foothill Girl’s Softball League.

The crowd, numbering around 100 and made up of young athletes, parents and coaches came to plead with the Supervisors at their Aug. 11 meeting. Their request: to continue the development of Bass Lake Park.

The park has been two years in the making. Its current design holds softball and soccer fields, as well as a lighting system for nighttime games.

“The field situation is something I tried to address in 1998; I have been pushing for this for five years,” said Codioli.

He is upset with the lack of support for local sport organizations. For Codioli, the field is not a luxury for the El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park communities, but a necessity.

“The county knows they are woefully inadequate,” said Codioli.

Codioli feels the county must act soon for the sake of the youth sporting leagues.

“I think this park is extremely important. Youth sports are such a viable thing,” said Codioli.

There are currently 453 players in the Foothill league. There are 1,500 players in the El Dorado Soccer League, and Cameron Park’s and Shingle Springs’ Prospector Soccer League has 1,200 players. Currently, there are only seven fields for those 3,153 players to share.

“We just don’t have enough fields. We have to turn down kids we get, but still we increase every year by word of mouth.”

Due to the lack of parks available for league play, the youth leagues are forced to compromise—a compromise they feel unfair.

“Half our leagues have to share a field during practice,” said Codioli.

According to Codioli, the softball and soccer leagues constantly compete over playing space.

“If we had two more teams last year, we couldn’t schedule their games.”

Codioli feels the members of the Bass Lake Park Action Committee (BLPAC), a group consisting of residents who will live directly near the proposed park, serve only their personal interests and not those of all the community.

“I think they are using this project to force the County to improve [Bass Lake] Road...the second part of their mission statement points out who they are looking out for,” said Codioli.

The second point of the BLPAC mission statement reads: “To ensure that homeowners’ concerns regarding the proposed park are addressed and the El Dorado County’s actions with regard to the park meet the homeowners’ needs.”

Still, BLPAC denies bearing any malice against the construction of a park.

“No one is against the construction of the park, just its current design,” said Dave Glazier, member of BLPAC. Glazier points to the size, lighting, and lack of security as major flaws in the parks design. Though Glazier is for the park, he also wants the residents near the site not to be restricted in the enjoyment of their property.

Codiroli hopes BLPAC does not place the construction of the park on hold.

“It would be a real shame if this park is derailed for their own personal needs,” said Codiroli.

Nonetheless, Codiroli wants the park to become a reality.

“Does this park solve our problems, no; but it makes it a lot better...the kids should be allowed to play.”