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Parker, CSD agree on new sports park



Image courtesy of the Bass Lake Action Committee.

The Area Planning Advisory Committee will vote on whether to approve or deny plans for a public 11.5 acre sports park in Village J5 at its next meeting May 13. This should be welcome news to El Dorado Hills recreational sports enthusiasts who have pleaded for more fields as the population has grown.

An agreement with Parker Development required the developer to reserve land for the El Dorado Hills Community Services District and this park would fulfill that commitment, according to Parker's Director of Government Relations Kirk Bone. It marks the first time Parker Development and the EDHCSD have been co-applicants on a project, Bone noted.

"We're not in the parks business; they are," he said.

At its April meeting, APAC members seemed to favor plans for the park to be located back from the road at the new intersection of Sienna Ridge and Bass Lake roads. That location is currently zoned for commercial use and would require a Board of Supervisors vote to rezone it to recreational use. Bone said previous plans for a retail site at that location were abandoned after a study determined "better commercial opportunities elsewhere," he said, adding, "There is already plenty of retail in the area."

APAC member Kathy Prevost expressed concern about increased traffic on Bass Lake Road. "There are no plans, and no money, to widen it," she said.

According to CSD General Manager Brent Dennis the CSD will conduct community outreach to determine what facilities the residents want installed at the park, but would minimally include two full size soccer fields and restrooms. He said nighttime field lights and a concession stand are also possibilities. Dennis said operators of the CSD's summer farmers market have expressed interest in holding their market one day a week at the new park as well.

For context, Community Park is 39 acres and Promontory Park, including three soccer fields, two baseball fields, a bocce court and play area, is 18 acres.

"We have \$3 million in Mello Roos to build this park," Bone said. "It's ready to go. We just have to get it through."

The design phase could begin in late summer or early fall with construction complete by early 2016.

APAC meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the CSD pavilion.

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