



Meeting Date: December 16, 2014

TOWN OF MORAGA

STAFF REPORT

To: Park and Recreation Commission
From: Jay Ingram, Parks and Recreation Director
Subject: December Agenda Items

New Business

Item VIII. A. Hacienda de las Flores Rental Hours – (discussion/action)

The use of the Hacienda de las Flores for special event rentals has been trending down in recent years. As many as 60 special event type rentals took place four years ago and our most recent year was just over 40. Town Council is aware of the decrease in activity and has asked the Parks and Recreation Department to address the issue. There are a number of reasons for the decrease in rental, one of which is current hours of use. On average, approximately four out of every ten rental inquiries received, ends up choosing another location because events at the Hacienda stop at 9:00 pm. Many, if not all of our competitors, such as the East Bay Regional Park District's Brazilian Room, provide their venue until midnight. In the interests of providing a community asset with increased usage, generating additional revenues and recovering some expenses, the Parks and Recreation Department is recommending ending events at 10:00 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, with all guests out no later than 11:00 pm. As is the practice now, if the new times are approved, Town staff will continue to monitor the rentals, requiring music off and stoppage of alcohol by 10:00pm. The Parks and Recreation Department has been, and will continue to be a good neighbor should the time extension be approved by the Park and Recreation Commission as a recommendation to the Town Council. From January 1, 2010 through today, the Moraga Police Department recorded one noise complaint response from an event at the Hacienda. The Parks and Recreation Department normally receives less than one noise complaint per year and concerns are addressed quickly as most parties do not want the Moraga Police Department to attend their private special event. The Parks and Recreation Department also requires a facility attendant to be present during all private rentals. This individual is also available to respond to noise and other issues.

At the October 13, 2014 Hacienda Foundation Board meeting, the extension of hours was discussed. The Hacienda Foundation is a local nonprofit with a mission to enhance, promote and preserve the Hacienda de las Flores. In recent years the Hacienda Foundation of Moraga has provided community events, assisted with facility improvements and worked on strategic planning efforts for the long-term viability of the Hacienda property. The staff recommendation to allow events to end at 10:00 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings was unanimously

supported by the Hacienda Foundation. Incidentally, the Foundation also requested that the Town allow hard alcohol to be served, but staff suggested to only extend the hours at the current time.

On the rare occasion when a noise complaint is received, the current practice would continue. Moraga Police could respond to the event, meet with the facility attendant and potentially ask the hosts to reduce the volume.

Staff sent out a public meeting notice to residents within a 300 foot radius of the Hacienda property to provide them the opportunity to address the issue being discussed.

Options

- 1) Recommend to Town Council to extend the hours of use on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening one additional hour until 10:00pm
- 2) Not recommend to Town Council the time extension
- 3) Provide alternative direction to staff

Recommendation

Receive public comment, consider staff and Hacienda Foundation recommendation and recommend that Town Council approve the extended Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening use until 10:00 pm.

Item VIII. B. California Park and Recreation Society Conference – (discussion)

The 67th Annual California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) Conference and Expo is being hosted at the Sacramento Convention Center, March 11-13, 2015. Within CPRS, is a section named the California Association of Park and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members (CAPRCBM). This section provided the regional training for our Commissioners earlier this year. CAPRCBM has been uniting commissioners and board members serving their communities since 1968. They provide members with opportunities to exchange ideas, forge lasting personal and professional relationships and demonstrate leadership in community service. CAPRCBM is a not-for-profit organization of appointed and elected officials serving their local communities and is continually striving to offer simple and efficient methods to train Park and Recreation Commissioners.

At the March conference in Sacramento there will be sessions specifically for Park and Recreation Commissioners. The Parks and Recreation Department staff will attend the conference and the Town would like to extend this invitation to a few members of the Park and Recreation Commission. Once details on the specific trainings are available, staff will share with the Commission to see if there is interest in attending.

Current session topics of specific interest to Park and Recreation Commissioners include:

But, I Don't Want to be a Politician!

Generate awareness and provoke thought of participant's knowledge of your organization and stimulate discussion between professionals and commissioners. Interact about roles and

relationships between professionals, citizen advocates and political leaders to better understand your community role.

Engaging Policy Makers-How It Really Works

Describe practical "how-to's" and "do's and don'ts" when setting up and meeting with policy makers and their aides. Discuss the importance of the relationship between the Legislative Aide and the Park & Recreation Professional

Ethics Training for Public Officials

Explain the legal and ethical restrictions of local agency officials regarding conflicts of interest, restrictions on gifts and prerequisite of office and requirements for fair process and governmental transparency. Discuss prohibited activities and disclosure, disqualification, ethics law requirements and the consequences of violating these laws and standards

Meetings, Bloody Meetings

Analyze procedural issues arising in public meetings. Discuss the ingredients of conflict of interest issues.

Item VIII. C. Commons Park Pathway Update – (verbal)

Staff will provide a verbal update at the meeting, as there is a project kick-off meeting scheduled with the landscape architect after the publication date of this agenda packet.