



MINUTES

IRVINE SPORTS COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

July 10, 2024

7:00 PM

Los Olivos Community Center
101 Alfonso
Irvine, California

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Irvine Sports Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on July 10, 2024, at Los Olivos Community Center, 101 Alfonso, Irvine, California; Chair Bertoni presiding.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 19

COMMITTEE MEMBER:	AYSO Region 213*	Andy Dennis
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	FC Rockers	Farzin Langeroudi
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	GPA Athletics	Alex Guenette
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Irvine Dolphins Baseball Club*	Chad Asada
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Irvine Girls Softball Association*	Andrew Uchida
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Irvine Knights Baseball Club	Dick Owens
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Irvine Pony Baseball*	J.D. Harding
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Irvine Ranch Little League	Jackie Watanabe
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Irvine Travel Softball*	Blair Ota
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	SoCal Reds*	Dave Brown
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Pateadores Irvine*	Kevin Elson
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	So Cal Elite Sports, Basketball	Cary Lambeth
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Strikers FC Irvine	Don Ebert
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Zeta Sports Academy	Sica Jefferson
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Member-At-Large*	Adam Go
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Member-At-Large*	Joe Ferrante
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Member-At-Large*	Phil Wang
VICE CHAIR:	So Cal Elite Sports, Volleyball*	Cary Lambeth
CHAIR:	Matt Leinart Flag Football*	Ryan Bertoni

ABSENT: 10

COMMITTEE MEMBER:	CBA Spartans	Todd Tristan
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Irvine Soccer Academy*	Frank Fortier
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Northwood Little League*	Kellen Razzano

COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Orange County Trojans Youth Football*	Adrian Dixon
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Orange County United FC	Bart Hess
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Rox Baseball	Michelle McNab
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Ryan Lemmon Foundation	Guy Lemmon
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Southern California Cricket Association Youth	Somar Bhangay
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Southern California Youth Cricket Academy*	Shantha Suraweera
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Member-At-Large*	Mariam Gelfand

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

There were no public comments on non-agendized items.

INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMITTEE UPDATES

Committee Member Ebert reintroduced the idea of changing voting for the Sports Committee.

- Vice Chair Lambeth noted there were previous talks about smaller groups having a vote.
- Committee Member Owens advised that the recommendation was voted down when previously brought forward to the Community Services Commission.
- After discussion and comments by various committee members, it was decided to hold a special meeting to further discuss voting for Sports Committee members.

Chair Bertoni provided background on Great Park synthetic fields and impacts from lobbyists pushing back. He noted synthetic fields will allow more use and eliminate dirt patches.

- Committee Member Owens noted the push back is from environmental groups that are not based in Irvine. He advised Sports Committee members to attend Great Park and City Council meetings to advocate for synthetic turf.
- Committee Member Ebert noted a date needs to be settled on to gather Sports Committee members.
- Further discussion was had by committee members on how to organize on issues such as this and support other sports committee groups.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION: Moved by Vice Chair Lambeth, seconded by Member-at-Large Go, and unanimously carried by those members present (Committee Members Bhangay, Dixon, Fortier, Gelfand, Hess, Lemmon, McNab, Razzano, Suraweera, and Tristian absent) to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

1.1 MINUTES

ACTION:

Approve the minutes of a special meeting of the Irvine Sports Committee held on January 10, 2024.

1.2 TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS CALENDAR

ACTION:

Received and filed.

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2.1 OAK CREEK COMMUNITY PARK DESIGN OPTIONS

Deputy Director of Great Park & Sustainability, Joel Belding, and Senior Planner, Kathleen Haton, gave a presentation regarding the current approved project design and new alternative concept for Oak Creek Community Park.

After discussion and comments by various Committee Members, direction was given to move forward with the new alternative concept as the recommendation to the Community Services Commission.

There were no public comments.

ACTION: Moved by Committee Member Brown, seconded by Committee Member Elson, and unanimously carried by those members present (Committee Members Bhangay, Dixon, Fortier, Gelfand, Hess, Lemmon, McNab, Razzano, Suraweera, and Tristian absent) to recommend the Community Services Commission approve the new alternative concept for Oak Creek Community Park.

2.2 REQUEST BY SPORTS COMMITTEE MEMBER SHIRLEY NODA-SHEN FOR A DISCUSSION OF A MORATORIUM FOR NEW LOCAL SPORTS COMMITTEE GROUPS

Discussion was had by the committee on a moratorium for new local sports committee groups. Committee Member Noda-Shen shared her concerns about the growing Irvine sports population after the pandemic and limited space for walk-on users.

Committee Member Brown supported the idea of a moratorium until updated criteria for new organizations could be settled on. He noted current sports committee organizations are losing field space and the ability to serve the Irvine community.

Chair Bertoni noted that this item was brought up before. As a result, guidelines were implemented to make it more challenging for new groups to enter, but there were concerns about prohibiting their entry altogether.

Committee Member Ebert questioned how the committee could limit new groups from joining. He noted a moratorium would limit the growth of new organizations and competition.

Community Services Deputy Director, Dena Diggins, recommended adding the moratorium to a special meeting or re-agendizing the item at the next Sports Committee meeting.

Chair Bertoni then recommended to move forward with presenting a moratorium on new members to the Community Services Commission.

There were no public comments.

ACTION: Moved by Chair Bertoni, seconded by Committee Member Lambeth, and unanimously carried by those members present (Committee Members Bhangay, Dixon, Fortier, Gelfand, Hess, Lemmon, McNab, Razzano, Suraweera, and Tristian absent) to recommend a moratorium on new local sports committee organizations until October 2025, with the option to extend, excluding groups currently expressing interest in the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Vice Chair Lambeth, seconded by Committee Member Asada, and unanimously carried by those members present (Committee Members Bhangay, Dixon, Fortier, Gelfand, Hess, Lemmon, McNab, Razzano, Suraweera, and Tristian absent) to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.



RYAN BERTONI, CHAIR



Gina Ferrante
Community Services Supervisor

10/9/2024

DATE APPROVED