

CITY of LAGUNA WOODS CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Special Meeting
Thursday, August 10, 2017
3:00 p.m.

Laguna Woods City Hall
24264 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, California 92637

Shari L. Horne
Mayor

Carol Moore
Mayor Pro Tem

Cynthia Conners
Councilmember



Noel Hatch
Councilmember

Joe Rainey
Councilmember

Welcome to a meeting of the Laguna Woods City Council!

This meeting may be recorded, televised, and made publically available.

Public Comments: Persons wishing to address the City Council are requested to complete and submit a speaker card to City staff. Speaker cards are available near the entrance to the meeting location. Persons wishing to address the City Council on an item appearing on this agenda will be called upon at the appropriate time during the item's consideration. Persons wishing to address the City Council on an item *not* appearing on the agenda will be called upon during the "Public Comments" item. Persons who do not wish to submit a Speaker Card, or who wish to remain anonymous, may indicate their desire to speak from the floor. Speakers are requested, but not required, to identify themselves.

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REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

The Laguna Woods City Council regularly meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m.

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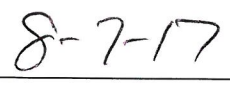
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CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS)

I, Yolie Trippy, Deputy City Clerk, City of Laguna Woods, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that this agenda was posted at Laguna Woods City Hall, 24264 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, California 92637; on the City’s website (www.cityoflagunawoods.org); and, at other locations designated by Resolution No. 02-33, pursuant to California Government Code Section 54954.2 of the Ralph M. Brown Act.



YOLIE TRIPPY, Deputy City Clerk



Date

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6.1
"A PLACE FOR PAWS" DOG PARK

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City of Laguna Woods

Agenda Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Christopher Macon, City Manager
David B. Cosgrove, City Attorney

FOR: August 10, 2017 Special Meeting

SUBJECT: “A Place for Paws” Dog Park

Recommendation

Approve the closure of “A Place for Paws” Dog Park due to issues concerning the property title and physical deterioration of various areas within the park.

Background

The City’s “A Place for Paws” Dog Park opened in 2001. It is located adjacent to the eastbound lane on Ridge Route Drive and generally includes two gated play areas with artificial turf grass, live trees, a drinking fountain, and seating. A parking lot is situated west of the gated play areas.

Earlier this year, staff began to explore potential renovations and improvements to the dog park with the goal of being responsive to issues raised by park users and neighbors (summarized in the table below). At that point, it was staff’s intention to develop potential projects for future funding consideration by the City Council.

Issues Raised by Park Users	Issues Raised by Park Neighbors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature and cleanliness of the artificial turf grass, and related health and safety concerns (many park users stated a preference for real turf grass and cited burns experienced by their dogs) • Urine and dog waste odors, and related health and safety concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise impacting quality of life within private residences, primarily caused by park users congregating within the park • Urine and dog waste odors, and related health and safety concerns <p>(continued on page 2)</p>

Issues Raised by Park Users	Issues Raised by Park Neighbors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient shade for park users and dogs, exacerbated by the “heat island effect” of the artificial turf grass • Insufficient seating for park users • Presence of flies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception that the aforementioned issues and the proximity of the dog park depress private property values and hamper sales

In addition to the aforementioned issues, the dog park’s artificial turf grass has also degraded to a point that it has begun to tear and fray. That presents both a potential hazard to park users and their dogs, as well as a maintenance problem, as it is no longer possible to conduct vigorous cleanings without risking additional damage.

In the course of exploring potential renovations and improvements to the dog park, staff identified certain ambiguities related to the property title. Those ambiguities cast a question over the City’s ability to continue to use the property to operate a dog park and to make the significant capital expenditures that would be required to address the conditions that have given rise to complaints.

Discussion

After consulting with legal counsel and the City’s insurer, it is staff’s belief that the issues concerning the property title and physical deterioration of various areas within “A Place for Paws” Dog Park present a significant risk exposure for the City and warrant the dog park’s closure. That recommendation is not made lightly or without appreciation for the number of residents and dogs who enjoy using the dog park, but rather with the goal of avoiding potentially dangerous conditions for park users and their dogs, as well as legal controversy.

Today’s meeting is an opportunity for City Council action, as well as public input, on the proposed closure of “A Place for Paws” Dog Park. If approved, the closure would be implemented shortly thereafter. Removal or conversion of the former dog park would occur over time, once plans and specifications have been developed.

Fiscal Impact

Closure of “A Place for Paws” Dog Park could be accomplished within the City’s existing budget. Removal or conversion of the former dog park would require a supplemental appropriation, which would be considered by the City Council in the future, once a scope of work has been developed.