

**WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
P.O. Box 24802
11000 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024-9998**

Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Baldwin Hills Recreation Center
Meeting: Nov. 6, 2019

Item 4 (19-221) Westwood Park – Synthetic Soccer Field Project

November 3, 2019

Dear Commission President Patsouras VP Alvarez, and RAP Commissioners,

The **Westwood Neighborhood Council** is the official certified Neighborhood Council that represents Westwood Park and the stakeholders who use this park including 99% of our residential community. It has been solely within our boundary since our formation 10 years ago. We **strongly urge** the RAP Commission to **REJECT** the proposed second soccer field at Westwood Park.

This synthetic field has generated more speakers in **opposition** at two of our meetings than any Westwood issue that has been heard by the NC. The WWNC has taken not one, but **2 votes** on this and has opposed the field's location at WP on both votes. **The WWNC has filed 2 Community Impact Statements.**

Our park is relatively small for our heavily populated community. We have absorbed 1 enclosed soccer field and an enclosed dog park.

With this proposal there will be significant impact to existing park uses:

- **half of our tennis courts** will be obliterated even though we have a robust group of tennis enthusiasts
- **15 healthy trees** will be removed.
- **Basketball courts will have to be relocated.**

RAP is **spending \$ 2.7 million** to accommodate a \$1.2 million gift that brings with it exclusive use including memorial events, naming rights and a contributors wall for a select group of individuals – all on public land.

There is no significant benefit to our park users.

Staff has continually stated totally non-valid reasons for refusing to consider

Cheviot Park including “incompatible uses,” dog classes, picnic areas, and the archery facility. One staff member publicly called Cheviot Park a “baseball park” in his talk at our NC meeting. When questioned, he backed down.

Please do NOT pit one sport against another. We look to our RAP Commission to reflect the values of our community (via our neighborhood council, emails, letters, and testimony) in their vote on Nov. 6.

The staff report does **NOT** respond to our comments. VP Alvarez requested at the Task Force meeting (9/18) that alternatives be brought back to the Task Force. This has not happened. Staff was asked to conduct additional outreach to the tennis and basketball communities. This has not happened.

Commissioners, this proposed soccer field is **NOT** ready for conceptual approval. Staff has brought nothing new to this meeting even though it was requested of them. They have ignored our community input as reflected in the proposal before you. **DO NOT BE SWAYED** to get this over with until concerns and requests have been addressed.

In conclusion, there are emails, petitions, RAP staff discussions, council ofc. mtgs., opponents and supporters who all tell a different story. There were mtgs. no one knew about, mtgs. we attended, surveyors, lobbyists, roundtables, letters promised by RAP at a public mtg. but never delivered, economics that **DO NOT** work, and a NC and community who request that **this RAP Commission recommend rejection of any conceptual approval, rejection of Westwood Park as the proposed site for this project and, at the very least, request that RAP execute what was requested of them by the Task Force and the community.**

Thank you.

Westwood Neighborhood Council

Lisa Chapman, President
Sandy Brown, Vice President
Stephen Resnick, Secretary
Laura Winikow, Treasurer