

El Dorado County
Chief Administrative Office
Memorandum

Date: June 22, 2009

To: All Board Members

From: Gayle Erbe-Hamlin, Chief Administrative Officer

Subject: June 23, 2009 BOS Agenda – Item #43 Skate Park

This report is provided in advance of my presentation to the Board on June 23, 2009. It is coming late due to my need to get input from several sources that I did not have time to do as a result of budget hearings. I will review it in detail at the meeting.

The Board of Supervisors directed the CAO to formulate a plan for the reopening of Joe's Skate Park following a presentation on May 5, 2009 by the Youth Commission. Since that time I have interviewed a number of people and groups connected to and interested in the Skate Park. The key issue was to determine how to have a safe place for the users. One idea was to have a docent program that would provide for on site supervision. The County Office of Education was evaluating their ability to obtain liability coverage for the docent program however they were not able to secure coverage. Given that there are no discretionary resources in the County to commit to hiring on site staff I began evaluating how to do it as an unsupervised facility.

Discussions with skate park users indicate they have a strong commitment to self regulation. They fully recognize the loss they suffered by the closure of the Skate Park and want to be part of the solution. They felt that if the park was operated during specific daytime hours and that if law enforcement/community presence was very visible then those would be strong influences against negative behaviors.

In my investigation into the issue I have received commitment from a variety of community organizations to be part of the ongoing process and operations. The challenge is to weave all these commitments into a workable process. Out of those community discussions and after consultations with County Counsel I feel that the best option for opening the Skate Park is to do it as an "unsupervised facility" but with strong community and law enforcement presence.

The plan I am proposing is:

- Open the park Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 7 pm. DOT grounds and custodial staff will open and shut the gates as well as ensure the park is kept clean. The park will be unsupervised but regularly patrolled.
- The Sheriff and Placerville Police Departments will see that regular patrols are done at the park during open hours.
- The Sheriff has committed to regular visits by the STARS volunteers.
- The park will continue to be open on Saturday under the MOU with the Green Valley Church. The park will remain closed on Sunday however if another community organization is interested, the County would entertain an MOU to open the park on Sunday.
- The 4-H program and Health Services-Alcohol/Drug Prevention program will continue to work with the park's participants to foster good citizenship and to provide youth development activities.
- The schools will continue to run skateboard clubs that encourage and support a healthy and responsible skateboarding lifestyle.
- The Skate Park Advisory Committee will be reconstituted to advise the Board and CAO on aspects of the parks operation and to encourage local community groups such as Rotary, Kiwanis and the Boys and Girls Club to become sponsors of the park either through financial contributions or by adopting some hours of the park's open time to be on site and support the skateboard community.
- The El Dorado Community Foundation has committed to work with the Advisory Committee to develop a plan to recruit, support and retain park sponsors.
- PLA, the local skateboard shop, has submitted a proposal to open a concession stand selling skateboard equipment, food and beverages at the park during specific hours. Initial discussion is focusing on noon to 6 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. With Board direction I will finalize a lease agreement with them.

My recommendation is that this plan be implemented and evaluated for a 3 month period from June 29, 2009 thru October 3, 2009. The Skate Park Advisory Committee should be tasked to create and implement an evaluation plan and report back to the Board on a monthly basis during the three month period. If during this three month period the plan is not working I will recommend the park be closed.

In summary I am requesting the Board take the following action in regards to re-opening the Skate Park:

1. Approve the plan as outlined by the CAO
2. Authorize the CAO to deploy existing resources within the County to support the Skate Park
3. Direct the CAO to return to the Board with member recommendations for the Skate Park Advisory Committee and finalize appointments for the Committee
4. Task the Skate Park Advisory Committee to formulate an evaluation plan for the proposal outlined by the CAO and to proceed in recruiting community sponsors for the park
5. Direct that the Skate Park Advisory Committee return to the Board monthly to update the Board on the progress in implementing the plan
6. Direct the CAO to negotiate and finalize a lease with PLA to operate a concession stand at the Skate Park

Cc Louis Green, County Counsel