

## **Bocce Ball Court at Grant Park? November 25 Comments**

When I was chair of the senior commission in 2015 King Lear made a pitch at a PARC meeting for a \$10,000 "donation" in return for building a bocce ball court with lockers at every city park. When questioned by commissioners he reluctantly admitted that the high usage at Hillview was a group of less than 20 people. The proposal was then rejected and should be again because there are better uses for the scarce green space at Grant Park. Not to mention the space required will severely impact the space surrounding the basketball court that is used for play, exercise, concerts, etc.

I have had to dig facts that Chris Donna Legge and David Brees are assigned to work with King Lear to make this happen. This is because our current policy allows the city staff and/or council to accept donations without any constraints or due process that is spelled out. In this case, King Lear goes to the front of the line and gets help because he is a donor rather than a resident and has support from the rotary club or others we do not yet know about. This smells like "pay to play" to me and I just want you to be aware of what is happening. We deserve more than special favors for special people.

Now that the bocce ball project has been unleashed I am going to take on a watchdog role to make sure that whatever happens is in the best interests of residents rather than King Lear or for that matter myself. Questions that need to be answered are:

- (1) How many people use the Hillview Bocce Ball Court and where do they reside?
- (2) How many other communities have 1 or more bocce ball courts and what is the usage?
- (3) Because the Hillview Bocce Ball Court will be replaced when the new Community Center is built do we really need 2 bocce ball courts?
- (4) What projects have a higher priority for this space? For example, adding an adult playground or adding or expanding the current basketball court for other uses like pickle ball, indoor or outdoor fitness space, badminton, or shuffle board?
- (5) Or, should the grass be left alone so we can continue to use this space for special events, concerts, picnics where people lay down blankets, practice ball, fly kites, or walk their dogs?
- (6) Should we construct a temporary bocce ball court at another location that is currently not in use such as at the corner of Grant and Fremont or the Woodland Library, or Lincoln or any other park that is a better fit?
- (7) If we are going to convert park green space to a hard surface why not consider higher usage amenities like more basketball or pickle ball courts at other parks like Heritage, Lincoln, or Rosita?
- (8) Should we not consider adding a more popular amenity like a fitness center at Grant Park, a commercial kitchen, or a covered pavilion instead?
- (9) Should we not consider adding more benches at all parks including Grant as a higher priority?

Commissioners, are you also aware there are bocce ball parks at Sunnyvale - Ponderosa Park and at Blackberry Farm in Cupertino? Because we have so little grass or green spaces to enjoy I hope you agree that we should leave them alone.

Sincerely,

Frank Martin

