



STAFF REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 9, 2013

To: Town Council

From: Town Manager

Date: March 25, 2013

Subject: Family Friendly Downtown Loomis Discussion

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss and direct staff.

DISCUSSION:

At the March 12, 2013 Town Council meeting, a request was made to schedule a discussion before the Town Council regarding how to make downtown Loomis more family friendly. With the nearing completion of the Nancy Beck Multi-Use Plaza, the soon to be installed restrooms and the future spray pad in the Blue Anchor Park, it is time to discuss what steps the Town can take to ensure the downtown area, including the park, stays family oriented and family friendly.

After staff received a number of emails from concerned citizens regarding smoking and drinking activities occurring in the park, which impeded the use of the park by families, staff initiated the installation of No-Smoking, No alcohol and dog leash requirements at the Park (Fig. 1 & 2). The incidents of smoking and alcohol consumption were immediately reduced. In addition, by placement of the signs, the Sheriff's Office now can cite anyone violating the requirements.



Figure 1.
Sign at Blue Anchor Park Shade Structure



Figure 2.
Sign at Blue Anchor Park Shade Structure

In addition, staff has initiated a program developed by law enforcement called Crime Prevention by Environmental Design (CPED). This involves planting and maintaining landscaping in such a manner as to provide “open” landscaping with limited areas where someone could hide. Below in Figures 3 & 4 are pictures of the area behind the Community Stage at Blue Anchor Park following the CPED vegetation management treatment.



Figure 3.
Back of Community Stage Blue Anchor Park



Figure 4.
Back of Community Stage Blue Anchor Park

In addition, staff has installed a number of security cameras at the Park. These cameras record 24/7, 365 days a year (Figures 5 & 6).



Figure 5
Surveillance Sign at Blue Anchor Park



Figure 6
Security Camera Monitor

The cameras can be monitored at Town Hall. Staff is arranging for a total of 16 cameras with access directly available to the Sheriff Department at the Loomis Sub Station.

Staff is requesting the Council to discuss if there are additional measures you would like to see implemented at the Park.

CEQA :

The proposed discussion is exempt from CEQA.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The signs and security system are contained within the current adopted budget.