

## **San Rafael City Council Pickleweed 2.0 Adhoc Subcommittee**

**Members:** Councilmember Colin (Subcommittee Chair) and Councilmember Gamblin

**Purpose:** Convert the existing grass fields at Al Boro Center/Pickleweed Park to synthetic turf. Subcommittee is tasked with overseeing the fund-raising and implementation.

**Background:** In 2002 the City completed the Pickleweed Park Field Project. The intense use of the park by the community and organized league play has made the turf unsustainable. The two soccer fields receive approximately 1,000 – 1,800 hours of reserved play annually (5.5 months) and undocumented hours of use from drop in play finding their way on and in-between the fields before, during and after reserved play. Costly re-sodding and extended closures for repair are necessary to protect the investment. The fields are also closed during wet weather to avoid damage. As a result, the community is deprived of its only field facility six and a half months of the year.

City currently spends up to \$80,000 per year to repair the sod, in addition to regular maintenance costs. Installation of a fence, at a cost of \$40,000, was necessary to enable closure of the fields during the repair periods.

To resolve the issues of costly repairs and maintenance, safety, and community access to health, fitness and recreation facilities year round, conversion to synthetic turf is the best option.

**Schedule/Meetings:** The Subcommittee will meet on an as-needed, adhoc basis, likely 8-10 times over the next year. Subcommittee will report out to the City Council and the public quarterly at a Council meeting after the initial launch in 2016 (see Timeline below).

**Community Participation.** Options include:

- Meeting(s) with various sports groups.
- Outreach to the immediate community for their support.
- Fundraising page on SR website.
- Spring event celebrating Pickleweed's 10 years.

**Objectives:** Successfully convert the existing grass fields to synthetic turf at Pickelweed.

**Timeline:** Public fundraising campaign to start February 2016. This will include a 2016 event celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Albert J. Boro Center. The goal is to have the necessary funds by August 2017.

**Staff:** City Manager and Senior Recreation Supervisor of Albert J. Boro Center