



MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/1/20
FROM: Parks and Recreation
TO: Salida City Council
SUBJECT: Citizen request

Background Information:

In the Summer of 2019 the city completed the construction of a new court in Alpine Park. The new court had lights to allow for night usage. After discussion about the schedule for the light, Council decided to direct staff to disallow usage of the light after 8:00 PM. Since that time, the light will not turn on after 8:00 PM.

Staff recently received the following letter and an accompanying petition for Salida High School Students:

The youth of the town is very grateful for the changes you have made to our favorite basketball court in town. We really appreciate the new hoops and courts at Alpine Park, however many citizens feel like the lights are not being used to their full potential. Our problem is the lights shut off at about 8:05. Some places don't have a time when the lights shut off such as Gunnison's parks, which are set on a timer and can be turned on whenever. In the summer, the lights weren't used as much as they could have been, due to the fact that it got dark at around 9 every day. Also, the pandemic has limited our court time in general since both of our high school courts are off limits. The majority of people who use the courts have school and/or work and don't have time to use the courts until later in the evening, leaving very minimal time for us to play basketball.

This also plays a big part in teen health because being outside and being active is not only healthy for your lungs and muscles, but it also is good for boosting your self esteem and self worth. Many things like diabetes, heart disease, stress, and high blood pressure are less likely to harm you if you spend time outdoors doing active things. If teens are at the park playing basketball, that is less time that they would be getting into trouble or just sitting at home. It is proven that kids who are more physically active when they are young, will be more physically active when they get older (Patti Neighmond, NPR).]

We propose that the lights stay on until 9:30pm so we would be able to use the courts after school and work. This would provide a 30 minute time period for people to leave the park before it closes at 10pm. The timer for the lights runs for a cycle of 20 minutes so they would automatically shut off if no one is playing anymore. We are willing to compromise with the neighbors of the park. We just want to put the park lights to good use. We believe that if we work together, we can find a common ground where everyone is happy.

Thank you,
Your local High School basketball players

Recommendations from Staff:

Staff recommends that Council read the letter and discuss options.