



January 13, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

From: Ted Schmidt

Re: LONG-TERM USE OF RILLITO PARK

Prefatory Remarks

Some of our community leaders have raised the concern that Rillito Park users are demonstrating an attitude of “ownership” of Rillito Park. To the extent that viewpoint is directed at my efforts, I apologize. Along those lines, I do think it is important as a starting point in analyzing these issues that we remind ourselves of where stakeholders are coming from in this controversy—what are the basic motivations underlying each of our positions.

The Rillito Park Foundation [RPF] is a private entity profiting, or at least attempting to profit, off of the exclusive use of roughly 40% of the park. Their profits flow from gambling and alcohol sales. The RFP has expressly stated in proposals to the county that it is in fact their mission to ultimately takeover complete control and management of not only the track, but the fields inside the track and all activities including special events at the park.

In contrast, while I represent youth soccer in our community, I also speak for the interests of other youth and adult sport leagues which use the park. The folks I speak for have nothing to gain financially when we urge our leaders to give us more park space. Our desires are both altruistic and directly aligned with a fundamental governmental function—protecting and enhancing the health of our community. Personally, I am purely a volunteer. I receive nothing but an occasional “attaboy” for my efforts.

I speak directly for over 10,000 Pima County families involved in soccer and also attempt to give a voice to the thousands of additional kids and adults participating in other recreational activities at Rillito as well as the hundreds of thousands of taxpayers who care more about the health of our community than having 16 horseracing days a year in the middle of town.

Unquestionably, it is the taxpayers of Pima County who truly own Rillito Park. I leave it to our leaders to decide who best speaks for the interests of our community at large and what actions best serve the fundamental governmental obligation of promoting the health of our community.

The purpose of this memorandum is to assure that our leaders are fully informed not only in making decisions regarding Rillito Park but in making other decisions now and in the future, that impact upon the more essential needs of our children.

Overview

At the December 13, 2016 meeting, the Board of Supervisors continued this item to January 17, 2017. However, to truly start at the beginning we need to go back at least to 2006 when the Rillito Regional Park Advisory Committee and Board of Supervisors attempted to resolve the question of the long-term public use of Rillito. The following paragraphs discuss the history of Rillito race track, the operation of the horse racing business at Rillito, the increasing need for additional youth soccer fields in Pima County, and the benefits of converting Rillito Park into a regional sports facility.

History of Rillito

In 1943, Rillito Race Track was built as a matter of necessity. Previously, local horsemen raced Quarter Horses on Bob Locke's Hacienda Moltaqua Race Track. When Locke sold the property, a new venue was necessary. Contrary to popular belief, quarter horse racing did not begin at Rillito or in Tucson; it is a sport that dates back to the Colonial period. In fact, organized quarter horse racing was going on in Tucson out by the old Tack Room before the construction of Rillito Race Track. When Rillito Race Track was initially constructed, it was placed, as one would expect, outside the urban area at the end of a dirt road. At the time of its construction, the population of Pima County was just 86,000.

In 1986, Rillito's "Chute" was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Interestingly, the historic preservation entry specifically notes that none of the buildings met the requirements for historic designation. Exhibits from the Committee to Preserve Rillito Race Track to the State Historic Preservation Officer acknowledged that, "Although Rillito Race Track has many physical buildings on its grounds, none is of significance either architecturally or historically. . . The result of many changes is perhaps an architect's bad dream, if not a nightmare; for that reason, [the grandstand and clubhouse] is interesting." (Emphasis added).

The main point here is that if the track were to be relocated it would not mean that it would lose its historical value. Rillito is known for the advancements it made in quarter horse racing not because of its location or the structures at that location. The chute can be moved. Additionally, an historic designation does not require that the same uses continue, nor does it require that the facilities be preserved. Placing a marker suffices to preserve any real historic value and is all the National Register requires.

There have been some pretty dramatic changes in the Old Pueblo since 1943. Today, the population in Pima County is well over a million, and Rillito Park is surrounded

by commercial and high-density residential development that lacks places for recreation. No thoughtful city planner today would recommend First Avenue and River Road as an appropriate location for a racetrack competing with local businesses for food, alcohol and entertainment dollars. The track takes up approximately 40% of the property it sits on, which means 40% of the land is unusable 349 days of the year. The rest of the land has been converted into much needed sports fields. Currently, youth and adult soccer, lacrosse, football and rugby constitute the primary uses of the park, accounting for approximately 92% of its utilization.

It is inevitable for communities to expand, and as community's change we hope our leaders do their part to adapt to the new needs of their constituency. This is why, in 2006, a committee comprised of horsemen and soccer enthusiasts decided that our community would be best served by moving the track and converting Rillito into a sports park.

Horse Racing: A Dying Industry

One only need look as far as Prescott and neighboring states to see that the horseracing industry is dying and has been struggling to remain relevant for many years. Throughout its history, Rillito has faced many financial difficulties that have forced the track to remain closed for years.¹ During the late 1960's and 70's, the track remained closed due to lack of funding and competition for entertainment dollars.

Since it's opening, Rillito has changed management over and over. Even today the track finds itself struggling to maintain the facilities and requires millions of dollars in investments in structural and ADA improvements to continue racing and generate revenue. Unfortunately, the full extent of the track's financial shortcomings is unknown because of the RPF's inability to produce properly audited tax returns.

Rillito is not the only track suffering financially; this trend is evident nationwide. The sport has lost the popularity it once had. It is interesting to note that at the same time, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, "youth soccer participation doubles tackle football now and has over a million more kids than baseball."²

Unfortunately for the horse racing industry, today people go to casinos to drink and gamble. In 2015, reports³ revealed that Arizona casino revenues grew for the fourth

¹ Rillito's closures

http://www.thepepper.com/tucson_horse_racing.html

² Soccer popularity increasing

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/shane-paul-neil/soccer-is-here-for-real-t b 9730440.html>

³ Arizona Casino Revenues

<https://cronkitenews.azpbs.org/2016/03/03/18270/>

consecutive year. Meanwhile, every year more tracks close, as the industry struggles to attract new fans.⁴ For example, Yavapai Downs in Prescott, Arizona, filed for bankruptcy in 2011.⁷ Subsequently, Gary Miller purchased the track, but he too filed for bankruptcy in 2015 when he failed to find any interested investors.

An Inconvenient Truth

Horseracing, particularly at the lower levels, is dying because people have become more interested in other leisure activities, and because the public has begun to question industries that exploit animals. In 2016, Governor Doug Ducey signed House Bill 2127, which prohibits greyhound racing in Arizona. This new legislation demonstrates the state's interest in protecting animals from cruelty.

At Rillito, there have been several cases during competition when horses were injured or collapsed from exhaustion and had to be put down.⁵ For example, a 2012 Rillito Park's daily report shows that the horse "New Gallant Effort" "broke down after the race and was euthanized on the track." Similarly, in 2013, reports show four horses were euthanized during the racing season at Rillito. Under "significant incidents" one report states, "The horse Fresh Mangold was euthanized and vanned off." In 2015, two more horses were put down. The death certificates for these two horses lack explanations for why the horses broke down and what caused the veterinarian to decide the animal had to be euthanized.

It is common practice in the industry to use drugs on the horses to mask pain and enhance performance. One of the most controversial drugs used on race-day is Furosemide, most commonly known as Lasix. This drug, which has been banned in Europe on race-day, and whose usage has declined on U.S. tracks due to its scandalous status, is still used at our local racetrack. Lasix is given to horses to prevent bleeding from their nose while they are exposed to the high stress and physical exertion of racing. Specifically, Lasix is a diuretic designed to prevent pulmonary bleeding during extreme exercise in some horses. It also masks the presence of other drugs and enhances performance by causing rapid weight loss.

According to Randy Metcalf writing in *The Explorer*, Rillito's vet Dr. William Sanders "day consists of getting to the track on the weekends at about 7 a.m. to start his

⁴ Track Closures

<http://www.paulickreport.com/tag/track-closures/>

⁵ Reports of euthanized horses at Rillito

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B732wga_44I4QjVhZU1YWkdSSDQ/view?usp=sharing

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B732wga_44I4dnhYZTVzSE5NblU/view?usp=sharing

rounds of injecting horses with Lasix.”⁶ One can see horses breaking down in videos such as the one cited below. In the video, people cover the animal to prevent the audience from having to witness its suffering in the moments before it is euthanized.⁷

To the extent, it is argued that maintaining a race track at Rillito is in furtherance of the governmental function of preserving heritage and culturally important sites one has to wonder if such a purpose is important enough to trump the fundamental governmental function of protecting the health of our children. The heritage argument would also seem to beg the question: If the inhumane treatment of horses is something the county truly thinks is more important than providing fields for kids, one has to wonder why the county is not preserving the heritage and cultural history of cock fighting⁸, dog fighting and even dog racing.⁹

Follow the Money

Horseracing at Rillito should be properly characterized. Regardless of the way Rillito is examined, horseracing is a private entertainment business operating entirely on a public park. Rillito Racing Inc. charges admission, operates a bar and grill, and makes money from gambling among other revenue streams. In fact, “beer and liquor” sales are single-handedly the largest source of revenue for horseracing at Rillito.¹⁰ When combined with revenue collected from betting, including off-track betting, gambling and alcohol account for over 50% of Rillito Racing’s total revenue. These are the real economic drivers behind the racetrack. As it currently stands, Rillito Racing Inc. is, in part, essentially a gambling enterprise operating on a public park.

Nevertheless, Pima County taxpayers have massively subsidized this business for decades. The history of horseracing at Rillito is tainted with years of incomprehensibly cheap rent—far below fair market value.¹¹ In return Rillito horseracing provides a form of private entertainment –to some, a cruel form of entertainment – to spectators who are not necessarily from Pima County.

⁶ Injecting Lasix at Rillito

http://www.tucsonlocalmedia.com/el_sol/article_49407bf5-4550-5ae0-9691-0133bab4c71e.html

⁷ Video of Horse breaking down

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/142307577>

⁸ Cock Fighting in Pima County

<http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue2/1996/03/20/171085-blood-sport/>

⁹ Dog Fighting in Pima County

http://tucson.com/news/local/crime/six-indicted-on-charges-of-dog-fighting/article_db022ada-3e81-5f7e-83e2-09f088bdc1af.html

¹⁰ Rillito Racing Inc., Profit & Loss for July 2015 through June 2016

¹¹ 1985 through 2001 at \$1.00 per year

Rillito Park Foundation [RPF] recognizes that live quarter horse racing and historical preservation alone are insufficient for this business to be successful. Gambling and alcohol keep the business afloat. RPF is also aware of the prime real estate that Rillito occupies. RPF's business-oriented intentions are clear regarding their desire to control special events at the park in addition to racing. These special events are irrelevant to horseracing, yet the proceeds from special events hosted by RPF under their proposal benefit racing and RPF only.¹²

Even when payments are made by RPF to the County, the money goes to Pima County Tourism and not Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation. NRPR invests county resources into maintaining and improving parks, but the money paid by racing is diverted to Tourism. If this isn't convoluted enough, the new focus at Rillito on off-track betting must be conducted in compliance with the demands of a dog racing organization which retains the off-track betting rights, and Turf Paradise in Maricopa County.

As stewards of an important public asset, I would hope that our leaders would properly characterize Rillito horseracing as a business on public property that is primarily sustained by gambling and alcohol sales. If there is an appropriate place for gambling and alcohol to operate in Pima County, it is not in the heart of Tucson in a park where our children play.

Field Shortages and Increasing Demand

The Board of Supervisors' decision in 2006 is more salient now than ever. The City of Tucson and Pima County have certainly changed over the past decade, but these changes have only reinforced the need for additional sports fields and related facilities throughout Pima County. The policy decision to relocate Rillito Racetrack and convert the park into a regional sports facility when economically feasible remains sound and responsible.

First, the City of Tucson and Pima County's population has grown by 123,589 and 247,996 respectively over the past 10 years.¹³ By 2023, Pima County is projected to grow by the same amount in roughly half the time. Considering that Tucson only has 3% of City land designated as park area¹⁴ (an embarrassing statistic that ranks Tucson near the bottom of U.S. cities, #83 out of 100), the current and future population of Pima County cries out for a significant increase in park acreage. Currently Tucson's park acreage is 40% of the national average.¹⁵ A regional sports

¹² Pat White, "We are definitely a very conservative, non-profit, organization with every penny of our income going into racing and Rillito", 4/27/2014

¹³ Population

<https://www.tucsonaz.gov/hcd/tucson-update-population>

¹⁴ Tucson ParkScore

<http://parkscore.tpl.org/city.php?city=Tucson>

¹⁵ Stephanie Maben, Pima County Parks Commission; NPRA Park Metrics

facility in the heart of Tucson best satisfies what Pima County citizens desperately need and deserve – especially for the youth in our community. Based upon available undeveloped land, additional fields at Rillito Park remain an excellent option for Pima County to address this problem.

A regional sports facility produces obvious community health benefits. Providing additional fields and parks directly addresses the heightened risk for obesity in Pima County youth.¹⁶ Addressing the community's field shortage also would mitigate Pima County's poor performance relative to Maricopa County and other U.S. counties when we look at the percentage of people with access to recreation.¹⁷ The Board of Supervisors' mission statement calls for public policies that ensure safe communities and protect public health.¹⁸ Horseracing is NOT an essential government service and does not promote any governmental purpose.

I would respectfully suggest our leaders consider the propriety of the County subsidizing and supporting alcohol consumption in association with gambling at Rillito. Pima County already has a higher percentage of adults who abuse alcohol than the rest of the state.¹⁹ Gambling entices drinking and drinking entices more gambling, sometimes leading to abuse and even addiction. It would certainly seem that continued investment in horseracing at Rillito runs contrary to the goals and responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors. Public policy should include efficient use of land and investment in infrastructure that actually aligns with the vision for a healthier Pima County.

Youth Soccer in Pima County

As proposed and unanimously agreed upon in 2006, the 88-acres at Rillito Regional Park would be most efficiently used as a facility with 16 or more full-sized lighted soccer fields. Currently the youth soccer community is the most frequent user of

http://tucson.com/news/opinion/turn-rillito-into-a-soccer-complex/article_a6d69dca-cd36-55d1-9408-e39b74dbd485.html,
<http://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/ParkMetrics/>

¹⁶ Obesity

https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dch/programs/communitiesputtingpreventiontowork/communities/profiles/pdf/cppw_communityprofile_b1_pimacounty_az_508.pdf

¹⁷ Pima County Community Health Needs Assessment 2015

http://webcms.pima.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/Health/Resources%20for%20Professionals/Health%20Data,%20Statistics%20and%20Reports/Pima%20CHNA-FNL-web.pdf

¹⁸ Mission statement Board of Supervisors

http://webcms.pima.gov/government/board_of_supervisors

¹⁹ Pima County Community Health Needs Assessment 2015

http://webcms.pima.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/Health/Resources%20for%20Professionals/Health%20Data,%20Statistics%20and%20Reports/Pima%20CHNA-FNL-web.pdf

Rillito, utilizing 92% of the park. Throughout the year, Tucson Soccer Academy practices at Rillito Monday to Thursday. Hundreds of families from all over Pima County dedicate nearly every work evening and school night driving to Rillito.

There is also extensive use of Rillito on weekends. Rillito hosted over 130 soccer games over spring and fall weekends in 2016. During any given weekend, Rillito can host 15 matches. This means approximately 500 players and their families visit Rillito for soccer games on a given weekend. Combined with nightly practices, 800 Pima County families from all districts visit Rillito every single week, 8-9 months out of the year, to play soccer. Converting Rillito to a regional sports facility directly impacts these families, the most frequent users.

But the benefits of additional soccer fields are not exclusive to Tucson Soccer Academy. Building new fields at Rillito would work as a catalyst for growth in the entire Pima County youth soccer community. Youth soccer has grown in the past decade - reinforcing the even greater need for additional fields today. Tucson Soccer Academy alone has grown from roughly 300 to over 1000 players since 2006. Today, there are over 5600 players in PCJSL, and another 5000 in AYSO. Sadly, the growth of PCJSL has stagnated due to a shortage of places to play. Clubs such as Tanque Verde Soccer Club, with nearly 1000 players, has had to cap its recreational registration due to the County's shortage in field space.

Overutilized and Exhausted

New soccer fields are not only an optimal use of land at Rillito, but would have the domino effect of improving the efficient use of other fields in town. Deputy Director Mike Hayes from Tucson Parks and Recreation stated, "the weather in Tucson affords us the great opportunity to play sports year-round. However, the heavy utilization of athletic fields available results in the need to allow the fields to recover and rejuvenate during the summer months."²⁰ Resting fields outside of the summer months cannot be done without further limiting the number of kids we can enroll in soccer.

Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, Freedom Park, and Himmel Park each hosted nearly 100 PCJSL games during the spring 2016 season – nearing the number of games Rillito hosted during the entire year. The demand for these fields has significantly increased due to structural changes in youth teams as mandated by US Soccer.

Teams under the age of 12 are now required to reduce their size to 3v3, 7v7, and 9v9 formats—giving younger players more opportunities to be involved in the game. While teams shrink in size, the number of teams needing games grows exponentially. Pima County fields are quickly exhausted to meet this demand.

²⁰ Field Closures

[https://www.tucsonaz.gov/files/parks/docs/pr/2016 Summer Athletic Field Closures 6 2 16.pdf](https://www.tucsonaz.gov/files/parks/docs/pr/2016%20Summer%20Athletic%20Field%20Closures%206%2016.pdf)

Unsurprisingly, fields suffer from the wear and tear and become a safety hazard for players. Poor field conditions lead to higher risk of injury,²¹ deterring out-of-town teams from playing in Tucson. Developing additional soccer fields at Rillito more evenly distributes the overutilization of current fields. Though recovery months during the summer may still be needed, increasing the number of fields at Rillito would greatly enhance Pima County's ability to be responsible stewards of all fields.

Efficient Use of Land

It is important to note that converting a small amount of space into soccer fields can have a significant impact on field availability. Just three additional full-sized regulation fields would benefit far more kids today than even two years ago. Abiding by the new standards set by U.S. Soccer, one field suited for regular 11v11 play can now be marked as two fields for 9v9 or as many as four 3 v 3 fields.

Therefore, the space needed to develop three additional fields can be reasonably measured as nine to twelve more fields (three 11v11 fields/six 9v9/twelve 3 v 3). By increasing the number of available fields, Pima County soccer players of all ages benefit. In addition, more space would be available for other recreational users as well.

"It's Where the Kids Live"

Competitive soccer aside, Rillito Regional Park serves the youth in the surrounding neighborhoods in many ways. Roughly 25% of Tucson's total population lives in the area.²² Rillito lies in the center of a dense population that is home to Pima County residents at all economic levels. This area includes 30 schools²³ within a five-mile radius from the park.

An expanded sports facility at Rillito would not only function well as a tournament site, but also a neighborhood park for the thousands of less competitive local kids who want to play in PCJSL but cannot travel. Families, especially those of modest means, prefer to play near where they live. This is especially true for those kids who want to play, but not necessarily at the highest competitive level. Unfortunately for our kids, the absence of a reasonably accessible place to play, is far too often the deal breaker for parents.

Rillito's location is perfectly situated to serve as their neighborhood park. Families who are not involved in competitive soccer are reluctant to transport their kids to

²¹ Risk of Injuries

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/125/2/410.long#ref-11>

²² Calculated by the population in the nearest zip codes (85704, 85705, 85719, 85718) divided by the total population in 2015.

²³ Map

<https://www.google.com/maps/@32.2895152,-110.9624673,14z>

Kino Sports Complex or other field complexes that are not centrally located. Rillito is also conveniently located near public transportation. When considering factors such as public welfare, community health, and access to quality parks for youth recreation, the benefits provided from converting Rillito to a sports complex are incomparable.

Kino and Rillito are Apples and Oranges

Some will point to Kino Sports Complex [KSC] as a solution to Pima County's shortage of fields. However, KSC and a regional sports facility at Rillito are not mutually exclusive. In fact, converting Rillito AND developing a site like KSC was part of the recommendations the Board unanimously approved in 2006.²⁴

It is very important to understand that the fee structure at KSC is significantly different than Rillito. Unquestionably, KSC has some of the best fields in Arizona, which is a real asset to the community. Yet, other than during tournaments, you will rarely see youth teams playing there. Why? Unlike at Rillito, where leagues are only required to pay a fee for lights, Kino requires light fees AND prohibitively high field fees. Teams simply cannot afford to practice and play league games there on a regular basis. The costs for using KSC are expected to mirror if not exceed the current price structure. Quite simply KSC, if ever built out, will not diminish the need for more fields at Rillito.

A clear example of this is the County Administrator's memorandum which states making Kino fields available to youth soccer when there is a conflict with racing would be difficult because of conflicts with other scheduling at Kino. Obviously, if the plan to have a coordinated calendar of when racing will occur at least a year out is implemented the county would have no difficulty reserving five fields for youth soccer on those dates before other entities seek the fields. The goal of making money off those fields takes precedence to making them available at low cost to kids. Kino is not managed for youth sports unless they are profitable. A Kino tournament site would be managed the same way.

The Board of Supervisor's plan and direction for the future of Rillito Regional Park has been clear: relocate horseracing and develop fields. Converting Rillito into a regional sports facility was never contingent on the development of other sites such as KSC or failed bond elections. Maximizing the utility of Rillito's land is contingent on relocating horseracing- a commitment that the horse racing industry has

²⁴ "Further Recommendations: 1. Pima County, in cooperation with other jurisdictions, identify properties for future sports and recreational uses and develop a bond question for the next and subsequent bond packages that is specific to the development of tournament and practice facility sites for the following sports: Softball/Soccer, Football/Lacrosse, Baseball/Other Sports"

discarded.²⁵ Presently, the decision to develop Rillito and sites like KSC addresses the needs of yesteryear that have become even more pressing today.

Economic Impact

Developing Rillito into a regional sports facility is not only the most efficient use of the County's asset, but it is also the most economically viable option. Horseracing claims to have an annual economic impact of \$3 million on Pima County.²⁶ If Rillito were to be converted to a 16 full-sized lighted soccer facility, it would be eligible to host prestigious tournaments such as the U.S. Youth Soccer Far West Regionals²⁷. In 2012, the Far West Regional Tournament brought 4600 players, coaches, families, and tournament officials to Phoenix with an estimated impact of over \$10 million in spending on hotels, restaurants and local businesses.²⁸ Phoenix continues to reap all of these benefits.

While the popularity of horseracing continues to decline, youth soccer is growing and its economic impact is immense. Another example: in 2014, the Far West Regional Tournament was hosted by Albuquerque, New Mexico again for the fifth time.²⁹ Albuquerque bids every year to host the lucrative tournament at its 22-field soccer complex. With 20,000 visitors over a nine-day span, 18,000 booked hotel rooms, \$4.7 million in direct spending, and nearly \$15 million in total economic impact, it is not hard to understand why Albuquerque and other municipalities are intent on attracting these events. Hopefully our leaders will consider economic drivers that are of the greatest breadth and impact when considering the policy direction of Rillito Regional Park.

Conclusion

1. Rillito's historical value is overstated and can be preserved as long as the "chute", the only real historical aspect of Rillito, is relocated.
2. Horseracing's manifest decline is inevitably and unavoidable.
 - a. It is inhumane
 - b. Communities are no longer interested in the sport.

²⁵ "The horse racing community is actively involved in the design and development of the new facility."

²⁶ Pat White, President PCHA, Rillito General Manager. 4/27/2014

²⁷ U.S. Youth Soccer Regional Championship Hosting Requirements
<http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/assets/1/1/RegionIIIManual.pdf>

²⁸ Soccer Economic Impact

<http://inbusinessmag.com/in-business/sports-means-business#.WGLONVUrLcs>

²⁹ Soccer Economic Impact

<https://www.abqjournal.com/415833/far-west-regional-soccer-fest-set-to-begin.html>

3. Horseracing is NOT an essential government service. It is a private business on public property sustained by gambling and liquor sales.
4. The demographics and landscape of Pima County have changed, increasing the demand for sports fields since 2006.
5. Youth soccer has expanded and is reaching maximum capacity due to a limited number of fields in Pima County.
6. Current fields are overutilized and new fields are required to maximize efficiency and maintain the fields we have.
7. Rillito Park can serve the dual purpose as a sports complex and a neighborhood park for youth recreation.
8. The policy decision in 2006 has never been reversed and the factors supporting the decision have only become more pressing. Rillito Park and Kino Complex serve different purposes and are not mutually exclusive.
9. Youth Soccer has the potential to generate revenue beyond horseracing, benefitting Pima County's economy.

It is hoped that for all these reasons our leaders will reaffirm their commitment to initiate the park conversion as soon as it is economically feasible.

Finally, if our leaders determine it presently has no economic choice but to grant the lease extension, I respectfully request that a simultaneous commitment be made to make the park more user-friendly to those who want to recreate there.

Time and again, sports groups are asked to sacrifice and compromise with the RPF in the use of the park, but there is never a quid pro quo in the offering. We are asked to give, but there is no take. If the lease is to be renewed on the premise this is supposed to be a "multi-use" facility, it would seem only fair that while giving RPF what it wants to the detriment of other users, those other users ought to be provided some practical improvements to enhance their ability to use the facility.

Specifically, until funds are available to move the race track to a more suitable location, we ask that our leaders do the following:

1. Limit racing to 16 days a year between November 15 and March 31 of each year and allow no racing between September 1 and November 15—soccer's busiest time of year.
2. RPF should be required to make a good faith effort to develop a racing season that falls between November 15 and February 1—the best time to avoid soccer conflicts.

3. A fence, net or screen should be erected along the track adjacent to the new fields so that play can take place on those fields during racing days.
4. Install lights on the one field that remains unlit so as to accommodate more use, especially during racing season.
5. Create the previously designed passageway between the northwest corner of the track and the fields outside the track for better access and safety (this would allow quicker access to the AED (defibrillator) the Gootter Foundation is donating to the park.
6. Lights should be installed in the parking lot to curb the constant vandalism that occurs there during evening games and practices.
7. Management of special events should remain solely in the hands of NRPR.
8. When there are conflicts between racing and soccer, Pima County should give PCJSL access to 4 lit fields at Kino under the same terms as the usage of Rillito (i.e., Rillito rate light fees only.)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Schmidt', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ted Schmidt
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