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# Field . . .

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the Sebastopol Community Center, an area slated for the laguna park. That diamond, opposed by those favoring an exclusively "passive use" park, would have cost \$25,000.

Marshall said she was "really optimistic" about the new proposal, particularly since Analy Union High School District officials are receptive and Parks and Recreation, Planning Commission and City Council officials have all pledged their support.

Little League decided to offer the compromise in order to unite the community behind one plan and increase its chance for suc-

cess, she said.

"If we have an alternative, and Analy is the only alternative, we don't want to fight over the site just on principle," she said. "We'd rather have both projects be winners...Why stick with Plan One and have a lot of hard feelings when we can go to Plan Two?"

In addition, she said, the Analy plan takes the issue "out of the political arena, and gathers the whole community together."

The issue was squarely in the political arena last week, however, when the City Council unanimously endorsed a long-term master plan to protect and rejuvenate the laguna, rejecting an alternative plan that included the controversial ball-

field.

Before Marshall told the council about the Analy compromise, candidates in next month's City Council election spoke at the public hearing. Jim Chess, Yvonne Cornelius, Ken Foley, Tom Miller and Howard Reeser urged the council to allow a new field next to the laguna, citing the need for recreational facilities here.

Planning Commissioner Howard Levy and Mayor Nick Stewart, also council candidates, opposed a new field. Several members of the public did also, saying the laguna should be protected as one of the largest wetlands remaining in California.

As a park with trails, small amphitheater, freshwater

## Sebastopol Times & News Oct. 7, 1982

marshes and abundant wildlife, it would, they said, bring "eco-tourist" dollars to Sebastopol, serve people of all ages and be a much-needed environmental education center for students.

While there was little support on the council for the laguna park diamond, Councilmembers Richard Johnson and Bill Rovensaid it should not be ruled out if the Analy option fails.

Johnson and Stewart, who announced a proposed joint city-county study to find a long-term solution for West County's future recreational needs, agreed to talk with high school district and Little League officials to further the Analy option.

The Little League also asked

the city to help with the technical details of reconfiguring the Analy varsity field to add a second diamond, perhaps including use of a city right-of-way.

The league doesn't expect cash from the city, Marshall said. "We just want them to be supportive."

The league has \$20,000 of the \$50,000 needed for the Analy field, and hopes to raise the rest, in cash and donated time and materials, through fundraisers and private contributions; those details will be worked out at a league meeting in two weeks, she said.

Now that the City Council has opted for the "passive" park, that proposal must undergo an environmental study, be

made an official city document and again go before the Planning Commission and City Council for approval.

The long-term, \$1.3 million plan encompasses about 325 acres east of Sebastopol, about half of which is outside city limits, but the immediate proposal is to develop the smallest area around the two existing Laguna Youth Park ballfields near the Community Center on Morris St.

As a start, Kim Cordell of the Laguna Foundation announced that the owner of the company that provided seating for the Spreckles Performing Arts Center in Rohnert Park has agreed to donate seating for the laguna park amphitheater, a \$6,000 to \$7,000 contribution.