



SAVE
the
PYRAMID



*Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens
can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

- Margaret Mead



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Save the Pyramid Project Summary

Kevin J. Brown, a philosopher, writes that a community is about shared interests; not in the sense of liking similar things but in the sense of having an interest in the welfare of the community. The community and its welfare matter to the individuals in it. They each have a stake in the success of the community. They not only benefit from the community but contribute to it as well.

Southwest Reno is one of the oldest communities in Reno. Because of this it lacks public space for youth sports. What few facilities there are in the community are under huge demand by soccer, baseball, softball, football, lacrosse and many other youth based organizations, not to mention adult based sports.

Swope Park is located at Swope Middle School in the heart of Southwest Reno. The park is currently managed by the RYSA (Reno Youth Sports Association), whose primary mission is to foster, enhance and be a positive influence for all youth & adult sports activities within the City of Reno. Currently, the RYSA issues permits for use of Swope Park to Reno National Little League (350 youth), the Challenger Division Little League (200 youth & adults), Travel Baseball (80 youth), Sierra Youth Football League (120 youth), SYFL Cheerleaders (35 youth), and Swope Middle School who uses the facility for Physical Education classes (750 youth). This fills the Swope Fields from March until November.

The Save the Pyramid Committee has begun a fund-raising effort to renovate the Pyramid building located within the Swope Ballpark at Swope Middle School.

Reasons for the Project:

- The City of Reno plans on tearing down the Swope Park Pyramid in the near future because it has “reached its life expectancy” and has plans to install a portable building that has bathrooms and a snack bar along with installing aluminum bleachers.
- Address safety issues with the Pyramid building including concrete deterioration, lack of safety railings on stairs, and the deterioration of flatwork concrete surrounding the Pyramid.
- To bring the Pyramid building to ADA Compliancy for the Little League Challenger Division and Public access
- A strong desire to keep the 1969 effort of the Southwest Park Committee alive and not dishonor the efforts of a whole community who came together in 1969 and built an amazing community facility for youth sports
- The Pyramid is symbolic and is a special place having had tens of thousands of kids and families participating in sporting events over the past 47 years
- City benefits from pride in community efforts, volunteerism, participation, symbolism, and a community gathering spot as well as a facility they can be proud of

Plan of Action:

RNLL is taking the lead on this project of repairing and enhancing the Pyramid building located at Swope Park. We feel that tearing this building down and replacing it with portable built facilities is a dishonor to

those efforts in 1969 to build a place of community. All of the concrete will be replaced and sealed to get another 50 plus years of use with safety handrails being installed. The inside will be completely redone, with new bathrooms that are ADA compliant (for Challenger League), a conference room for meeting with Board Members, coaches, and players, outside access to the snack bar, and enhanced storage inside the building.

Volunteers Involved:

The Save the Pyramid Committee consists of current and past members of RNLL, SYFL, parent volunteers, and community members. RNLL is a 501(c)(3) fully volunteer operated organization per the guidelines of Little League®. Waldemar Eklof is the Architect who is offering his services pro bono and has developed a complete set of drawings for the project. Terrence Tobey is a Structural Engineer who has evaluated the current Pyramid and done a comprehensive analysis pro bono for the project.

Financial Summary:

Reno National Little League is the primary user of the facility and currently operates on an annualized basis from fees received from youth players, sponsorships (banners), and an annual raffle based on donations from the community. RNLL has also received past donations from organizations such as the E.L. Cord Foundation.

The Save the Pyramid Committee must raise an estimated \$1,500,000 to save the Pyramid and add other needed improvements to the park and facilities. The Committee has received three bids for the project based on a Request for Proposals from the following companies:

- Q&D Construction
- Moody Weiske Contractors
- Lepori Construction

Approvals:

The facility and land is owned by the Washoe County School District. The School District has an agreement with the City of Reno to maintain the facility and grounds. The Committee has received letters of conditional approval from the Washoe County School District and the City of Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department for the Pyramid Project.

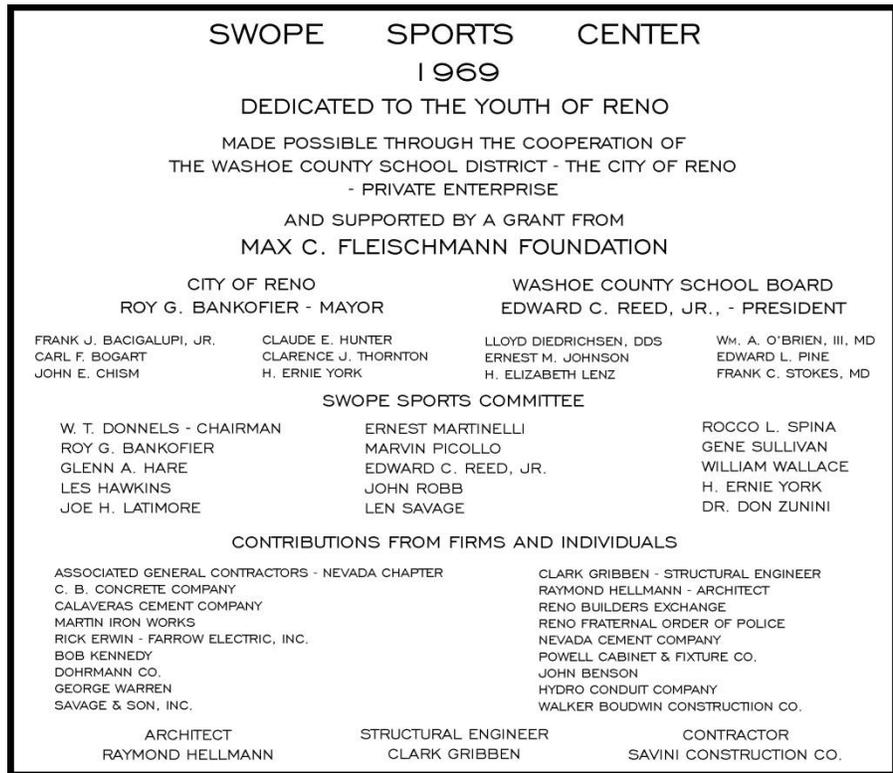
Contacts & Information:

If you need more information, have questions regarding the Save the Pyramid Project, or would like to review any of the documents attached within in their original form, please contact:

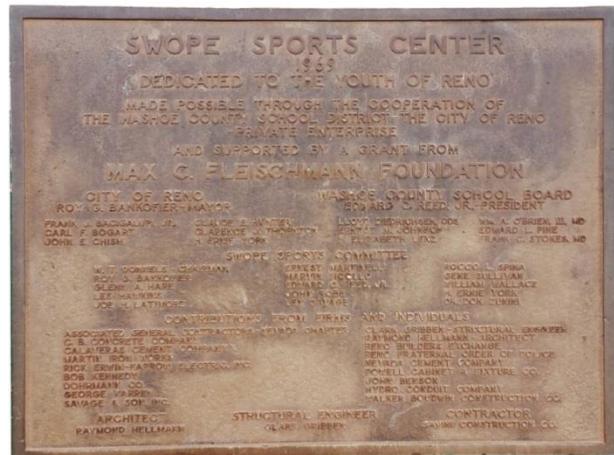
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A Description of the Pyramid Project

The Save the Pyramid Committee has begun a fund-raising effort to renovate the ballpark at Swope Middle School. The pyramid-shaped concrete structure that serves as seating for spectators and houses the snack bar and restrooms inside is in dire need of renovation. This structure and fields serve as the home of Reno National Little League but is also used by SYFL (Sierra Youth Football League), Soccer, Cheerleading and of course the school physical education classes.



The structure, which was built in 1969, is owned by the Washoe County School District and maintained by the City of Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department under a maintenance agreement that has been in place since 1969. Neither the City nor the school district has committed any money to this project at this time. The City of Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department has a Capital Project #166 (see page 14) that is in the City of Reno’s overall Capital Budget to replace the Pyramid in the 2022-2023FY. In discussions with the Parks & Recreation Department, the Save the Pyramid Committee has been told by Jeff Mann, Parks Manager, that the project would entail tearing down the Pyramid, installing a “portable” building that would house the restrooms, snack bar, storage room and aluminum bleachers would be installed for seating. The Committee wishes to continue the legacy of the 1969 effort and must raise \$1,500,000 to SAVE THE PYRAMID and add other needed improvements to the park and facilities.



Dedication Plaque from the original construction of the Pyramid completed in 1969.

The Committee is hoping to begin this project as soon as possible. In order not to interrupt spring baseball, construction would need to begin in June and cease in March of the following year. The Committee would need to evaluate the RNLL Fall Ball season and SYFL football program during this construction.

The Committee will be seeking grants, corporate donations and family donations of any amount. Sizable donations may receive recognition in the form of naming rights to fields and/or scoreboards as well as plaques or bricks with donor names for smaller donations.

In the 1960's, the City of Reno was lacking public use space. RNLL was playing at the County Fair Grounds which is now the current site of the Reno Livestock Events Center. When the Reno Livestock and Events Center was built the community came together, and with much effort, built the Swope Fields on the site of Darrel C. Swope Middle School. This was a joint effort between the City of Reno and Washoe County School District and the entire community in which the fields reside. Many of the names on the dedication plaque are some of Reno's most important in its long History. Names like Picollo, Zunini, Hawkins, Reed, Savage, and Lenz.

There are many things that define a community. With society moving at such a fast pace with today's technology and busy schedules, it makes it harder and harder to feel any sense of community. The idea of community may simply come down to supporting and interacting positively with other individuals who share a vested interest. A strong and healthy community benefits not only the individual but the community as well as the greater society. People of all ages who feel a sense of belonging tend to lead happier and healthier lives, and strong communities create a more stable and supportive society.

So this is why our Community is taking on this challenge. A baseball field is a hub for community involvement. Little League is the model of how a community works together. From Volunteerism to role modeling, baseball and little league sets the example of how a community can benefit.

History of the Swope Pyramid

The Swope Park's Pyramid has been a symbol of development since 1969 for thousands of kids and families to enjoy playing, learning, growing and building relationships. Our community has an obligation to create a safe comfortable place for our most important commodity - our youth. The relationships formed are as important as any lessons learned on the fields surrounding this iconic structure.

Families have built relationships with one another that will last a lifetime. People have networked on that pyramid forging business relationships and further developing the economy of our community. Judges, doctors, casino employees, developers, business executives, housewives, contractors, mayors, clergymen, even our current governor have spent time sitting on those Swope Pyramid steps sharing their lives with one another, each contributing to our community just by showing up to an event.

The following pages have historical information from the Nevada State Journal on the original Swope Park project.

Text from Nevada State Journal, August 17, 1969 Article

Four-ply Swope Park Junior Sports Complex Product of Vast Community Volunteer Effort

THIS IS HOW the Swope Park Athletic Complex will look as seen looking west from Keele Drive. The most unique feature of the park will be the 1,600-capacity bleacher complex (center). Topped by a press box building 32 feet above the fields, the stand is divided into four sections. Each section will face its own baseball diamond and Pop Warner football field. The ground floor of the "pyramid" will feature restrooms, a concession stand, and storage facilities.

(Sketch by John Bromley)

By JOHN BROMLEY Journal Staff Reporter

A ground breaking ceremony will be held Monday morning at a junior high school in Southwest Reno for a multi-use athletic park developed mostly through private effort and initiative.

Most striking feature of the Swope Park Athletic Complex will be the central "pyramid" of bleachers, topped by an announcer's booth and press box.

The bleachers will be divided into four sections, each seating 400 persons and separated from the other sections by concrete baffles. Each section will face its own completely equipped Little League baseball field, or in season, a Pop Warner football field.

The fields will completely surround the central bleacher compound. Entrances to the central area will be provided from off-street parking lots on the westerly portions of Darrel Swope Junior High School property, on West California Avenue.

Surrounding the entire complex will be a half-mile long track. A second 220-yard track will be provided around a separate general playing field.

Super Instant Park

All of this will cost some quarter of a million dollars, including a vast volunteer effort. Already it has been called a "super instant park."

Providing the hard cash for the base contract of \$255,865 are the City of Reno with \$60,000; Washoe County School District with \$75,000; Max C. Fleischmann Foundation with \$118,600; Associated General Contractors, \$1,000; and the Fraternal Order of Police, \$2,300.

Several private concerns in the area are contributing equipment, services, and labor worth \$12,600.

The following persons and organizations have contributed to the project: I. Christensen of C.B. Concrete with plant and equipment for concrete; Pete Smith of Nevada Cement with concrete aggregate; Sherman Locke of Calaveras Cement with cement for concrete work; Bill Granada of Martin Iron Works with reinforcing steel; Ray Hellman, architect with complete plans and specifications; Clark Gribben with structural plans and specifications; Rick Erwin of Farrow Electric with electrical plans and specifications; Jo-Anne Oakes of the Reno Builders Exchange with printing costs; and John F. Rhodes Jr., of Semenza Kottinger & McMullen CPAs with specification typing services.

Committee Guides It

Coordinating the vast amount of volunteer effort has been the Southwest Park Committee, formed more than a year ago to find a new home for displaced Little League teams who once used the fields at the Washoe County fairgrounds.

Chairman of the committee is W.T. (Tom) Donnels with Leonard Savage, Bill Wallace, Ernie Martinelli,

Glenn Hare of the Washoe County School District; John E. Robb and Edward Reed Jr., both of the school district; Reno Mayor Roy Bankofier; City Manager Joe Latimore,; Gene Sullivan, city recreation superintendent; City Councilman Ernie York; Les Hawkins; Dr. Don H. Zunini; Marvin Picollo, school district and Rocco Spina.

426 Without Field

The closure of the playing fields at the Washoe County Fairgrounds left some 426 boys in the Reno National Little League without a place to play. (Continued on Page 28)

Cooperative Effort Paves Way for Junior Ball Park

(Continued from Page 2) The league had been in existence for 16 years and served all boys in the area of Reno south of the river and west of Virginia Street.

Other recreation facilities for softball and Pop Warner football are filled to capacity. Then on March 12, 1968, a windstorm swept dirt and gravel from a large lot adjacent to the Swope Junior High School into the neighboring homes, Residents complained and began to talk of grass; and talk of grass brought thoughts of a new recreation complex. The school district agreed to donate the land and entered into agreement with the city to take care of the project under a "joint-use maintenance program."

Lighting will be provided for three of the four fields initially, with underground equipment installed in the fourth field to be equipped at a later date when more money is available. The fields will each have scoreboards, controlled from the central "Pyramid." Each of the baseball diamonds will have dugouts, bat racks, and an 18- foot-high wire fence backstop to protect spectators. Each field will be separated from its neighbor by temporary fencing. In between the fields, access will be provided from the outside to the bleacher area.

Four Football Fields

When baseball season is over, the temporary fencing will be removed from the infield area to the perimeter track. Then the complex will feature four Pop Warner football fields. Although the end zones overlap slightly, no problems are expected between conflicting games.

"If it does happen, and we doubt it, we can always call time out for one of the games until the play is run through," Donnels predicted. The bleacher area will be built of concrete and steel. Seats are designed so trash can't fall beneath the stands. On the ground floor of the building, "inside" the bleachers will be restrooms, storage facilities, and a concession stand for refreshments. Two tunnel entrances will be provided into the building.

The bleachers will be surrounded by a concrete slab. Then, with the exception of the infield diamonds, the remainder of the complex will be grass. Landscaping and turf are planned for about seven acres. The grass will be watered with automatic sprinklers.

Shields Neighbors

Shielding the neighbors from the park's activities will be a fence and pyracantha planters along Sherwood Drive and California Avenue. Donnels said the central location of the bleachers would reduce noise and events would not run past 10 p.m.

The general contractor for construction of the park will be the Savini Construction Co. of Sparks. The project will be completed in about five months.

Conclusion

“Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” -- Margaret Mead

Why this challenge? It is for the community in which we live.

A community is about shared interests; not in the sense of liking similar things but in the sense of having an interest in the welfare of the community. The community and its welfare matter to the

individuals in it. They each have a stake in the success of the community. They not only benefit from the community but contribute to it as well.

It's about the community. Our community.

We hope you will participate in this project and look forward to working with you on the future of the Reno community.

Sincerely,

The Save the Pyramid Committee



If you need more information or have questions regarding the Save the Pyramid Project please contact:

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