

City OKs plans for UFL sports complex

By HAROLD KITCHING, Staff Writer

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The major site plan for an athletic complex at Francisco Grande Hotel & Golf Resort, to be shared by the city of Casa Grande and the United Football League, was approved Thursday night by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The vote was 5-0. Commission member Tina Cramp, an employee of the resort, abstained from discussion and the vote. The seventh seat on the commission is vacant.

The plan shows eight football fields, six with natural turf and the others with artificial grass. All of the fields would be lighted.

There would be a 60,000-square-foot multi-use community center, a 12,000-square-foot maintenance compound, a 12- by 40-foot ramada, an acre and a half lake and initial parking for 312 cars. Additional parking could come later, the commission was told.

The 40-acre site is to the northeast of the resort complex, with the Francisco Grande golf course to the west and Desert Carmel subdivision to the east.

An area between the football fields and the golf course is shown as undeveloped but could be used later for a running track, softball fields and perhaps an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

The fields are expected to all be completed by June, Planning and Development Director Rick Miller told the commission, adding that the community center building would probably come later.

The Francisco Grande Resort has been annexed into Casa Grande, effective Jan. 21. That annexation does not include Desert Carmel.

In other action Thursday night, the commission sent a favorable recommendation to the City Council to amend the Arroyo Vista II planned area development to allow for a future school on 5 acres. Sandi Hennessey and Chairman Timothy Lee voted no.

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