

**CITY OF ALBANY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: April 11, 2013

SUBJECT: Recreation and Community Services Facility Use Reorganization

REPORTED BY: Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks and Recreation Commission provide feedback to staff to be included in a presentation to Council for the proposed renovation of the Senior Center House for the purpose of:

- (1) Expanding Senior Services
- (2) Relocating After School Teen Program from Memorial Park to the Senior Center House
- (3) Expanding the After School Child Program to the Memorial Park facility

BACKGROUND

The Recreation & Community Services Department is continually evaluating the programs and classes offered to the community as well as managing and evaluating facility uses. Evaluation is done through community correspondences and inquiries, class participation numbers, waiting lists, and trends in the industry. Trends can be seen in the offerings in other cities, professional publications such as those from the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS), and networking with other professionals in Parks, Recreation, and Community Services.

From staff's evaluation of programs and facility uses there are three areas that need to be addressed: (1) After School Child Care for first through fifth graders; (2) Teen Services; and (3) Senior Services. The needs assessment and recommendations to follow are an attempt to address these three areas in a relatively short timeline.

The City purchased the property next door to the Senior Center in 2008 for the purpose of expanding the Senior Center; however, the \$2.4 million project remains unfunded. Recommendations in this proposal include renovating the "Senior Center House" for programming now rather than wait for funding to

become available through grants, a bond measure, etc. Staff has applied for grants, but to date those grants were awarded to lower income and more underserved areas.

DISCUSSION

As part of the needs assessment, there is a clear need for additional after school care for first through fifth graders. The City's Friendship Club at Ocean View Park hosts the first through fifth grade after school program. Conversely, fewer and fewer teens are interested or available for after school recreation programs and despite many efforts from staff to revamp and keep relevant the teen program, the numbers remain low. The after school teen program is held at the Memorial Park facility. Staff is recommending moving the after school Teen program to the Senior Center House during weekday afternoons and expanding the Child Care after school program to the Memorial Park facility offering a second facility for first through fifth graders. Staff will also be evaluating the possibility of expanding the program to include kindergartners as the request is made to do so by several families every year.

Most of the participants for the after school teen program are sixth graders from Albany Middle School. Given the location of the Senior Center House participants could continue to walk to the after school program. Although the teen program would use the facility in the weekday afternoons, programs for seniors would expand by having the Senior Center House in the mornings, early afternoons, evening, weekends, and summers.

Another benefit to having the after school teen program at the Senior Center House is the close proximity to the Community Center and Library. Participants and staff could easily make the two block walk to the Community Center/Library. City staff and Library staff are brainstorming on ways to partner and offer programs such as homework help and other enrichment classes offered through the Library and/or Community Center.

Also indicated in the Needs Assessment is much needed additional space for Senior Services. As the senior population continues to grow, the need for more space and programs will continue to grow. Current conditions do not allow for expansion in services and programs.

Please see the attached Needs Assessment and Recommendations for a more detailed description of current conditions and proposed changes.

ANAYSIS

Costs for renovating the Senior Center House could be recovered in the first year. Moreover, renovating the house for immediate use not only expands Senior Services and Child Care Services, but also improves cost recovery. Revenue projections by expanding services would increase by \$135,000 with an increase in expenses of \$35,000 annually. The cost to renovate the Senior Center House is approximately \$79,000. Costs of the renovation may decrease as the estimate includes all work being contracted out. The Public Works Director is reviewing the list of renovations in an effort to find ways City staff can assist with the project and decrease the cost of renovations.

Please see the attached Needs Assessment Analysis and Recommendations for a detailed description of the proposed changes.

Attachments

Needs Assessment and Recommendations Report