



Regular Meeting  
of the  
San José  
Neighborhood Services & Education Committee  
held  
March 10, 2008 at 1:30 P.M.

Present: Chair Chirco, Vice Chair Nguyen, Councilmember Nancy Pyle, Councilmember Chu, Norberto Dueñas, and Ben Yurman-Glaser

The meeting was convened at 1:30 p.m.

**a. Library Smart Start Program Update (Library)**

Jane Light, Director of Library, introduced Dawn Perry, Manager of Early Care Unit. Ms. Perry gave an overview of the report.

Ms. Perry reported that the Smart Start Program was created in accordance with the goals set in the "Investment in the Future" strategic Workplan. The four strategic goal areas are: 1. Increase the number of quality early care and education spaces to meet the diverse needs of San José families; 2. Facilitate education and professional development to recruit and retain educators to work in high quality early care and education programs; 3. increase public awareness of quality early care and education through links to early care and education resources; and 4. increase political and community advocacy for early care and education services through coordinated efforts with local, regional, state and national groups and initiatives.

Ms. Perry noted that the Early Care and Education Services Unit of the Library continues to partner with the Redevelopment Agency to ensure that new and expanded facility construction projects meet the Smart Start standards. There are currently five projects under construction.

Ms. Perry also reported that with funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), The Family Child Care Training Program assists low to moderate income residents in opening and retaining home-based childcare businesses. This program provides for much needed home childcare spaces in low-income areas of the city. In addition, the program offers academic coursework in child development, business skills training, and personal development support for the home childcare provider. Staff collaborates with some schools for the coursework and specialized training. Over the past 3 years, 105 participants have graduated from the program, resulting in 690 new or

retained childcare spaces. In June 2007, 59 graduated from the 10-month training program and 61 participants are currently enrolled and scheduled to graduate on May 17, 2008.

Ms. Perry also announced that the annual City of San José Smart Start Conference, in partnerships with the Santa Clara County Office of Education, will be on March 22, 2008. The 20th Annual Children's Faire will be held on April 26, 2008.

Ms. Perry reported that in 2008-09, 32 child care centers are certified as Smart Start. Since its inception, Smart Start has created or improved 4,684 child care spaces in the City.

Ms. Mimi Munoz, an Early Care and Education Commissioner, thanked Chair Chirco for her support and advocacy of the program.

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Vice-Chair Nguyen, the Committee voted to accept the report.

**b. Library Internet Access Policy (Library) [Deferred]**

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Vice-Chair Nguyen, the Committee voted to defer the report.

**c. Report on Secondary Units Program (Housing/PBCE) [Deferred from February 2008]**

Leslye Krutko, Director of Housing, introduced Carol Hamilton from Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Department. Ms. Krutko gave a brief overview of the report. Ms. Hamilton reported that secondary units provide homeowners with an alternative for housing for family members or to obtain additional income from a rental unit. These units, from the inception of the program, have not generated negative impacts to the neighborhoods. Parameters were set when the program was first approved two years ago and have been modified in October 2007. These parameters have provided clear and effective guidance for construction of the secondary units.

Ms. Hamilton also added that a parkland in lieu fee is being recommended so that secondary units, although usually located in the rear yard, are considered in the calculation of open space, and should, therefore, contribute for parkland. The amount of fee was based on the person per household (pph).

Ms. Krutko added that the Senior Citizens Commission and the Housing Commission also voted in favor of the parkland fee for secondary units.

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Vice-Chair Nguyen, the Committee voted to accept the report.

**d. Report on Reuse of Community Centers – Funding and Source of Funding/Facility Re-use Policy Recommendation (PRNS) [Request deferral to April, 2008]**

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Vice-Chair Nguyen, the Committee voted to defer the report to April, 2008.

**e. Graffiti and Litter Update (PRNS)**

Cynthia Bojorquez, Deputy Director, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) Department. She introduced Art Catbagan and Aurelia Bailey of the Graffiti and Litter Program. Ms. Bojorquez gave an overview of the report. She stated that in years 2000-2007, the number of tags declined steadily over the years. However, in 2008, the trend reversed and the number of tags has increased significantly. She explained the three components of the anti-graffiti program which are education, eradication and enforcement. Some of the key findings are that despite the efforts of staff, the volume of tags has significantly increased. Younger taggers are now in the 10-14 age group and tags there has been an increased in tags on high-rise buildings. Taggers now also post picture of their tags on the internet to brag about their work. Staff has taken a proactive approach to address the increased in graffiti by initiating discussions with internal and external partners to evaluate the current process to eradicate graffiti in an effort to increase communication and coordination among the different players.

Ms. Bojorquez reported that the program has some funding challenges in that it is currently funded primarily by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). CDBG limits the area of the City where work can be done and also requires extensive documents to verify income eligibility thereby limiting staff's ability to address graffiti in a proactive and expeditious manner. PRNS will work with the City Manager's Office to identify alternative sources of funds.

Ms. Bojorquez noted that the Anti-Graffiti Program is now collaborating with the Downtown Association and the Property Business Improvement District (PBID) in the removal of graffiti.

A citywide clean-up effort took place the week of February 25 through the 29<sup>th</sup>. PRNS worked with other City departments and outside agencies to conduct an extensive abatement effort.

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Vice-Chair Nguyen, the Committee voted to accept the report.

**f. Update on Community Sports Field Study (PRNS)**

Cynthia Bojorquez, Deputy Director, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) presented the report. Ms. Bojorquez gave an overview of the Community Sports Field Study. She noted key findings/observations from a phone survey of 600 residents.

Some of these findings are:

- Approximately 90% agree that sports programs and facilities are important
- There are not enough sports fields
- Support the concept of shared development through partnerships with outside organizations
- Identified high priority items such as programming for youth, pools, clean restrooms, etc.

The City is losing users to other cities due to shortage or condition of our fields. Users would like the city to focus on renovating and maintenance of our sports fields. Users are also willing to increase fees as long as the funds are then earmarked for the maintenance of the facilities.

Ms. Bojorquez reported that PRNS had the last Community meeting on March 3, 2008. Staff will present a draft report to the Parks and Recreation Commission on April 16, 2008 and again for the Commission's approval on May 7, 2008. The report will then be presented to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee on May 8, 2008 and to the City Council on June 17, 2008

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Vice-Chair Nguyen, the Committee voted to accept the report.

**g. Report on BEST Final 2006-07 Evaluation (PRNS)**

Angel Rios, Deputy Director for PRNS introduced Shirley Lee of Community Crime Prevention Associates and Abraham Chacko, Senior Analyst, PRNS. Mr. Rios gave a brief overview of the BEST program.

Ms. Lee stated that there are three components of the BEST evaluation system, which are effort, effect and performance. Highlights under effort are: BEST spent \$2.4M for 24 grantees, for a total of \$4.3M including match. BEST also served 4,534 unduplicated clients and 53% of these were gang-involved. BEST provided almost 300 hours of service at a per hour cost of \$14.34.

Ms. Lee also noted that the evaluation looked at how the services provided aligned with the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF) strategic plan. One performance goal that was not met was connecting youth with caring adults. In turning the curve in a good direction, one of the highlights is that there is an increase in the number of students graduating meeting entrance requirements of UC/SCU. On the other hand, the dropout rate has also increased, and high school graduation rates have also declined.

Chair Chirco suggested that statistics be broken down to specific groups, i.e. San José, County of Santa Clara, etc. to understand where BEST dollars go to make a difference.

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Vice-Chair Nguyen, the Committee voted to accept the report.

**h. Strong Neighborhoods Monthly Update (CMO)**

**1. Neighborhoods Commission Update**

Ernest Guzman, supervisor of the Neighborhood Development Center, presented the update. Mr. Guzman reported on the timelines and the deadlines. He also explained that each neighborhood group must register in advance and select one delegate and one alternate to attend the District Caucus. This delegate or alternate will select three commissioners and two alternates who will represent the district on the Commission. Aside from meeting all City requirements to serve on a Commission or a Board, the candidate for the Neighborhood Commissioner seat must also reside in the council district he is representing. Anyone can attend the Caucus, but those who must attend are the delegates/alternates, candidates, a neutral Caucus Moderator/Facilitator and assistants and interpreters and interested members of the community. Mr. Guzman also noted that the Neighborhood Development Center, (408) 723-4114 is the place to call for general information, Neighborhood Groups Registration forms and to register the Neighborhood Group for the Caucus. The City Clerk's Office website at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/Clerk/commissionboard/NCNC.asp> has the application forms to register as a candidate for the Neighborhoods Commission.

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Vice-Chair Nguyen, the Committee voted to accept the report.

**i. Schools/City Collaborative Monthly Update (CMO/Neighborhood Services CSA)**

**1. Reports from School Safety, Joint Use, and Teacher Recruitment/Retention Subcommittees**

Ben Yurman-Glaser from the Mayor's Office reported that there will be a meeting of the City/Schools Collaborative on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 with the school superintendents to develop work plans for the subcommittees.

Upon motion by Vice-Chair Nguyen, seconded by Councilmember Chu, the Committee voted to accept the report.

03/19/08

**Subject: Neighborhood Services & Education Committee**

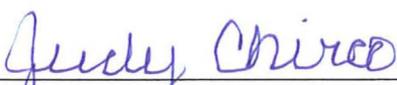
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**j. Oral Petitions**

There were none.

**k. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 3:11 pm.



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Councilmember Judy Chirco  
Chair, Neighborhood Services  
and Education Committee

Please note that this meeting can be viewed in its entirety on the City's website, [www.san Joseca.gov](http://www.san Joseca.gov) and click on the link to view meeting broadcast, you can find all Committee meetings as well as Council meetings.