



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

Present: Vice Chair Nguyen, Councilmember Nancy Pyle, Councilmember Chu, Norberto Dueñas, Patty Deignan, Jeff Janssen and Ben Yurman-Glaser

Absent: Chair Chirco

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

a. Family Literacy Program Initiatives (Library)

Jane Light, Director of Library, gave an overview of the report. She introduced Dawn Perry, Manager of the Early Care Unit and Tina Oshaana, Partners in Reading (PAR) Program Manager. Ms. Oshaana stated that the PAR program targets adults reading or writing below ninth grade level. PAR includes a family component called Families for Literacy (FFL), which is designed for parents of children under the age of five. Parents are encouraged to share books and read together as part of daily family life. In 2006, the Library launched the Prime Time Family Reading Time program. It was funded by a Library Service and Technology (LSTA) grant, donations from the Friends of the Library and the General Fund. This program will begin its third season this month. It is a six-week session that engages parents and children, ages 6 to 10, to discuss children's literature from around the world.

Ms. Oshaana also noted that once a year, participants work together with their tutors to prepare articles for the opportunity to become published writers. Ms. Oshaana read a story written by a participant who read at the second grade level.

Ms. Dawn Perry reported that the Library has applied for and received a \$25,000 LSTA grant for the Early Learning with Families (ELF) Initiative to expand the Library's Story Stay and Play programs. Grant funds were used to purchase toy boxes full of developmentally appropriate toys for young children to play with as their parents talk with the librarians. It was also noted that the Library received a \$10,000 grant from the Business Objects Foundation and \$3,000 from Target to pilot a Family Literacy kit, prepared specifically for parents to use with their children at home. Each kit has materials that focus on subjects such as literacy, language, math and science for children ages 2 to 8. These kits are also bilingual in Spanish/English and Vietnamese/English.

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Councilmember Chu, the Committee voted to accept the report.

b. Overview of the City-wide Sports Program (PRNS)

Cynthia Bojorquez, Deputy Director, PRNS, introduced Suzanne Wolf, Recreation Superintendent, and Steve Ryan, Recreation Supervisor. Mr. Ryan gave a brief overview of the report. He noted that organized sports for youth come from the community centers. Citywide Sport programs serve 6,500 participants each year. These organized sports are a cost recovery and effective program focusing on health and wellness, social interaction, teambuilding and community building, offering a variety of opportunities for youth and adults. Sport programs offered are softball, basketball, soccer and track. PRNS works with corporations and organizations, including Apple and San José Women's Softball. There are several organized basketball leagues, including a team of City employees. Synthetic turf has been placed at some school district fields. This lowers maintenance costs and increases playability of soccer. On May 18, a City Meet at Evergreen Valley High School will be held, and on June 14, the statewide NORCAL track meet will take place at Oak Grove High School. Mr. Ryan noted that Citywide Sports builds community through its programs by working with partners that offer programs for the residents of San José. These programs help children learn the value of teamwork, health and wellness and a connection to one another. PRNS has 15 agreements, mostly with little leagues. Reservation for the use of the sports fields has grown to 100 groups for 800 permits a year.

Ms. Wolf reported that one of the key elements for success of the Citywide Sports Program is the ability to attract and retain program participants. One of the City's major challenges is that the conditions of our sports fields have declined which has caused dissatisfaction among our customers. One of the solutions developed by the Sports Field Study was to install synthetic turf in some schools which provided the opportunity for extended play so the other fields can receive the rest cycle needed. Staff has also been in negotiations with San José State University for a soccer complex in the South Campus Area and the East Side Union School District for a softball complex at Independence High School. In exchange for these investments at these sites, the City would have access to the fields. Partnerships with middle and high schools will continue to be critical for opportunities for new sports field sites. PRNS is also looking to be a part of the pilot online registration system in the fall of 2008. This will help market opportunities for competitive sports and to improve the health and wellness of residents and customers. Ms. Wolf stated that use of the Roosevelt Roller Rink has declined. The renovation of the Roosevelt Community Center has discouraged entry to potential participants as many residents believe the rink is closed during renovation. The rink also lacks a roof, which makes it difficult for use during rainy days and very hot summer afternoons. Staff will issue an RFP for a viable public/private partnership to operate the rink. Ms. Wolf also added that Citywide Sports Program has many joint use facility agreements. The lack of consistent guidelines and negotiating principles make these agreements time intensive. There are 19 school districts that the City works with, so a single agreement template may be difficult to develop. Staff has been more effective in this effort with little leagues. Previously, there were no established criteria for oversight, and the result has

been to develop a template consistent throughout all of the little leagues. Staff will be bringing back the Community Sports Field Study to the NSE Committee in September, which will be later than expected due to the ongoing negotiations with SJSU and ESUHSD. Finally, staff is reviewing their inventory with such rich assets as trails and making sure that we can program according to the seniors, baby boomers and all generations.

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Councilmember Chu, the Committee voted to accept the report.

c. Update on 2008 Summer Aquatics Program (PRNS)

Deputy Director Bojorquez introduced Suzanne Wolf, Recreation Superintendent and Jeremy Shoffner, Recreation Supervisor. Mr. Shoffner reported that the Aquatics Master Plan implementation plan is on schedule. There were concerns regarding ADA accessibility, health and safety and building codes compliance. The renovations of the Alviso, Biebrach and Ryland pools were successful due to a strong community involvement in the process, demonstrated by the neighborhood hosting grand opening celebrations. Mr. Shoffner also reported that the Council District 2 feasibility study is going forward and the contract is currently being executed. Staff will be returning in the Fall to the NSE Committee to provide updates. The master plan also includes the implementation of the City's Green Vision. Staff is working with Environmental Services Department (ESD) to purchase and install efficient motors and smart control systems.

Mr. Shoffner also noted that PRNS is continuing to offer nine sites made possible by the School Districts offering access to the pools. PRNS is also recruiting lifeguards from the neighborhoods so that staff is reflective of the community it serves. Registration is currently going on for the summer season, June 23 through August 16.

As part of staff's outreach efforts, they will be hanging "Beat the Heat" banners at all pools, community centers around pools and pool facilities at schools. Staff has also been sending email blasts to inform neighborhoods about the upcoming summer season. Flyers will also be sent out to all school districts.

Mr. Shoffner stated that in March 2008, Council approved the fees and charges with a request to keep prices low for youth.

Ms. Wolf reported that as part of their continuing effort to be accessible and affordable, PRNS is implementing Dollars Days on July 7, 21 and August 4. They will be offering \$1 coupons to accommodate more customers on Mondays which are historically slow days. Scholarship participants in swim lessons will also receive a free recreation pass to participate on Dollar Day Mondays. The pilot swim season at Camden Pool and Fair Swim Center will be extended from June 3 -13 preseason and August 19 - 29 post season. PRNS will also start a Lifeguard Cadet Program to recruit neighborhood youth from SNI areas to become lifeguards. The program is supported by a San José BEST grant.

Ms. Wolf noted that Year 2 of the Aquatics Master Plan implementation will start in 2009 with the opening of Mayfair Spray. PRNS has recently completed an RFP process for a feasibility study of sites in Council District 2. Ms. Wolf also stated that they will begin to report to the NSE Committee on an annual basis. They anticipate returning in November/December to report the results of the 2008 swim season and project changes for the 2009 summer.

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Councilmember Chu, the Committee voted to accept the report.

d. Review of Proposed Changes to the Schedule for Fees and Charges for the Aquatics Program (PRNS) [Dropped]

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Councilmember Chu, the Committee voted to drop the report.

e. Report on Reuse of Community Centers – Funding and Source of Funding/Facility Re-use Policy Recommendation (PRNS) [Deferred from March, 2008]

Angel Rios, Deputy Director, PRNS introduced Rudy Navarro, Senior Analyst, PRNS. Mr. Rios gave an overview of the report. Community reuse emerged from three factors: 1) an increasing population in San Jose; 2) a doubling of community center square footage resulting from passage of Measure P in September 2000; and 3) declining staffing levels with decreased operational revenues. In May 2006, staff went to Council with a recommendation to make these older facilities available to non-profits through an RFQ process, with the understanding that they would absorb the costs associated with the use, however, non-profits found these costs to be overwhelming. Council asked staff to speak to the communities who were impacted by this strategy. Staff convened an internal advisory task force made up of a diverse cross-section of the community to help staff craft community outreach efforts. A Reuse Policy was drafted with input from various City departments and external stakeholders. The proposed policy reflects the community and nonprofit perspectives and will allow the City to formalize a free use in exchange for a service transaction. The City would continue to cover maintenance and utility costs and major system repairs in exchange for services to the community. This proposed policy would also cover liability issues so that the City is not at risk.

Mr. Rios stated that if Council approves the proposed policy on April 22, staff will release a Request for Service, which is a streamlined application process.

Patricia Gardner, Executive Director of the Silicon Valley Council of Non-Profits, expressed her appreciation to staff for listening to the nonprofits and for including their recommendations in the proposed policy. She also gave a copy of a letter of support to Deputy Director Norberto Dueñas (attached)

Joan Rivas-Cosby also spoke in support of the recommendations.

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Councilmember Chu, the Committee voted to defer the report to April, 2008.

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

1. Neighborhood Leadership Development Update [Request deferral to May, 2008]

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Councilmember Chu, the Committee voted to defer the report to May, 2008.

2. Update on the Draft Neighborhoods Commission Workplan [Request deferral to May, 2008]

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Councilmember Chu, the Committee voted to defer the report to May, 2008.

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

1. Reports from School Safety, Joint Use, and Teacher Recruitment/Retention Sub-committees

Deputy City Manager Norberto Dueñas reported that in coordination with the Mayor's Office, the first meeting was held on March 12. Mayor Reed and Councilmember Chirco were both present. Leslye Krutko, Director of Housing, spoke about issues related to the teacher recruitment and retention sub-committee. Jim Helmer, Director of Transportation, and Police Chief Rob Davis reported on issues related to the school safety sub-committee. Albert Balagso, Director Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, spoke on issues related to the joint use sub-committee. Staff raised issues they wanted to bring to the attention of the Superintendents. Feedback was received from the superintendents. As a next step, Ben Yurman-Glaser is working on recruiting superintendents to be part of the various sub-committees. Based on the March 12 dialogue, staff will develop a Workplan. Feedback from the superintendents stressed the importance of developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize the relationship. The next meeting is on June 11 where staff will present a list of proposed Workplan items.

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Councilmember Chu, the Committee voted to accept the report.

h. **Report on Key Legislative Items (CMO)**

Betsy Shotwell, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, presented the report. Ms. Shotwell reviewed some bills that are of particular interest to the City of San José.

- SB1252 (Caballero) – Prop. 84: Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Act of 2007.

This has been amended. Eligibility criteria would now include a community with less than three acres of usable parkland per 1,000 residents.

04/17/08

Subject: Neighborhood Services & Education Committee

Page 6

- SB46 (Perata) – Proposition 1C: Regional Planning, Housing and Infill Incentive Account.

This is on hold and will be used when budget is deliberated.

- SB732 (Steinberg) – Prop 84: Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006.

This is on the Assembly Floor Inactive File – funding is subject to State budget appropriation.

- SB 1674 (Torlakson) – Before and After School Program

This does not have any impact on our existing programs and funding. This will not infringe on any money that is being dispersed to an entity; it will just allow the entity to expand with the same amount of money.

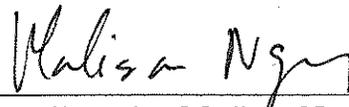
Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Councilmember Chu, the Committee voted to accept the report.

j. Oral Petitions

There were none.

k. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 2:53 pm.



Councilmember Madison Nguyen
Vice Chair, Neighborhood Services
and Education Committee

Please note that this meeting can be viewed in its entirety on the City's website, www.sanjoseca.gov and click on the link to view meeting broadcast, you can find all Committee meetings as well as Council meetings.