

**BOARD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
CYPRESS ROOM, FINLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
2060 WEST COLLEGE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CA**

December 12, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gow at 4:02pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Stan Gow, Board Members Carole Quandt, Carolina Spence, Diane Test,

Board Member Pamela Van Halsema arrived at 4:08pm

Absent: Board Members Sandra Wandel and Kathy Hayes

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Duane DeWitt is in favor of utilizing the greenhouse at Roseland Community Park for educational purposes for youth. He would like to know next steps with this property and favors having a City staff liaison. De Witt presented the Board with an invitation to Christmas Dinner from Lions Clubs of Sonoma County and American Legion Post 21.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The August 22, 2018 minutes were approved as submitted.

5. REPORTS ON UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACCOMPLISHED EVENTS

Interim Director Caluha Barnes reported on upcoming events, including City Hoops Basketball, Silver Singers Holiday Chorale Concert, Rosie Holiday Lights Tour and Winter Camp Wa-Tam. Accomplished events: 'City Booters' soccer league hosted 146 children; Adult Fall Softball ended in October with 70 teams and 800 players; Fall/Winter sports permits recorded 3,800 youth and 800 adults using our facilities; 'A Theater for Children' drama group presented '101 Dalmatians' with over 1,000 children/families in attendance; and the Holiday Crafts Fair was attended by over 3,200 guests, grossing 30K and providing \$2K for the Department's Scholarship Fund.

6. DIRECTOR UPDATES

Interim Director Barnes reminded the Board that the City Council changeover is scheduled for December 18th, including newly elected Council Member Victoria Fleming and vote on Mayor and Vice-Mayor. Since the fires, there have been major concerns about the City's budget. With a \$14M structural deficit, departments were to identify budget reduction scenarios totaling \$7M that Council will vote on at the January 29th Council meeting. Park maintenance and planning may go to Transportation and Public Works (TPW). Another change contemplated is merging the Office of Community Engagement (OCE) with Recreation and Parks (RP). The department head for either OCE or RP may not be filled, if that decision is made.

Homelessness in the parks is an ongoing issue generating many complaints from across the City. The City has an interdepartmental group focusing on homelessness and implementing City policies. We also work closely with Catholic Charities' HOST program (Homeless Outreach Services Team). However, the City must honor the 9th circuit decision about the right of homeless to sleep. Unless we provide alternate sleeping

quarters, there are pretty strict limits about what staff can do about individuals sleeping overnight. Overnight camping in the parks is illegal, but we are faced with the same challenge regarding alternate arrangements.

Deputy Director Kelley Magnuson shared with Barnes that during the 2017 fires, other cities and counties sent cards of encouragement and support. The City of Santa Rosa created postcards for the town of Paradise that 1,000 citizens filled in with well wishes during the Crafts Fair, that will be sent to a Paradise evacuation center.

Finally, Barnes announced her pending departure from Santa Rosa to accept the City of Modesto Deputy City Manager position in early January. A new interim director will be announced later.

7. SCHEDULED ITEMS

7.1 WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

Recreation Supervisor Amy Rocklewitz and Recreation Coordinator Ryan Shepherd will present information on the work experience program.

Recommended Action: Information

Amy Rocklewitz read a complimentary letter from a very satisfied parent of a teen who participated in the Work Experience (WE) Program for several years. The parent believes the WE Program provided their child with self-confidence, people skills and a newfound ability to navigate life's many challenges.

Ryan Shepherd shared a video which provided an overview of the WE Program which has 14 programs. One is a Leader in Training with Neighborhood Services and one is newly formed Sports Coach in Training. Shepherd outlined the steps in the WE process including the application, interview, placement, orientation and mandatory training. When 48 of your 55 camp staff have participated in the WE Program themselves, you know it's a win-win-win: *parents win* knowing their children are becoming active in worthwhile programs, *kids win* by having fun, gaining confidence and learning life skills, and our *programs win* when we can offer more programs and safer programs due to the addition of so many helpers. Annual surveys affirm the quality and successful outcomes of our WE Program which boasts 340 participants who contributed over 30,000 community service hours this year. The WE Program is a plus for college applications and satisfies all local middle school, junior high and high school service requirements

Public Comment:

Duane DeWitt hopes the Work Experience Program is not affected by budget cuts, and hopes we find ways to encourage older teens work to with disadvantaged youth at the elementary grade level.

7.2 FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS & CONTEMPLATED RE-ORGANIZATION

Interim Director Caluha Barnes will provide information regarding the contemplation of the reorganization of the Recreation and Parks and Transportation and Public Works Departments, as well as a brief discussion the fiscal considerations and their likely impact on the department.

Recommended Action: Information

Interim Director Caluha Barnes restated fiscal considerations and ideas that are being contemplated for re-organization of City departments. The City had significant reserves before the fires. In October 2017, we went from fire-fighting to fire recovery with a \$14M deficit. Departments submitted 10% reduction plans that totaled \$7M. FEMA will reimburse some expenditures, but the money must be spent before it can be reimbursed. As a result, some projects may be delayed so more critical projects can be addressed. Strategy to getting to the \$14M is dealing with systemic deficits, which may include structural changes to the organization. Since Transportation and Public Works (TPW) is the lead in Capital Improvement Projects, it's being considered to move park planning, development and maintenance to TPW. Recreation and Parks (RP) and the Office of Community Engagement (OCE) share many goals supporting community participation and cohesiveness. Therefore, OCE may blend with RP. Another consideration is a change in the way departments report to the City Manager. Council will decide on proposed reduction plans and reorganization proposals on January 29th. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Public Comment:

Duane DeWitt favors more trees and increased tree maintenance (utilizing volunteers) to improve the environment and assist the Climate Protection Plan. He would like the City to appoint staff as liaison for public interested in improving parks during challenging economic times.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Mayor's Lunch for Committee/Board Chairs:
Recommended Action: Information

The group continues working on finalizing the Bike Pedestrian Master Plan and bade farewell to Mayor Coursey.

8.2 Santa Rosa Waterways Advisory Committee:
Recommended Action: Information

No report

9. WRITTEN AND/OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Zest for Life Newsletter, CPRS catalogue

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Update on rebuilding parks after fires

Feedback on interaction between Recreation & Parks and Bike & Pedestrian Pathways Committee

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gow adjourned the meeting at 5:06pm. The next meeting of the Board of Community Services will be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

/s/ Mary Lou Nicholls, Recording Secretary



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This information can also be accessed via the internet at: <http://srcity.org>. Any writing or documents provided to a majority of the Board of Community services regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the Recreation and Parks Department's Administrative Offices at 55 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA during regular business hours.