

**MINUTES OF THE
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

Consistent with the California Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20, Resolution No. 79450 from the City of San José and the Santa Clara County Health Officer's March 16, 2020 Shelter in Place Order, the City Council meeting was not physically open to the public. Public comments were accepted via eComment, email, by phone/Webinar or online.

The Committee meeting was teleconferenced from remote locations and convened at 1:32 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Sylvia Arenas, Chair; Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, Vice Chair (1:38); Councilmember Pam Foley, Councilmember Maya Esparza, Councilmember Sergio Jimenez, Members.

ABSENT: All Present.

STAFF: Senior Deputy City Attorney Karin Murabito; Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Jon Cicirelli; City Clerk Toni Taber, and Deputy City Clerk Ruth Krantz.

(B) REVIEW OF WORK PLAN

None provided.

(C) CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Commission Workplans.

(a) Neighborhoods Commission 2019-2020 Annual Report and 2020-2021 Workplan. (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)
DROP (8/26/20 Rules and Open Government)

(b) Parks and Recreation Commission, Senior Citizens Commission, and Youth Commission 2020--2021 Work Plans. (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)

Approve the 2020–2021 annual work plans submitted by the following commissions working in collaboration with PRNS:

A. 2020–2021 Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan;

B. 2020–2021 Senior Citizens Commission Work Plan; and

C. 2020–2021 Youth Commission Work Plan.

1. Approval of Commission Workplans (Cont'd)

(c) Library and Education Commission 2019-2020 Accomplishments and 2020-2021 Workplan. (Library)

Accept the report on the Library and Education Commission's accomplishments and approve the 2020-2021 Workplan.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Maya Esparza, seconded by Councilmember Pam Foley and carried unanimously, the Commission Workplans were approved. (3-0-2. Absent: Carrasco, Jimenez.)

(D) REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

(1) Police Athletic League (PAL) Update. (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services/Police)

Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, John Cicirelli introduced staff and noted the purpose of this presentation was to gather input from the NSE Committee, indicating it would be returning to Council in November for full discussion.

Acting Deputy Director of the Parks Division, Avi Yotam and Shannon Heimer, Division Manager for Parks Destinations, Events and Sports, presented the purpose of PAL, a background and timeline and continued with an explanation of its hybrid model during COVID. They responded to questions from the Committee.

Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco asked that staff explore historical placemaking opportunities, proud East Side history and how PAL fits into a bigger, diverse puzzle. She requested a multi-year plan with specific goals and a milestone matrix which would be provided on a quarterly basis.

Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Nicolle Burnham answered questions regarding a more holistic master plan, development of context and engaging the community.

Councilmember Sylvia Arenas asked that community members, as those through schools, be encouraged to provide their ideas for the master plan. Director of Public Works John Cicereilli noted that the Parks & Recreation Board is currently in flux, so functionality is not at its peak, and spoke to financial restrictions. Committee discussed next steps and needs of the Board.

Public Comment: Blair Beekman spoke on the significant contributions of Cesar Chavez and American labor leader and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta and their contributions to San José. He encouraged ending the SRO programs and policing of schools.

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(D) REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

(1) (Cont'd.)

Motion: Upon motion by Councilmember Pam Foley, seconded by Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco and carried unanimously, the verbal update providing assessment and implementation of alternative operational models for PAL programming and facilities was accepted, with the inclusion that once the hybrid model is in place and an agreement solidified, a matrix be constructed outlining concrete goals and objectives, and a quarterly update be provided to the Neighborhood Services and Environment Committee. (5-0.)

(2) Update on Digital Literacy and Public Technology Initiatives. (Library)

Library Director Jill Bourne introduced the cross-departmental team aligned to offered service to the community.

Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Nicolle Burnham; Samantha Cramer, Education & Programming Services Manager; and Recreation Superintendent for PRNS, Laura Buzo, offered an update on Digital Literacy and Public Technology Initiatives being implemented in the San José Public Library and Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services departments, including the Coding5K Challenge, the Wonder Workshop pilot program, and device lending pilot programs. Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Nicolle Burnham, and Supervising IT Analyst Howard Yelding continued with public computer and Wi-Fi usage, remote program support, technology upgrades, and emergency digital inclusion efforts.

Library Director Jill Bourne spoke to the digital inclusion expenditure plan approved by Council, noting an update during the upcoming September 22 meeting of Council for a more robust conversation.

Public Comment: (1) Blair Beekman urged educating school children on accountability as it relates to digital inclusion, guidelines, and open public policy practices. (2) East Side Union High School Board Trustee member Lorena Chavez offered appreciation for the teams' work, inquired about East Side access and asked what they can do as a district to make sure their schools are connected. (3) A third speaker urged that kids should know this comes from taxpayers and is not 'free' and complained about Zoom connectivity.

Library Director Jill Bourne responded to questions regarding express check-out for vulnerable east-side communities, and she and Laura Buzo responded to types of demographics captured to understand efficacy of programs. Councilmember Sylvia Arenas suggested enacting a quality, standardized approach as new programs are rolled out and asked about coordination with the County Office of Education.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Sergio Jimenez, seconded by Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco and carried unanimously, the update on update on Digital Literacy and Public Technology Initiatives was accepted. (5-0.)

OPEN FORUM

Blair Beekman continued with acknowledgement of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta and their contributions to San José, their activism and advocacy. He spoke on PAL as being a resource for community outreach.

A member of the public offered complaints about using Zoom and difficulties with teleconferenced meetings. He offered opinions on perceived ‘glorified welfare’ and complained of road maintenance in District 6.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Sylvia Arenas adjourned the meeting at 3:39 p.m.



Councilmember Sylvia Arenas
Neighborhood Services and Education Committee

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