

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

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

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 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Sylvia Arenas, Chair; Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, Vice Chair; Councilmember Maya Esparza, Councilmember Sergio Jimenez, Members.

ABSENT: Councilmember David Cohen. (Excused)

STAFF: Deputy City Manager, Angel Rios, Jr.; Senior Deputy City Attorney Karin Murabito; Paul Pereira, Mayor's Executive Officer; City Clerk Toni Taber, and Deputy City Clerk Ruth Krantz.

(B) REVIEW OF WORK PLAN

Deputy City Manager, Angel Rios, Jr. recommended deferral of Item D.1, *Office of Immigrant Affairs Activities and Welcoming San Jose Plan 2021-2024 Report* to the April meeting of the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, seconded by Councilmember Maya Esparza and carried unanimously, the Office of Immigrant Affairs Activities and Welcoming San Jose Plan 2021-2024 Report was deferred to the April 8, 2021 Neighborhood Services and Education Committee meeting. (4-0-1. Absent: Cohen.)

(C) CONSENT CALENDAR

None provided.

(D) REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

- 1. Office of Immigrant Affairs Activities and Welcoming San Jose Plan 2021-2024 Report. (City Manager's Office - Office of Racial Equity)**
Deferred to April 8, 2021 NSE under Review of Work Plan.

(D) REPORTS TO COMMITTEE (Cont'd.)

2. Digital Inclusion Efforts Report. (Library)

Deputy Director, San José Public Library, Michelle Ornat; Karia Alvarez, Ann Grabowski, Samantha Cramer, representing the San José Public Library; Laura Buzo, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services; and Charlene Tatis, California Emerging Technologies Fund, provided a presentation.

Public Comments: (1) Paul Soto gave historical context to the digital divide, noted behavioral problems with children that come from a place of social and economic problems, and his own work with community. (2) Blair Beekman spoke to bringing foundation and structure to children. He addressed open public policy ideas and asked why Item D.1 was not shown as deferred on an earlier agenda.

In response to the speakers' comments, City Clerk Toni J. Taber, indicated that Item D.1. was not recommended for deferral on this agenda until last night.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee, including efforts to expedite hot spots for students in high-need areas.

Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco addressed the impacts, effects and consequences of the pandemic on children's education, noting that many children have not returned to school, and the consequences for this disengagement on their education. She asked that memorialization of the impacts effects and consequences of the pandemic be included.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Sergio Jimenez, seconded by Councilmember Maya Esparza and carried unanimously, the Digital Inclusion Efforts Report on the City's efforts to advance digital equity through the Digital Inclusion Branch of the City's Emergency Operations Center, the Digital Inclusion Fund grant process and the implementation of the Digital Inclusion Quality Standards was accepted, including Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco's request to include global memorialization of the impacts, effects and consequences of the pandemic and digital divide on children's education. (4-0-1. Absent: Cohen.)

3. 2019-2020 Annual Community Impact Report. (PRNS)

Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Jon Cicirelli introduced the topic, and Public Information Representative, Charlotte Graham and Administrative Officer, David DeLong, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, provided a presentation.

Public Comments: (1) Paul Soto recommended that non-profits assist with vaccinations. He indicated that street gangs fill the vacuum for under-privileged youth and spoke to the need for organizations such as Conxión. (2) Blair Beekman noted that the era of COVID is not the fault of everyday people, and highlighted the need to help out low-income neighborhoods.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Sergio Jimenez, seconded by Councilmember Sylvia Arenas and carried unanimously, the annual Community Impact Report for Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services for 2019-2020 was accepted. (4-0-1. Absent: Cohen.)

4. 2019-2020 Project Hope Annual Report and 2020-2021 Project Hope Expansion Status Update. (PRNS)

Neighborhood Services and Education Division Manager, Mario Maciel and PRNS Community Services Supervisor, Israel Canjura offered a presentation.

Public Comments: (1) Paul Soto spoke to volunteer work he's done and the body of knowledge he's hoping to expand and that he'd like to work together with the City to expand its scope. He asked for funding to be allocated to Conxiòn. (2) Blair Beekman urged the local government and community to work together and offered appreciation of Project Hope for involvement in the community process. (3) Melissa Vargas spoke to a sense of community. (4) Eddie Juarez, Walsh Park Neighborhood Association, spoke on positive impact of Project Hope on his neighborhood. Maria Ortega and Carolina Castillo-Solano also expressed deep appreciation for the work of Project Hope.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee relating to the digital divide and grants received. Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Jon Cicirelli indicated the City does have a working relationship with Conxiòn.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, seconded by Councilmember Sergio Jimenez, and carried unanimously, the 2019-2020 Project Hope Annual Report and a status update on the expansion of Project Hope into additional neighborhoods in 2020-2021 was accepted. (4-0-1. Absent: Cohen.)

5. Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force's Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together, Safe Summer Initiative Grant, and Youth Interventions Programs Annual Report. (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)

Petra Riguera, Interim Program Manager and Mario Maciel, PRNS Division Manager offered the presentation.

Public Comments: (1) Paul Soto spoke to needs of this vulnerable age group, citing it as a critical time, and adding that with his research and life he's lived, he can offer help. (2) Blair Beekman spoke on gang prevention issues, reimagining and equity.

Councilmember Maya Esparza moved her memorandum dated March 9, 2021, including a modification to item #2, that it indicate "a plan and a timeline", and that 2.b be changed to "evaluate BEST provider performance". The motion was seconded by Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco.

Councilmember Sergio Jimenez left the meeting at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Action: On a call for the question, the motion carried unanimously, to accept the 2019-2020 Annual Report on the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force's Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together, Safe Summer Initiative Grant, and Youth Intervention Services Programs, including

(Item Continued on the Next Page)

5. Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Report (Cont'.d)

Councilmember Maya Esparza's memorandum dated March 9, 2021 with changes as indicated:

"1. Direct staff to return to Council on March 23rd, 2021:

a. Identifying BEST providers that did not reach contracted targets prior to Shelter in Place Order (Q1-Q2)

b. Provide report of budgeted staff positions and vacancies for each BEST provider

2. Direct staff to return to the NSE Committee on April 8th, 2021 with *"a plan and a timeline"*:

a. Identifying options for improved oversight and accountability of best providers

b. Identifying options to evaluate BEST provider performance using metrics other than Units of Service to better measure performance as it relates to overall program goals

c. Develop Crisis Response Action Matrix to solidify criteria in which a Crisis Response is required

(3-0-2. Absent: Cohen, Jimenez.)

6. Citywide Residential Anti-Displacement Strategy Recommendations Status Report. (Housing)

Deputy Director of Housing, Ragan Henninger provided the update and responded to questions.

Public Comments: (1) Blair Beekman spoke to need for representation of disabled and homeless individuals on boards and commissions, and the need to focus on rent forgiveness. (2) Paul Soto urged allocation of resources for protection of those that have been most greatly impacted by the pandemic, and he addressed systemic and institutionalized racism.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Maya Esparza, seconded by Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, and carried unanimously, (a) the status report on the top three recommendations of the Citywide Residential Anti-Displacement Strategy was accepted; (b) the status report on the City Council's direction to add a seat to the Housing and Community Development Commission for a commissioner with lived experience in homelessness into Recommendation #4 of the Citywide Residential Anti-Displacement Strategy was accepted, including the addition of the City Council Policy Priority #10: The Anti-Displacement Tenant Preference Ordinance, into Recommendation #2 of the Citywide Residential Anti-Displacement Strategy. This item was cross-referenced to be heard by the City Council at its meeting on March 30, 2021.

(3-0-2. Absent: Cohen, Jimenez.)

OPEN FORUM

1. Paul Soto spoke to a video he's making regarding the Fallon statue removal. He noted this is promoted with Zoom ads on his Facebook site and asked all to attend.
2. Beekman addressed issues of side shows and suggested the task force should include civil rights activists. He suggested aerosol protection in HVAC systems for schools and recommended a wider use of language interpretation.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Sylvia Arenas adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

approved via email

Councilmember Sylvia Arenas
Neighborhood Services and Education Committee

SA/rmk20210311