

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

**SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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, Councilmember David Cohen, Members.

**ABSENT:** All Present.

**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**

**1. Family Friendly Initiative Work Plan Status Report. (Library, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, City Manager's Office)**

Public Comments: Tessa Woodmansee, speaker "5140" and Blair Beekman spoke off topic.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, seconded by Councilmember Maya Esparza and carried unanimously, the Work Plan modification to drop the Family Friendly Initiative Work Plan Status Report per the October 6, 2021 Joint Meeting for the Rules and Open Government Committee was accepted. (5-0.)

**(c) Consent Calendar**

**1. Commissions Annual Reports and Work Plans. (Consent Calendar) (PRNS)**

Interim Deputy Director for Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Avi Yotam; Shannon Heimer, Division Manager for Parks Destinations, Events and Sports; J. Baca President of San José Police Activities League; and Captain Todd Trayer, San José Police Department, Foothills Division provided the presentation.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, seconded by Councilmember Maya Esparza and carried unanimously, the Neighborhoods Commission Annual Report for FY 2020- 2021 to approve the Neighborhoods Commission Work Plan for FY 2021-2022, including approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan for FY 2021-2022 and the Senior Citizens Commission Work Plan for FY 2021- 2022 were accepted. (5-0.)

**(d) Reports to Committee**

**(1) Police Athletic League (PAL) Status Report. (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services/Police)**

Public Comments: (1) Tessa Woodmansee suggested reevaluating money going to PAL. (2) Blair Beekman spoke to the future of policing and better community practices. (3) Speaker “5140” offered criticism of PAL, asking for more officers on the beat.

Staff responded to questions.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, seconded by Councilmember Maya Esparza and carried unanimously, the verbal status report on the Police Athletic League (PAL), including the assessment and implementation of alternative operational models for PAL programming and facilities was accepted. (5-0.)

**(2) City Roadmap: Food and Necessities Distribution Status Report. (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)**

CJ Ryan, Interim Administrative Officer, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services; and Dat Luu, Program Manager, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services offered the presentation.

Public Comments: (1) Tessa Woodmansee spoke to the need for growing our own food. (2) Blair Beekman addressed inflationary practices.

Staff responded to questions.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Maya Esparza, seconded by Councilmember David Cohen and carried unanimously, the update on the assessment of food insecurity and overview of City programs and partnerships addressing food insecurity among youth, families and seniors as part of the approved City Roadmap for 2021-2022 was accepted. (5-0.)

### **(3) Education and Digital Literacy Strategy Annual Report. (Library)**

Vidya Kilambi, Division Manager, Library, and Michelle Ornat, Deputy Director, Library offered the presentation.

Public Comments: (1) Tessa Woodmansee suggested implementing growing food as part of our school's curriculum. (2) Blair Beekman spoke on procedural issues and the need to hear out speakers' comments. (3) Caller "5140" suggested city programs act as intrusions to the school system.

Deputy Director Michelle Ornat responded to Councilmembers Arenas and Esparza's request to provide detail in outreach in working with Council District offices to reach people 'where they are'.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember David Cohen, seconded by Councilmember Maya Esparza and carried unanimously, the annual report on the Education and Digital Literacy Strategy, including implementation of program Quality Standards, relationships with schools and school districts, and the evolution of City programs was accepted. (5-0.)

### **(4) Digital Literacy and Public Technology Status Report. (Library/City Manager - Civic Innovation/Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)**

Library Director Jill Bourne and Library Division Manager, Ann Grabowski provided a presentation.

Public Comments: (1) Tessa Woodmansee addressed access to technology. (2) Blair Beekman spoke to digital equity and open public policy.

Staff responded to questions.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Maya Esparza, seconded by Councilmember Sergio Jimenez and carried unanimously, the status report on Digital Literacy and Public Technology efforts, which includes providing internet access to children and neighborhoods with partners, project and funding statuses, key metrics, opportunities, and management approach was accepted. (5-0.)

### **(5) Citywide Age-Friendly Action Plan and Older Adult/Senior Services Programs Status Report. (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)**

Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Maria De Leon and Recreation Superintendent Jeremy Shoffner provided the presentation.

Public Comments: (1) Tessa Woodmansee spoke to reducing our carbon footprint when delivering food and importance of agriculture. (2) Blair Beekman spoke to open democratic ideals with use of technology.

Councilmember David Cohen left approximately 4 p.m.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Maya Esparza, seconded by Councilmember Sergio Jimenez and carried unanimously, the status report on the Citywide Age-Friendly Action Plan and Older Adult/Senior Services programs was accepted. (3-0-2. Absent: Carrasco, Cohen.)

**(6) Better Housing Initiative Status Report. (Housing)**

Deputy Director of Housing Rachel VanderVeen, Senior Development Officer Tascha Mattos, and Community Programs Administrator, Bianca Madrid provided the presentation.

Public Comments: (1) Tessa Woodmansee spoke to problems at Cinnabar Commons and difficulties contacting staff. (2) Blair Beekman offered appreciation for the report and asked if this could help facilitate dialog with homeless encampment ideas.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember David Cohen, seconded by Councilmember Maya Esparza and carried unanimously, the verbal status report on the Better Housing Initiative for selected affordable housing developments was accepted. (5-0.)

**OPEN FORUM**

1. Tessa Woodmansee complained that parkland fees are not being put to good use and urged a need to reclaim land.
2. Blair Beekman spoke to open public policies and options for vaccinations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Sylvia Arenas adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

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Councilmember Sylvia Arenas  
Neighborhood Services and Education Committee

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