

October 8, 2013

Honorable Mayor and Members of
the Hermosa Beach City Council

City Council Meeting of
October 8, 2013

**UPDATE ON PROPOSED EXPANSION OF
P.A.R.K. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council receive and file this information.

BACKGROUND:

The Hermosa Beach School District traditionally has provided an after school program for City residents. In September 2009, the City launched the P.A.R.K. (Positive Active Recreation for Kids) program as an additional after-school program to respond to the school district's long wait list for after school care.

While the School District hosts a homework-based after-school program, the P.A.R.K. program was designed to be recreation-based, and is therefore less expensive. Many families have migrated to the City's program due to the lower cost, which in turn has caused the district's program to downsize in response. Initially, the City's program served only 30 children, and today it serves 70. The City serves children from both View and Valley schools, while the school district now serves kids from View school only.

When the P.A.R.K. program started it did not have a room available and spent its first year at the picnic tables at Valley Park. In 2010, a room opened up at the Community Center which was converted to accommodate the 30 children. In September 2011, the program expanded again by adding a classroom at South Park. Today the City hosts 70 children total; 40 in Room 7 at the Community Center, and 30 in a room at South Park. The School District hosts an additional 60 children in their program at South Park as well.

A large waitlist has developed for the City's program; at this time it has 80 children on it. Recently, concern has been expressed regarding the size of the City's waitlist and additional demand for after school programming.

ANALYSIS

To respond to the waitlist issue, City staff recently met with the school district in order to discuss possible solutions. A primary consideration is additional space. The City evaluated the two existing options for space to expand.

South Park

Currently, all classrooms at South Park are at capacity. Of the four classrooms there, the School District uses three and the City uses one. The School District program has a more academic emphasis for the kids from View School. Therefore, they require smaller class sizes and operate three rooms with 20 kids each. The City offers a recreation based program which does not closely supervise homework. At South Park, the City uses the fourth room with 30 kids.

Community Center

The Community Center is also operating at capacity, with Room 7 dedicated for the after school program. The rest of the rooms are rented for various recreational purposes to a variety of groups (both adult and youth). On October 1st, one Community Center room opened up for afternoon use where an existing renter did not renew their lease. In order to address a portion of the after school wait list, the City is able to expand the after school program if this room is used for additional children. It has a capacity for 20, and will have to be dedicated towards the after school program. This means that it will not be available for rent during any hours other than after school. With hiring of additional staff and renovation of the room, the expansion is planned for the beginning of November. Staff also intends to continue the dialog with the school district throughout this school year in order to address longer term solutions to the after school program issues, including waitlist and space considerations.

In the context of school facility capacity discussions, suggestions have been made about permanently expanding the use of the Community Center to include more all day school based activities. However, there are numerous obstacles to such a significant modification including:

- Pier Avenue School can be used as a joint use facility. The City can use the auditorium, gymnasium etc. after school hours and on weekends. The Sales Contract specifies that HB residents be given priority use.
- The City owns the site and it is not for sale due to community programming needs
- The deed restriction indicates that programmed activities must be for recreational purposes This statement is incorrect per the Purchase and Sales Agreement for PAS.
- All rooms at the Community Center are currently programmed for other activities including at-risk teen programs, disabled adult programs and various adult and youth recreational programs. The City has at least 7 other locations to hold programs such as South
- The Center is not appropriately modified for school use as there are no kitchen facilities that could be designated for school use, and the building has not been upgraded to modern standards (such as elevators and other needs) School.

The Office of Public School Construction sent a letter to Superintendent Escalante in March 2014 stating that Pier Avenue School is eligible for State matching funds to be renovated for use as a public school.

FISCAL IMPACT

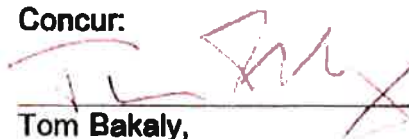
The Center can be modified. It was used as a school from 1935 to 1976. It passed a structural assessment and a building conditions assessment in 2015. It is built to Field

The after school program charges fees that are designed to cover the cost of the program. Act Safety Staff will be reviewing these fees in conjunction with the expansion in order to determine their continued appropriateness.

Respectfully submitted,


Diane Strickfaden
Assistant to the City Manager

Concur:


Tom Bakaly,
City Manager

Noted for Fiscal Impact:


Viki Copeland,
Director of Finance

