



City Council Agenda Report

Meeting Date: January, 14, 2025
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Approved By: Gabriel Engeland

Subject: Adoption of Resolution – Fund Community Center Café Space Improvements

COUNCIL PRIORITY AREA

- Business Communities
- Circulation Safety and Efficiency
- Environmental Sustainability
- Housing
- Neighborhood Safety Infrastructure
- General Government

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) City Council to receive update on Community Center Café concessionaire.
- 2) Approve \$165,000 from the Park-In-Lieu Fund for facility improvements to prepare café space for usage as planned in the original build of the Community Center.

FISCAL IMPACT

\$165,000 to be allocated from the In-Lieu Park fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Categorically Exempt pursuant to CEQA section 15301 – Existing Facilities consisting of the operation, or minor alteration of existing public structures and facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

None

BACKGROUND

The design of the Los Altos Community Center included a space for a café to serve the public through a contracted vendor. The café space is located near the building's front entrance and was an important design element that the design Task Force wanted to include in order to provide food and beverages for visitors, and to make the Community Center a destination. During the process of creating construction documents for the Community Center project, it was decided to delay the full build-out of the café space to ensure the selected contracted vendor's needs were met. In lieu of the full build-out, currently the space only includes electrical and plumbing supply and drainage for the café to operate.

When the Community Center opened in October of 2021, there was uncertainty in the food service industry due to the COVID-19 Pandemic because the state and county had just begun to loosen restrictions. This uncertainty necessitated a delay in identifying a food and beverage vendor, and a subsequent investment in the café build-out and acquisition of food service equipment.

ANALYSIS

In January 2024, the city released an RFP for café services at the Community Center. In the months since, Parks & Recreation staff reviewed all submitted proposals from potential vendors, and selected Ada's Café to manage food and beverage services in the café space at the Los Altos Community Center. From Ada's Café website: "Ada's Cafe is a 501(c)(3), non-profit corporation dedicated to hiring, training and empowering our employees with disabilities. Ada's Cafe is Where Good Food and Community Meet. We strive to create delicious food and drinks in an environment that is warm and friendly to let our customers know we care about them. Ada's also conducts collaborative research on improving workplaces for people with disabilities." Ada's Café is currently providing food and beverage services for the City of Palo Alto at the Mitchell Park Community Center.

DISCUSSION

Since the contracted vendor selection, staff has worked with Ada's representatives to identify the facility needs for their specific food and beverage service model in the café space within the Community Center. As anticipated, there are necessary modifications to the walls, electrical, and plumbing in that café space to properly install the essential appliances and sinks to facilitate food and beverage service. In identifying those modifications with the Ada's representatives, staff estimates that a city investment of \$165,000 from the Park-In-Lieu fund will be sufficient to make the modifications and purchase equipment to allow Ada's to connect their specific appliances and equipment needed to provide the café service model similar to what they are currently providing in Palo Alto.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Resolution 2025-xxx**