

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Katy Nomura](#)
Subject: comments for interim community space in Los Gatos
Date: Thursday, January 25, 2024 5:27:59 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[PBA wishlist for community center.docx](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Hello,

I will be attending tonight's meeting but wanted to share these comments with you (attached and pasted below).

Thank you,
Karen Rubio



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Thank you for inviting us to share our vision for the Los Gatos Community Center.

My name is Karen Rubio and I am a co-founder of Plant-Based Advocates, a nonprofit here in town that promotes a plant-based diet and lifestyle for numerous benefits, including: improving human health, repairing our environment, eliminating cruelty to animals, and working towards social justice. Our group has been operating for nearly 5 years, and we have been a nonprofit for nearly 3 years. Together we have been able to achieve a lot of goals, including:

- Offering educational talks at the Los Gatos Library
- Film events, such as the recent showing of Eating Our Way to Extinction at the LG Theater
- Plant-Based meal outreach to unhoused communities during the pandemic
- Outreach at events such as Spring into Green and Stanford Hospital nutrition fairs
- Bringing nutritious plant-based meals and milk to kids in the Los Gatos School District
- Nutrition talks at Fisher Middle School in collaboration with Parenting Continuum
- Humane education at local schools and churches

We are very excited at the opportunity to have a community space for our nonprofit to use.

Specifically, we envision the following for the interim community center:

- Space for nonprofits such as ours to meet, hold meetings. An example of this is the Los Altos community center, which allows nonprofits to rent out rooms for free for their events
- Space to teach educational classes and even cooking classes, if a kitchen is included in the plans
- Ideally this space will serve as a place to address the needs of our most vulnerable residents
- Provide food for the community's underserved members via a community market similar to West Valley Community Services Market. This market could emphasize plant based options and promote healthy eating in town
- High on my list is having individual closets or cabinets for nonprofits to store their materials. As a CERT member, it's possible that local CERT groups could store their equipment there as well

From: [Ulka Agarwal](#)
To: [Katy Nomura](#)
Subject: F/up from meeting last night re: Interim Community Center
Date: Friday, January 26, 2024 8:38:02 AM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Good morning,

My name is Ulka Agarwal and I'm a local physician and nutrition researcher and educator, and a member of Plant-based Advocates. Last night I had the pleasure of joining other community members to voice our opinions on the Interim Community Center. In our breakout groups and others, a common theme was for non-profits focused on health and wellness, such as [Plant-based Advocates based in Los Gatos](#), to utilize the community space to offer free education and resources.

We can prevent, treat and even reverse obesity, Type 2 diabetes, and heart disease simply by changing what we eat. But most health care professionals – including physicians – don't receive nutrition education, so many people, especially the elderly, needlessly suffer and die from these chronic illnesses. Plant-based Advocates works tirelessly to educate our community on the power of nutrition to help us take back control of our health. If we could use a community space like this, we could make sure every member of our community, especially the most vulnerable, has access to this life-saving information.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Ulka Agarwal, M.D.
[Plant-Based Advocates](#)



From: [Laurel Prevetti](#)
To: [Rob Moore](#)
Cc: [Katy Nomura](#); [Ryan Baker](#)
Subject: RE: Interim Community Center Improvements Idea
Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 3:52:55 PM

Thank you for this insight. We are typing up the notes now from the meeting so I am sharing this with the staff. Thank you!

From: Rob Moore <RMoore@losgatosca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 3:42 PM
To: Laurel Prevetti <LPrevetti@losgatosca.gov>
Subject: Interim Community Center Improvements Idea

Hi Laurel,

I hope all is well! I wanted to reach out and update you on an idea West Valley Community Services has been floating that I'm interested in pursuing.

I just got out of a "West Valley Service Providers" Zoom meeting with folks like WVCS, Jewish Family Services, CASSY, LGS Rec, etc. Folks on the call like Jeffrey Blum and Tom Picraux asked Sujatha about her level of interest in space in the Rec Center. She reiterated how much she would like to have access to space in the building and how she'd like to potentially up WVCS's level of service (adding case managers to be stationed in Los Gatos, etc.) in Los Gatos were she to have space. Nothing particularly new there.

Sujatha also mentioned interest in opening a small free food market (perhaps as small as a few shelves) in the building. She mentioned this at the community meeting held a few weeks ago, but it seemed like her small group didn't speak to it in the share-out section of the meeting. I wanted to specifically call out this idea because I think it is a very good one and it seemed like a lot of community members were enthusiastic about it.

Just some "food" for thought! Thanks so much.

Take care,

Rob

Rob Moore
Councilmember, Los Gatos Town Council

To help avoid violations of the Brown Act, please refrain from forwarding this email.