



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SENIOR
SERVICES COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: 02/15/2024

ITEM NO: 3

DATE: February 12, 2024
TO: Community Health and Senior Services Commission
FROM: Ryan Bake, Library Director
SUBJECT: Discuss Public Input Received Regarding the Interim Community Center and Provide a Recommendation to Council. (Action Item)

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss Public Input Received Regarding the Interim Community Center and Provide a Recommendation to Council. (Action Item)

BACKGROUND:

On January 25, 2024, the Town of Los Gatos, with the tremendous support of the CHSSC, held a Community Meeting to gather input on near-term improvements to the Adult Recreation Center (ARC) to transition it to an Interim Community Center by making the space more welcoming for all ages and creating opportunities for a variety of community partners to provide services to the community. The approximate 40 community members in attendance were divided into five (5) groups to discuss and respond to the following three (3) questions:

1. What near-term improvements would you like to see at the Adult Recreation Center/Interim Community Center to make the space more welcoming for all ages?
2. What types of community partners and services would you like to see at the Adult Recreation Center/Interim Community Center?
3. What criteria do you believe should be used when selecting community partners and services?

Additionally, one breakout group voluntarily discussed a question regarding funding allocation.

DISCUSSION:

The feedback from each group has been collated. At this stage, it would be helpful for the CHSSC to make a recommendation to Council regarding the types of community partners to solicit as part of a Request for Proposals (RFP) and what selection criteria to use.

The full list of the input recorded is provided in Attachment 1 in a single list verbatim. Additionally, comments as transcribed by the leaders of three of the break-out groups are attached for reference (Attachments 2, 3, and 4), which may give additional insight into

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Library Director

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DISCUSSION (continued):

discussions of three of the breakout groups. Public comment received via email is also included for reference (Attachment 4).

Below are the verbatim comments from Questions 2 and 3 which are most relevant to the discussion today regarding community partners. This recommendation will be brought for Council's consideration when considering the community partner RFP. After the RFP concludes and community partners are selected, evaluation of potential physical near-term improvements will be considered in order to take into account any needs of the selected partners. This topic will return to the CHSSC for a recommendation to Council on the near-term improvements for the Interim Community Center/ARC.

2. What types of community partners and services would you like to see at the Adult Recreation Center/Interim Community Center?

- Ability for seniors to get together/talk
- West Valley Community Services – Already serving LG, pantry, brown bag
- HUB model – place to go
- Mental Health Service with CASSY
- Co-sharing space – Day assignment to different organizations
- Life long learning – LGS Rec
- Speaker series catering to community—Could also use LG Theater (Oshner)
- If \$866K is not used, donate to senior 501c3 as seed to get it started
- Live Oak Nutrition – food scarcity – “Food with a friend”
- “To good to go” app – partner with them
- Dest for RYDE program (senior lobby)
- Sourcewise (house rich, cash poor)
- Fund grant writer
- Case manager/social worker
- Meeting place for other clubs/non-profits
- Mental health services
- Fundraisers
- Financial support for those who need it
- General place to enhance the quality of life for residents
- Plays the role of the Civic Center
- Navigator system (housing, youth and family, mental health) – one stop shop
- Facilitate creation of new organizations
- West valley community services
- Rotation of different types of partners/non-profits
- A room dedicated to non-profits
- Plant-based Advocates non-profit (local in LG)

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DISCUSSION (continued):

- Health and nutrition education (esp. plant-based education) and how it relates to health/chronic illnesses
 - Certain number of days allocated to community groups to host events at no charge
 - Community discussion groups (where seniors feel safe, ADA accessibility, and can speak freely)
 - Speaker series
 - Mental health services – CASSY, Navigators, County
 - Medicare reps
 - Veterans affairs Benefits
 - Ombudsman
 - Health care services
 - Business mentoring (SCORE)
 - Police dept – fraud/scam prevention
 - Transportation
 - West Valley College
 - Is the Town going to pay providers to staff the ARC, or do potential providers have to pay?
 - Person to answer questions in the lobby
 - Concierge
 - Guidance for transportation
 - Life issues – Life and death
 - Reference to transit agency
 - Community meeting room (seniors) to discuss local issues
 - True senior center
3. What criteria do you believe should be used when selecting community partners and services?
- 501c3 or JPA (Joint Powers Authority)
 - Should already be service LG or close by South Bay community
 - Should they be financially solvent?
 - Are they going to pay?
 - Case manager/social worker could funnel ppl/issues to the right space
 - Create “volunteer support base” list – helping to provide resources
 - Student nurses to do BP check, wellness check
 - Youth centric space/activities – Hangout, game console, etc
 - Services
 - We should survey for services in demand

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DISCUSSION (continued):

- Check what other communities have
- Basic needs (housing, mental health, food, nutrition)
- Rideshare services (free/community organized)
- Intentional avoidance of duplication of services
- Maslow's hierarchy of needs
- Would providing this venue expand the capacity of organizations to provide services?
- Non-profit predominant (free/at cost)
- Non-profits as a priority (but not an absolute)
- Provide services for residents of Los Gatos
- Provide services that promote our health and wellness and benefit society (health, environment, humanity, social responsibility)
- Providers of social services (e.g. case management and other services that funds have been allocated to)
- Unduplicated services
- Reporting requirements (residency percent of service utilization, funding needs/use)
- Provider plan for space utilization
- Operational/administrative needs/footprint
- Non-commercial
- Responsive to community needs/alignment to senior roadmap
- Track record/community presence
- 55+ members have priority to set up meetings or any topic
- Local issues discussion
- A place for 55+ members to meet in a safe and accommodating space on Town owned property to have discussion on local regional and national topics, the intent is a forum with [non legible] behavior, where [non legible] can advocate their views, this should be easy to set up without lawyers and discouraging requirements

Attachments:

1. Input Received from January 25, 2024 Interim Community Center Community Meeting
2. Transcribed notes from breakout group leader 1
3. Transcribed notes from breakout group leader 2
4. Transcribed notes from breakout group leader 3
5. Public Comment