

Katy Nomura

From: Daniel B Snyder [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 11:51 AM
To: Mary Badame; Rob Moore; Rob Rennie; Maria Ristow; Matthew Hudes
Cc: Laurel Prevetti
Subject: Town Priorities for a "Town" Center

Dear Town Council Members-

I have read many articles and columns in local papers about the need for a new Senior Center, and how the town approved a grant to remodel the current adult center. Granted, given local construction costs, \$1m will more likely fund a "tweak" than a remodel, but that is a separate discussion about rational perceptions. I could also tell you the story of signing up for a program there, and being dropped because I was apparently too young for the group.

Anyway, I'd like to remind the council that while ~50% of local active voters are senior citizens (65+), they are just 20% of Los Gatos residents. Children 18 and under are actually 23% (US Census). So, where is the discussion or evaluation of our youth's needs? To be fair to seniors, arguably, the Senior Center should be pushed out into a separate JPA, like the LG Rec department was, back in the 70s. There, it could struggle to find funding (and retain staff), sourced from fees charged for services to seniors (or their caregivers).

Ok, I am being a bit over the top. But as a parent of two older teenagers, and a trustee for LGUSD, I have seen first-hand how under served our youth (and middle aged adults) are compared to similar local communities. Many have numerous town athletic fields that are not just a park. They have community gyms and pools, so residents don't have to pay \$300-600 per month to a company for stay fit.

What I would really like to see is that some funding be directed to truly evaluate all of the facilities needs of the Los Gatos community, not just for the 20% of residents who have a loud voice at Council meetings. I firmly believe that if Los Gatos had a clear Strategic/Facilities Master Plan (beyond roads), it could be a rallying point for our community, uniting us around our common needs and benefits.

Then, we could unite for a bond measure to actually fund those priorities, rather than always slashing the options because there isn't any money in the General Fund (which there isn't). And, if the community clearly wanted more annual services as part of that plan, it is the perfect basis for a parcel tax to fund them.

This is what local school districts have done, and time and again, Los Gatos has risen to fund the priorities that we all share.

But, barring that, please don't limit the current adult center to only senior citizens. Make sure the town serves all our residents.

Thanks,

Daniel Snyder