

CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER - AGENDA ITEM DATA SHEET

Agenda Item: Consider approval of a fee waiver for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner put on by the Women of the ELCA and other community volunteers.

Committee Review: Park Board

Meeting Date: October 26, 2026

Requested by: Jodi Mieden- Recreation Director

Background: The Community Thanksgiving Dinner was held at St. John's Church for many years. The number of roasters needed to cook food has surpassed their facility as they must use all levels of the church for outlets needed. They had outgrown their space with the increase in meals each year. In 2025, the gym/kitchen provided volunteers with one level to work on and much more space to work in, as well as ample parking for pick-ups. 550+ meals were served to the residents of Richland Center last year. A free will offering is accepted. Delivery service is provided by volunteers.

All funds for the meal are donated, and any leftovers are donated to needy groups in the community. Many residents as well as volunteers commented that hosting a community Thanksgiving meal at an accessible community center is so much easier than navigating the logistics and stairs of a multi-level church with elderly volunteers.

The church still covers the liability insurance and will provide it to us.

Department Recommendation: Approve the fee waiver or discount for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner committee's use of the gym and kitchen for the event.

Financial Impact: \$390.00