



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Monday, October 18, 2021

TO: PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: IMELDA NEGRETE, RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: REPORT ON RECREATION DIVISION SUMMER PROGRAMMING

STATEMENT OF ISSUES:

Summer Programming report submitted for information.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive the report on summer programming.

DISCUSSION:

The Recreation Division was in full force this past summer with many programs being offered as in previous summers. Many of the COVID-19 procedures continued to be in place during summer programming, including sanitation and hygiene practices. Teammates received a refresher training on proper techniques in taking body temperatures, cleaning facilities and maintaining environments to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 prior to the commencement of the program. Teammates also had weekly check-in meetings to discuss successes and growth opportunities.

Aquatics

Our popular swim lesson program returned this summer with four two-week long sessions. Levels of swim included: youth lessons (5-13 year olds); adult lessons (ages 14 & older); parents and tots (6 months – 3 year olds); super tots (3-5 year olds). Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, class sizes were smaller as in previous years to allow for social distancing. Though students did not wear facemasks, all swim instructors wore face shields while teaching lessons.

This summer we had a lot of unforeseen maintenance issues at the Watsonville High Pool, which caused us to cancel classes six (6) different days. To put the closures in perspective, we had to contact roughly 500 participants whenever the pool was closed. These closures caused a lot of frustration among parents and the aquatics team members. Aquatic and customer service staff did our best to rectify the situation by offering credits for missed classes, and make up classes.

Highlights of the aquatic program included recreational swim offered Monday and Wednesdays from 1:15- 2:55pm. In celebration of Parks and Recreation Month, free recreational swim was offered on Friday, July 23rd with the set up the giant inflatable for the public to enjoy. A new partnership with Quicksilver Swim Club was also created to offer pre-competitive swim club.

Facility Rentals

With less restrictions, our facilities were made available to City Departments and private parties for rentals. From June 8th through August 13, 30 in-house rentals from various City departments took place and 15 private rentals.

Older Adults

The Watsonville Senior Center reopened its doors on June 21st and has been open since with limited hours, Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 12:00pm. Since reopening, 85 members have signed up and an average of 30 older adults attend on a daily basis.

Services offered are:

- Mondays: Games and exercises classes led by PCS staff
- Tuesdays: Bilingual Chair Yoga led by Yoga for All Movement
- Wednesdays: Arts and Crafts led by PCS staff
- Thursdays: Bilingual Chair Yoga led by Yoga for All Movement and Second Harvest Food Bank food distribution 3rd Thursdays of the month
- Fridays: Social Dance and Grey Bears Healthy Bag distribution

Highlights of being able to reopen has been collaborating with Senior Center without Limits. Senior Center without Limits is a program designed to bridge the digital divide among Older Adults. This program began in the beginning stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic, but has shown that there is a need for this program to continue. This program is run in partnership with Community Bridges, The City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz Parks Department, and the City of Watsonville. The Watsonville Senior Center has distributed 152 tablets to people over 60 living in the south county as part of the Senior Center without Limits program. We have also assisted with helping seniors find low cost internet options through a partnership with Cruzio, and offered one on one tech support. Total amount of tables given through the county: 287. Online activities can be found at <https://communitybridges.org/scwol/>

Some of the Watsonville Senior Center partners have not returned to regular office hours due to the COVID-19 case rate.

- Project Scout - Offers remote and some in person assistance out of the Watsonville Senior Center for free tax preparation
- Senior Network Services - Currently only offering services remotely
- Meals on Wheels - Weekly meal delivery service only. Congregate meal services are on hold
- Family Service Agency Central Coast - Currently offering services remotely
- Senior Citizens Legal Services - Returned to in person services in August, every Tuesday from 1-4PM in the conference room. Appointments are required
- Grey Bears - Has continued to deliver grocery bags throughout the pandemic. They have also offered online cooking classes through Senior Center Without Limits.

Science Workshop

Drop-in programming at the Second Street Science Workshop, River Park Satellite site, and Mobile Science Workshop van began on June 1st, 2021, after a long COVID induced closure.

Second Street Science Workshop operated 5 days a week, served 620 students in 39 days, with an average of 16 students per day. Mobile Science Van operated 5 days / week, served 508 students in 34 days with an average of 15 students per day. River Park Satellite Science Workshop operated 5 days a week, served 218 students per day in 35 days with an average of six students per day.

Highlights of the summer included participants and teammates attending a three-day, two-night white water rafting camping trip in July. The trip was attended by 20 Watsonville participants and 20 participants from the Greenfield Science Workshop.

Congressman Jimmy Panetta from the 20th Congressional District of California spent an afternoon in the Science Workshop. He got a tour, met the participants, built projects alongside our students, and heard about our future plans.

The Global Alliance of Community Science Workshops hosted a three-day professional development conference in San Francisco and Pescadero. All teammates attended and benefited greatly from the training.

The Mobile Science Workshop attended the Farewell Open House put on by Youth Now. The van provided a paper rocket building activity, provided support, provided compassion, and let the participants know they are always welcome at the Science Workshop. An unexpected benefit was an entire truckload of supplies and equipment was gifted to us.

Youth Development

Watsonville Police Activities League had all three sites open this Summer – PAL Center (Davis), PAL Gym (Rodriguez) and the Youth Center. There was a total of 84 youth registered between the ages 5 – 18. Both the PAL Center and the Youth Center offered daily programming for youth Monday through Saturday. WPAL provided a safe place for youth to participate in pro-social activities, workshops and field trips. These two locations offered programs such as gardening, STEAM activities, arts and crafts, game/movie nights and more. During this summer, the PAL Center and Youth Center hosted the National PAL Mentoring program, which aims to address the factors that can lead to or serve as a catalyst for delinquency or other problem behaviors in underserved youth, including youth in high-risk environments. Youth also had the opportunity to attend weekly outings with partnering agencies, such as Community Bike Collective and Mountains 2 Sea. The PAL Gym also hosted two programs – Self Defense and Little Heroes. Self Defense took place Tuesdays, Thursday and Saturdays for youth ages 9 – 17. The program included training in boxing, karate, wrestling and Jiu Jitsu. Little Heroes took place on Saturday mornings for youth ages 5 – 7. This program was designed to keep youth active and work on

concentration, coordination, fitness and self-defense. Lastly, our programs like YESS and Caminos continued to provide services to youth through pro-social activities and field trips.

Camp WOW was offered from June 14th to August 6th, 2021. There were a total of 253 registrations with 55 youth ages 6-12. The weekly attendance averaged 32 kids per week. Camp WOW provided a safe space for kids during the summer to participate in activities, attend field trips, and build relationships in a social setting. In addition to Camp WOW, the Junior Recreation Leader program was offered for the first time, which had six youth ages 13-15 who were previous Camp WOW participants. The Junior Rec Leaders gained work experience and leadership skills by assisting the Camp WOW team in planning and implementing activities, as well as ensuring the safety of all participants.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Summer Programming supports the following Council Priorities of:

- Community Engagement and Well-Being: Programming provided improves the quality of life for youth and families
- Fiscal Health: Fee-based programming and private rentals increase revenue collected.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Revenue and expenses for the summer programming was included in the adopted Fiscal Year budget.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

None

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

None