



## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

CITY HALL

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## STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No. 18

MEETING DATE: February 3, 2009

### SUBJECT AND ISSUE

Consider recommendation from the Cupertino Senior Citizens' Commission to dissolve the Commission.

### BACKGROUND

At its February 4, 2008 meeting, the Cupertino City Council appointed Senior Citizen Commission members and directed the staff to return in one year for Council review. The Council also asked the Commission to meet at least six times a year.

### DISCUSSION

Staff completed its evaluation of the Senior Citizen Commission and met with the Commission on January 15 to discuss the staff evaluation. As the new Parks and Recreation Director, I have been reviewing all programs, commissions, and advisory committees. I am examining effective and efficient use of community volunteer and staff resources, positive impact on the lives of Cupertino residents, and how well the community understands what the department does.

On the specific matter of Cupertino senior citizen issues, I have found that having a Senior Citizen Commission and a Senior Center Advisory Council is not an effective and efficient use of volunteer and staff resources. Having the two bodies also dilutes effective advocacy for senior citizen issues.

Cupertino has one senior center. The Cupertino Senior Center has very diverse programming that is reflective of the needs of Cupertino seniors. Programs include:

- educational classes
- trips

- case management
- cultural events
- recreational activities
- immigration assistance
- health checks
- English as a second language classes
- computer classes
- tax programs
- and others

I have found that the Cupertino Senior Center offers a very comprehensive and diverse array of programs and activities. I do not know of many centers that offer the programming choices that Cupertino does. One of the reasons for this rich and comprehensive programming is the active involvement of the Cupertino Senior Center Advisory Council. This active and energetic body is comprised of volunteers who are not only keenly aware of senior issues, but are also active participants in Cupertino Parks and Recreation programs. The Advisory Council has been active for 44 years, is an independent 501 (c) (3) organization and successfully advocated for the building of the Senior Center. There has been some tension between the two senior organizations since the formation of the Senior Citizen Commission because of the overlap.

While the Senior Citizen Commission addressed a number of important issues, I found that some of the issues addressed by this commission were being addressed by other commissions such as the Planning Commission, the Housing Commission, or the Parks and Recreation Commission. I feel that Cupertino could receive input from seniors just as effectively if not more so with one seniors' advisory group.

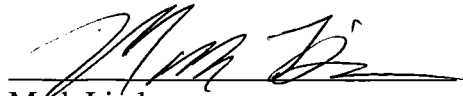
At its January 15 Commission meeting, the Senior Citizen Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that the Commission be dissolved. Also, the Commission took action and voted unanimously on a motion that the Senior Center Volunteer Advisory Council be restructured to broaden its role to become a Senior Citizen Advisory Council and that a Senior Issues Forum (SIF) be established to look at the broad array of issues affecting seniors.

Staff met with the Senior Center Advisory Council on January 26 and presented the action of the Senior Citizen Commission. The Advisory Council voted unanimously to support the recommendation of the Senior Citizen Commission.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

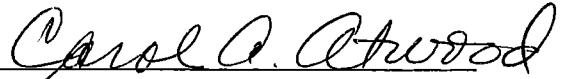
Staff supports the recommendation of the Senior Citizen Commission to dissolve the Commission.


SUBMITTED BY:



Mark Linder  
Director, Parks and Recreation

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION BY:



 David W. Knapp  
City Manager

