



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Parks and Recreation Commission Staff Report

Meeting: January 9th, 2020

Subject

Quarterly Update on Youth and Teen Services.

Recommended Action

Receive the quarterly update and presentation on Youth and Teen Services.

Discussion

With the rising level of youth who are experiencing mental health issues, the Parks and Recreation Department has been actively working to make youth and teen engagement a priority by providing Cupertino teens with robust program offerings that foster physical, mental and social development.

2019 in Review:

Continuing the department's goal of providing targeted and expanded programming, seven new youth and teen initiatives were introduced in 2019. New programming, events and updates are outlined below:

Cupertino Café

The Cupertino Café is a collaboration with the Youth Activity Board which opens City facilities to Cupertino teens and gives teens a dedicated place to study and crunch for final exams while being able to socialize, participate in recreation activities, and enjoy snacks. Mobile recreation activities are set-up to give students a brief respite from their studies and unwind by playing a game of corn hole, ping pong, foosball, or various board games. This event is the latest effort in creating ways for teens to de-stress from school, socialize with their peers, and educate them on the positive value of recreation.

Youth Activity Board

The Youth Activity Board (YAB) is a leadership group that consists of highly dedicated middle and high school students who plan and lead events for youth and teens in

Cupertino. The Cupertino YAB collaborates with Parks and Recreation staff to develop and execute these new programs. The primary goal of the YAB is to create engaging and fun activities that aid with social engagement, stress relief, and the discovery of recreational activities.

Techie Teens

The primary goal of Cupertino's Techie Teens volunteer program at the Senior Center is to help teens give back to the community by engaging the 50+ community to assist in developing their technological skills. Our volunteers gain the following experiences: leadership roles, public speaking opportunities, interpersonal communication, and much more

Youth Civic Engagement Forum

The intent of this platform was to give youth and teens an opportunity to provide input on the citywide Parks and Recreation System Master Plan which will guide the City's development, renovation, and activation of City parks, recreation facilities, and trails for the next 20+ years.

TEDx Talk

The Cupertino Teen Commission and Cupertino Library Teen Advisory Board partnered together for the first time to organize the TEDx Youth@TorreAve event, a local, self-organized event designed to bring people together to share a TED-like experience. The theme of this event was "Innovation: Out of the Box". Six teens were selected to inspire discussion and show teens that they can make an impact in the community through novel ideas and help fill the creative gaps created by misinformation and social barriers.

Wellness Carnival

A collaboration between FUHSD's IntraDistrict Council (IDC) and the City of Cupertino, the Wellness Carnival was held at Homestead High School for students. This event brought mobile recreation activities to the local high school for students to enjoy. The Wellness Carnival was the culminating event of FUHSD's Stress-Free Week which helped students de-stress during the final week in April.

Teen Center Facility Improvements

The Cupertino Teen Center was recently renovated to transform into a customizable and collaborative space. Facility improvements made include painting, unisex restrooms, new carpeting, and new furniture. Technology improvements include expanded internet cabling, 3 new TVs, a roaming TV, 2 new iMacs, 4 gaming computers, and free printing. These enhancements allowed for all gaming and technology to be moved into the Tech Room and made way to develop the Infinity Room, a meeting space for Cupertino teens to meet and collaborate with group study sessions, club meetings, workshops, and other cooperative projects. The goals of the facility improvements were to create a (1) mixed-use, flexible facility using Silicon Valley workspace environments as inspiration and (2)

help relieve weekend library attendance by having a collaborative space that teens can reserve. Plans for the Infinity Room came from a 2014 Teen Center survey in where over 1,000 respondents said that they wanted more study/collaborative space.

Programming in 2020

City staff are looking to continue developing youth and teen offerings while the Teen Commission is undergoing discussions for proposed work program items. The Youth Activity Board will be entering its second year and recruitment season is imminent as many YAB members shall be graduating this spring.

City staff anticipates that many existing programs and events will recur and continue to thrive in 2020. The following timeline indicates the activities planned for 2020:

Programs	Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Youth Activity Board➤ Teen Commission➤ Summer Volunteer Program➤ Cupertino Teen Leadership Academy➤ Techie Teens➤ Teen Workshops➤ Participation in the FUHSD Wellness Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Lawson Teen Center – January 6 – May 29, 2020➤ Cupertino Spelling Bee – January 25, 2020➤ <hack> Cupertino – March 20-21, 2020➤ Cupertino Café – Spring & Winter 2020➤ TEDx Talk – June 2020➤ Bobateeno – September 2020➤ Pizza and Politics – October 2020

The importance of recreation in adolescent development will continue to be emphasized as we continue providing support to teens as they navigate rising stress levels. As we continue into the new year, staff will continue ongoing collaborative efforts between the City of Cupertino and various internal and external partners to bring the department's robust offerings to the youth and teen population.

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