



## **PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

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### **STAFF REPORT**

#### **For the Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting on**

May 7, 2020

#### Subject

Update on the Coronavirus' Impacts to Cupertino Parks and Recreation Programs.

#### Recommended Actions

Receive an update from staff regarding the impacts of the Coronavirus on the Parks and Recreation programs.

#### Discussion

Beginning in March 2020, with the impacts of the coronavirus felt in Santa Clara County, the City of Cupertino has taken multiple actions for the public's health and safety. This update focuses on the current status of the actions and impacts on the Parks and Recreation Department's programs.

All facilities used for recreation programs were closed in mid-March and all programs, rentals and special events have now been cancelled through the end of April. All staff are working from home except for the Parks Rangers who are still working on the trail and a few employees who are tending to the animals at McClellan Ranch. We are answering phone calls, returning emails, processing refunds for the cancelled classes, amending budgets and tending to other administrative tasks. Parks and Recreation staff is also working closely with the other departments to update the community on a regular basis through daily reports, social media, signage in City parks, etc.

Some of our staff are working with the County and several non-profit agencies on distribution of food and other basic supplies – mostly to senior citizens. Over 60 seniors are receiving phone calls from our staff on a regular basis (some daily) to keep their spirits up and stay connected with the community. The Case Management program is also still active helping those most in need of assistance.

The Virtual Recreation program that began in late March is getting good response, with over 100 people recently "attending" a recent exercise class and over 50 in a chair exercise class. Staff is now conducting 10 or more on-line classes each week and work to expand that program, with the assistance of the IT and Communications Departments.

At the same time as facilities were shut down and Virtual Recreation classes were ramping up, staff has been preparing for the time when sheltering is no longer needed in our communities, by establishing new protocols for operation. Despite not being able to offer summer jobs to high school and college students until a determination is made if such programs will be held in 2020, staff is interviewing candidates via telephone or Skype and hope to have employees ready to go if needed.

Protocols regarding facility use include continuing the reduction of room capacities to allow better distancing and intensified cleaning schedules. The facilities have all had intensive cleaning during the current closures and the newly created schedules will be put in place when facilities open. Classes will not be scheduled back to back, but with additional time in between to allow for social distancing and cleaning. We are also working to ensure social distancing at each of the facilities' front office counters. Although these steps will result in a slight reduction of programs and participation, they will greatly improve the safety of those participating in and working for those programs.

More recent information will be provided orally at the meeting.

Sustainability Impact

No sustainability impact is associated with the receipt of this report.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with the receipt of this report.

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Prepared and Approved by: Randy Schwartz, Interim Parks & Recreation Director

Attachments: None