



## **PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

QUINLAN COMMUNITY CENTER  
10185 NORTH STELLING ROAD • CUPERTINO, CA 95014-5732  
TELEPHONE: (408) 777-3120 • FAX: (408) 777-1305  
CUPERTINO.ORG

### **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT**

Meeting: November 4, 2021

#### Subject

Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District Update and Recommendation to the City Council.

#### Recommended Action

Receive an update on the Rancho Rinconada Work Program Item. Recommend not to proceed with the annexation of Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District (RRRPD) until such time that the RRRPD Board requests that the City annex the facility, or until LAFCO initiates a transfer of facilities management from the RRRPD Board to the City.

#### Background

On March 2, 2021, City Council reviewed the current status of the Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District (RRRPD) City Work Program item and unanimously carried the motion to delay the consideration of the annexation of the District until RRRPD completed their strategic visioning and outreach process and the RRRPD Board of Directors made a formal recommendation on the subject of City acquisition and annexation. In addition, the delay would allow for community engagement in long-term planning for aquatics facilities in Cupertino.

#### Discussion

Developed by Rauch Communication Consultants, a strategic plan for RRRPD was prepared and finalized in 2021. The results and recommendations provided in the strategic plan were based on interviews with RRRPD staff and the Board of Directors, two facilitated public workshops, and an online survey. Two mailers alerting residents of the public meetings and the online survey were sent to 5,914 households within a three-quarter square mile radius, including the RRRPD residence area and adjacent surrounding areas including Cupertino and San Jose. There was a total of 22 attendees at the two public workshops and 135 individuals participated in the online survey. RRRPD Board of Directors met on June 10, 2021, to review and adopt their 2021 Strategic Plan (Attachment A).

As part of the strategic visioning and outreach process, detailed survey results were collected by Rauch Communication Consultants between March 24, 2021 and April 12, 2021. Out of the 135 individuals who participated in the survey, 122 responded to the question below:

Do you agree that the City of Cupertino should take over RRRPD?

Strongly Agree: 11.48%

Agree: 5.74%

Neither Agree or Disagree: 22.13%

Not Sure: 20.49%

Disagree: 13.11%

Strongly Disagree: 27.05%

Of the 122 responses, 42.62% of the respondents chose the categories not sure, or neither agree nor disagree. 40.16% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with the acquisition City of Cupertino annexation of RRRPD, and 17.22% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the City should annex RRRPD. Detailed responses are available on pages 24-29 of the RRRPD 2021 Strategic Plan (Attachment A).

In light of the results from the survey the RRRPD Board passed a resolution expressing clear opposition to the City's annexation of the District. Annexation procedures would need to be initiated by either LAFCO resolution, City resolution, or by a voter petition. Should the City initiate the proceedings, the City would be responsible for all fees and costs associated with the application, anywhere between \$252,000 and \$857,000 (Attachment B). A step-by-step guide to LAFCO Proceedings for Reorganization Process is attached (Attachment C).

The Board unanimously adopted the 2021 Strategic Plan to guide the District from FY 2022 to FY 2024. Four key goals were established as part of the plan. The first goal specifically addresses the issue of a potential annexation of RRRPD and its facilities by the City. This first goal called for confirming the continued independence of RRRPD with the objective that RRRPD's elected Board of Directors govern the pool facilities and programs. Three implementation actions were established.

1. Adopt a board position and notify relevant agencies: A resolution supporting the District's continued existence and governance as an independent special district was unanimously adopted on June 10, 2021 (Attachment D).
2. Communicate the board position to stakeholders.
3. Take further action based on the response from LAFCO and Cupertino.

Staff would like the Commission to consider the following items prior to making a recommendation to City Council on whether to further pursue action on the Rancho Rinconada work program item at this time:

- The RRRPD Board has expressed clear opposition to the City's annexation of the District, as stated in their Board Resolution #06102021. Further, based on conversations with LAFCO, a district has never been annexed by a city without a district's consent.

- Under current operations, all Cupertino residents have the ability to use the facility and to participate in all programming offered. Annexing RRRPD does not create new recreational opportunities for residents in the facility's current configuration.
- If the City annexed RRRPD it is likely that participant fees would increase to be consistent with existing aquatics programming operated by the City. This would result in use rates being raised for all guests of the facility.
- If the City were to proceed with the acquisition of RRRPD, the process would be a lengthy and expensive, and would include additional costs associated with the staff time needed to work through the application process. Initiating the acquisition process would not guarantee a successful transfer of the facility, any funds used in the attempt would not be recoverable, and the attempt would likely be dependent on a successful special election which is estimated to cost anywhere between \$200,000 and \$800,000 per the Registrar of Voters. Cost is dependent on the scope and timing of the election (Attachment B). The special election would require at least 25% of the RRRPD constituency to approve of the annexation. Other expenses include \$12,000 application fee paid to LAFCO and \$5,000 for a professional aquatic facility assessment. Pending the assessment, staff suspects that extensive improvements to facility infrastructure would be needed, including extensive technological upgrades. These capital improvement costs are in addition to the costs associated with the annexation.

RRRPD Boards' response to the 2021 Strategic Plan shows that the City would be taking on considerable monetary risk by proceeding with the annexation process. It does not appear that these risks would be adequately mitigated until such time that the RRRPD Board requests that the City annex the facility, or until LAFCO initiates a transfer of the facilities management from the RRRPD Board to the City.

#### Sustainability Impact

No sustainability impacts.

#### Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact.

---

Prepared by: Molly James, Recreation Manager

Reviewed by: Joanne Magrini, Director, Parks and Recreation

Approved for Submission by: Joanne Magrini, Director, Parks and Recreation

#### Attachments:

A – RRRPD Strategic Plan

B – Annexation Costs and Special Election Estimates

C – LAFCO Proceedings for Reorganization Process

D – RRRPD Resolution #06102021