

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Angel Rios, Jr.
Jennifer A. Maguire

SUBJECT: GRACE COMMUNITY CENTER

DATE: May 26, 2017

Approved

D. D. S. Y. L.

Date

5/26/17

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the following adjustments to the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget in the Construction and Conveyance Tax Fund: City-wide Parks Purposes:

- a. Decrease Grace Baptist Lease appropriation by \$186,000; and
- b. Increase the Ending Fund Balance by \$186,000.

BACKGROUND

On January 3, 2017, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) relocated therapeutic services for people with mental health disabilities from the basement area at the 484 East San Fernando Grace Baptist Church location to three new locations, including: the adjacent Art & Wellness Studio (AWS) at 146 South 10th Street; Bascom Community Center; and, Northside Community Center. To address program access concerns, participants were provided daily shuttle service to the Bascom and Northside community center locations from the AWS, as needed.

Subsequently, in February 2017, staff moved the remaining program activities from AWS to Bascom Community Center and shuttle services continued as program members participated in their favorite recovery programs, educational workshops, wellness, and recreational activities – such as yoga, basketball, aging with attitude, creative expressions, men's group and open art studio – at these two interim locations (Bascom and Northside community centers).

This short-term solution ensured that those community members who have made Grace “home” over the years continued to have a place to participate in meaningful wellness and recreation activities, as they make connections with friends and community. In the meantime, PRNS searched for a permanent location to host Grace Therapeutic Art & Wellness programming.

Then, on April 19, 2017, PRNS was informed that Community Child Care Council (4Cs) of Santa Clara County, which has been operating a preschool as part of PRNS' reuse program at

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Northside Community Center, would be no longer offering their preschool program at this site. Consequently, PRNS began working with 4Cs to accommodate a final preschool graduation scheduled for June 9, 2017 and to determine a final date in June for vacating the preschool space at Northside Community Center.

ANALYSIS

A permanent transition of the Grace Therapeutic Art & Wellness program to Northside Community Center is planned for early- to mid-July 2017. This decision was made based on unresolved health and safety issues associated with the Grace Baptist Church property, which make that location unsuitable for programming.

In the interim, the Grace Therapeutic Art & Wellness Program services currently offered at Bascom Community Center on an interim basis will be temporarily moved to Alma Community Center beginning on June 1, 2017, to allow Bascom Community Center summer camps to begin on schedule. This will continue for only a short duration while 4C's wraps up preschool programming; and, as staff moves furniture, supplies, materials, etc. to Northside Community Center in preparation for therapeutic programming and services.

The decision to permanently relocate to Northside Community Center is ideal because it is within walking distance of 38 board and care, and other residential programs that are home to many existing Grace Therapeutic Art & Wellness program participants. In addition, moving to Northside Community Center on a permanent basis makes sense for a variety of fiscal, programmatic and community advantages, including the following.

- Cost Savings from lease of \$186,000 per year, with additional cost savings in maintenance and repairs of Grace Baptist Church property;
- Future recreational programming options for the community on evenings and weekends provided by Roosevelt Community Center staff;
- Possible additional rental opportunities on evenings and weekends;
- No disruption to senior nutrition and senior programming already occurring at Northside Community Center; and,
- Northside Community Center is a good fit for Grace Therapeutic Art & Wellness Programming due to the size and layout of the building, which provides for safe programming; its location in downtown San José and the proximity to current participants; the building's compliance with ADA accessibility requirements; and, the fact that Northside is a stand-alone building solely owned by the City of San José.

It should be noted that PRNS conducted a community outreach meeting at Northside Community Center on May 10, 2017, in partnership with staff from Council District 3, to validate this thinking prior to the final decision to relocated Grace Therapeutic Art & Wellness Program to Northside Community Center on a permanent basis.

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Based on the positive community response and in consideration of the key parameters above, staff is moving forward with the relocation, with Grace Therapeutic Art & Wellness Program services commencing at Northside Community Center in early- to mid-July 2017. These services will be offered on an ongoing basis alongside existing senior nutrition and other senior programming at the center without disruption.

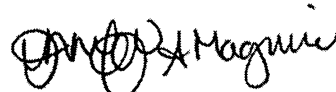
Consequently, the \$186,000 currently budgeted for the City's lease agreement with Grace Baptist Church is available to be re-purposed, as requested in this memorandum.

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office.

/s/

ANGEL RIOS, JR.
Director, Parks, Recreation and
Neighborhood Services Department



JENNIFER A. MAGUIRE
Senior Deputy City Manager/
Budget Director

For questions please contact Matt Cano, Assistant Director, at (408)793-5553.