

Flynn, Allison

From: Leslie Dean
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:18 PM
To: prc@mountainview.gov
Cc: Flynn, Allison; Marchant, John; Serge Bonte; ronit.bryant@gmail.com; stevefilios@gmail.com; jsmhome@comcast.net; sandysommer@dslextreme.com; Jonathan Herbach; Tamara and Greg Lewis; Jim Evans; John Graybeal; Maitland, Robert
Subject: Re: 1/19/22 Meeting Agenda Item 5.3 - Question about availability and proposed fees for McKelvey Community Room

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello Commissioners and staff,

Jonathan Herbach notified me of the upcoming Commission meeting regarding the rental fee for the community room at McKelvey Park for those living in the Saint Francis Acres neighborhood.

As the team leader of the Saint Francis Acres neighborhood CERT group, I want to offer some thoughts regarding rental fees for City spaces. I am copying Bob Maitland on this email, as he is the head of the City's CERT program.

The Mountain View CERT program, which is run by the City, trains volunteer CERT teams within community neighborhoods in the basics of disaster response skills. These CERT teams, which exist to inform their neighbors about disaster preparation, work hard keeping their skills fresh and up to date as well as recruiting new volunteers. In doing so, they hope to use neighborhood spaces -- usually a park or school yard -- to hold a meeting, open house, or general recruiting event. These groups are small and have little funding for rental of a City-sanctioned space.

Our group was surprised to learn we would need a permit costing \$60 to set up our pop-up shade structure for an open house event at McKelvey park across from our storage unit. We hoped to show our neighbors the equipment and supplies we have been able to acquire on their behalf. We were not asking for use of the Community room for this event but the fee structure still applied.

It seems beneficial to both the City of Mountain View and our neighborhoods if CERT events could be held without the added cost of rental/permit fees. It would allow CERT teams to more freely work to educate their communities, which in turn serves the City in the event of a disaster. The easier it is for our CERT teams to reach out to their neighborhoods, the more educated the public becomes about emergency response and preparedness.

Whether or not you find it appropriate to create an exception for Saint Francis Acres residents, I hope you can consider our request to allow all Mountain View CERT teams to make use of these facilities at no additional cost.

Thank you for your time,

Leslie Dean
Tamara Lewis

Jim Evans
John Graybeal
Saint Francis Acres CERT

Flynn, Allison

From: Jonathan Herbach
Sent: Saturday, January 15, 2022 5:30 PM
To: Flynn, Allison; prc@mountainview.gov; Marchant, John
Cc: Serge Bonte; ronit.bryant@gmail.com; stevefilios@gmail.com; jsmhome@comcast.net; sandysommer@dslextreme.com;
Subject: Re: 1/19/22 Meeting Agenda Item 5.3 - Question about availability and proposed fees for McKelvey Community Room

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Hello Commissioners (and staff) —

Happy new year :)

I will not be able to make it to next week's meeting to add my 3 minutes of perspective, but let me briefly weigh in too to personally reaffirm Serge's perspective here. (And I'm going to + in Leslie, in case she wishes to further enable our local CERT community to weigh in further.)

The expectation of the neighborhood a ~decade ago when the water district was trying to make sure the community was going to be okay with years of construction/disruption was that there was going to be a room for community use. Both our neighborhood and our local CERT chapter lauded this in many different project meetings. I believe the assumption was made (perhaps wrongly) that it would be available to our neighborhood and to our CERT group, with equivalent access as local youth sports groups. And equivalent fees (which again, perhaps wrongly) I think were interpreted to be \$0.

I know pre-pandemic CERT activities were often held in city facilities — definitely the community room on the left/south side of the police admin building as you walk up to the lobby, possibly also the first floor program room at the library. And I would hope that for similar purposes here there would be an equivalent kind of access for things that will ultimately serve the public good.

Perhaps while Serge and I are raising a concern here, in practical terms no change will be needed. Although the memo attached to the packet for this weekend references opening up the McKelvey facilities to non-YSO groups [yippee!] it doesn't have any specifics on *actual* fee schedules.

I would respectfully request that as a part of the meeting there be clear PRC discussion and policy recommendations on:

- [1] how equivalent access can be granted for the facilities at McKelvey/Schafer area that are clearly both a community asset as well as a local neighborhood asset for St Francis Acres (and adjoining) areas
- and [2] what fee recovery (*if any*) is appropriate for a) private functions or for-profit groups; b) non-profit groups generally, presumably including neighborhood associations; c) non-profit YSO; d) non-profit groups like CERT that exclusively serve the local, public good, and kind of are extensions of city services.

Best regards!
Jonathan

Flynn, Allison

From:
Sent: Saturday, January 15, 2022 8:09 PM
To: prc@mountainview.gov
Cc: City Council
Subject: Upcoming \$100K budget request for owl and butterfly watering at Shoreline
Attachments: Agenda.pdf

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Dear PRC

Thank you for your contributions to the city. I am not an active reviewer of our budgets but I happened to glance at this agenda because I heard it contained funding for gopher control, which is near and dear to my heart and which I think we would all agree would be phenomenal for Cuesta Park.

That said, I was very surprised to see a nearly \$100K ONGOING request (item 5.3 page 4) to provide water for the homes of owls and butterflies. While I am sensitive to protecting endangered habitats, it seems like an enormous, disproportionate request, that probably should have been budgeted for when the idea of delineating and supporting these habitats first surfaced. I do not consider this a good use of taxpayer dollars, especially if we didn't have the foresight to plan for this.

I encourage you to find an alternative, or consider if this is truly necessary given our tight budgets and statewide drive to conserve water. If nature wants that area to be dry, so be it.

David S.
Nilda Ave

PS. I'm not a municipal wonk, so please let me know if I misread this!

<https://mountainview.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=923834&GUID=81E189A4-7031-465E-995A-4D7852F647D5>

Flynn, Allison

From: Serge Bonte
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:31 PM
To: prc@mountainview.gov; ronit.bryant@gmail.com; stevefilios@gmail.com; Jonathan Mountain View; jsmhome@comcast.net; sandysommer@dslextreme.com
Subject: re: 1/19/22 Meeting Agenda Item 5.3 - Question about availability and proposed fees for Mc Kelvey Community Room

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Dear Parks and Rec Commissioners:

I live in the Saint Francis Acres neighborhood and like many of my neighbors was involved in supporting the McKelvey Flood Basin while ensuring it would also enhance our neighborhood.

While the project took many more years than anticipated and was certainly an imposition on the neighborhood (dust, noise, trucks mistakenly driving on residential streets....) its opening was very timely right at the onset of the pandemic. It's been a godsend for the neighborhood, finally provided a neighborhood mini park and a nice protected path. Countless neighbors make daily laps around the park (2-3 times a day for dog owners); even the stairs are fairly heavily used for outdoor training activities.

Sadly the community room has been out of reach to the neighborhood; despite having been opened and in use by the youth sport organization. When my wife inquired about using the room, she was told it wasn't possible as there was no rental schedule fee defined (I guess the free rent provided to youth sports doesn't extend to the neighborhood?).

I see from the staff report but a fee will be introduced that will hopefully allow the neighborhood to book the community room for a fee:

"The Recreation Division is requesting to create two new sets of fees in the Master Fee Schedule. The first is for rentals of the Community Room at McKelvey Ball Park, which reopened as a new facility in February 2020. As part of the new facility, a Community Room was added to provide Mountain View-recognized Youth Sports Organizations a space to host league activities, such as board meetings, trainings, registration days, etc. There is also a customer demand to rent this space for small functions, such as meetings or small parties. The newly proposed fees are structured around facility reservation fees of similar Recreation facilities, such as the Community Center and Senior Center."

I do have some questions on that. Throughout the whole Flood Basin project the community room (supported by our neighborhood) was only ever presented as a community room and never as one added for the sole (or primary) benefit of MV Youth Sports Organizations.

See Water District project description: <https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/mckelvey-park-detention-basin>

See MV Voice Oped after the grand opening: <https://mv-voice.com/news/2020/02/26/guest-opinion-completed-mckelvey-park-project-combines-flood-protection-with-recreation>

So my question is why are MV Youth Sports getting preferential treatment over the neighborhood? Not only has the neighborhood been locked out of that room since its opening but inow t looks like we would have to pay for the privilege of using that room. Would our CERT have to pay rent to meet at a place that would likely be a congregation place for the neighborhood? That doesn't seem to fit with the spirit of a neighborhood community room.

Sincerely,

Serge Bonte
Lloyd Way

PS: I'm not sure where to report it and not sure it's still ongoing, but for a few months straight a very annoying beeping sound comes out of the utility room behind that community room.