



**CITY OF MONROVIA
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT**

DEPARTMENT: Public Services

MEETING DATE: October 9, 2018

PREPARED BY: Katie Distelrath,
Recreation Manager

AGENDA LOCATION: AR-1

TITLE: Community Center Needs Assessment

OBJECTIVE: To provide feedback to the City Council as it relates to our Community Center and whether or not it meets the needs for our community

BACKGROUND: During the November 3, 2015, City Council Meeting, an agreement with Hale Corporation was approved to assess the feasibility of a project that would result in, 1) reorienting the 4th Dimension facility into a subdivided building that would house a new Community Center, and 2) redeveloping the existing Community Center into a residential housing site. With the approval of the agreement to assess the feasibility of the project, staff began to engage in significant outreach with our community stakeholders. Ultimately, on January 19, 2016, City Council was notified that the Hale Corporation cancelled Escrow on the 4th Dimension building thereby ending the potential project.

While conducting the proposed project outreach, there were some unintended positive outcomes. For example, staff received a lot of community input as it relates to the condition of the existing Community Center and heard discussion related to the needed improvements. Based on the feedback received, City Council directed staff to work with the Community Services Commission to look at long term programming needs and bring back a recommendation as it relates to whether or not the current Community Center meets the needs of our community.

ANALYSIS: In order for the Commission to provide an informed recommendation to the City Council, multiple steps were taken to assess our current facility.

The first step in this multipronged approach was to tour the Monrovia Community Center and study it from the perspective of a resident, visitor, and staff. During this tour, staff provided details related to the amenities the Center currently offers as well as discussed the current deferred maintenance in each of the rooms.

The next step was to visit neighboring cities and to study their community centers and amenities. In June 2016, the Commission and staff toured centers in Arcadia, Duarte, Claremont, Diamond Bar, and Rancho Cucamonga. During the tours, Commission and staff made note of the positive and negative amenities of each facility.

The final step was to develop and distribute a survey for residents, instructors, and staff to complete. The Commission established the questions and in January 2017 the online and paper survey was distributed with a total of 215 respondents. The feedback provided was tremendous and more than 50% of those surveyed reported that the current Community Center does not meet the needs of the community.

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The comments provided by the community included:

- *Rental space needs to be upgraded*
- *Needs to be updated, rooms are out of date*
- *Not enough parking*
- *Meets the needs but needs a face lift*
- *Kitchen needs a freezer/kitchen outdated*
- *Would love all rooms to have projectors and sound*
- *It's just a sad little place*
- *The facility is old, decrepit, and in need of SERIOUS upgrades. The space doesn't meet our current community needs at all!*

In March of 2017, the Commission selected to put the Community Center Needs Assessment on hold as the Commission completed the Park Master Plan. In April 2018, the City Council adopted the City-wide Park Master Plan allowing the Commission to resume their work related to the Community Center Needs Assessment.

At the August 28, 2018 Community Services Commission Study Session, staff presented an overview of the steps the Commission has taken to date as it relates to answering the question; does the current Community Center meet the needs of our community. At that meeting, it was suggested that staff provide another tour of the Community Center to afford the new Commissioners additional background.

On September 11, 2018, staff provided a tour of the current Community Center for the Commission. At the conclusion of the tour, Commission directed staff to provide a report for the Commission's consideration at the October 2018 meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The following options are provided for the Commission's consideration:

1. Review the findings and discuss whether or not the Community Center is meeting the needs of the community and make a recommendation for City Council's consideration.
2. Request additional information from staff.

COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED: Staff recommends Option 1, review the findings and discuss whether or not the Community Center is meeting the needs of the community and make a recommendation for City Council's consideration.