



**CITY OF MONROVIA
WILDERNESS PRESERVE FOUNDATION
AGENDA REPORT**

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

MEETING DATE: February 11, 2020

PREPARED BY: Tina Cherry, Director

AGENDA LOCATION: WPF AR-1

TITLE: Future of the Hillside Wilderness Preserve Foundation

BACKGROUND: In September 2019, staff presented the Hillside Wilderness Preserve Foundation Board (Board) with a comprehensive background on the history of the Hillside Wilderness Preserve Foundation (Foundation).

The history of the Foundation dates back to November 2000 when it was established to serve as a fiscal agent for potential grants. Over the past nineteen years, the intended purpose of the Foundation has never been realized. The objective to acquire and preserve the Monrovia Hillside properties was accomplished through various funding mechanisms such as a local bond measure and various State grants that were awarded directly to the City of Monrovia.

Over the last several years, due to very little activity related to fundraising or project support, the Board has discussed and studied the Foundations relevancy and potential dissolution or modification / expansion to its purpose.

At the September 2019 Foundation Meeting, the Board requested a Subcommittee be formed to further study what options may be considered related to the future of the Foundation. The Subcommittee included President Belden, Vice-President Cortina, and Board Member's Bank and Cherry.

ANALYSIS: The Subcommittee met in October 2019, November 2019, December 2019, and January 2020 to discuss the opportunities and challenges related to the future of the Foundation. The Subcommittee believes that the Hillside Wilderness Preserve Foundation could be re-imagined to serve a larger purpose in Monrovia.

The Subcommittee recognizes that Monrovia has done a terrific job at providing unique experiences, fantastic events, and safe places for the community; however, more could be done to enhance the parks and facilities in Monrovia. In addition, a majority of the programs and services offered by the Community Services Department are supported by participant fees or the General Fund. Having a Foundation that could help relieve the budget and support sustainable low fee programs for residents would be a huge community benefit. This newly imagined Foundation could be the *Monrovia Parks and Community Foundation* for example. During the past few months, the Subcommittee has spoken with various community stakeholders to see if there was any desire for a Foundation such as this. The response has been positive.

The Subcommittee believes that to be successful, the Foundation will need to put efforts towards recruiting members for the Board who have an interest in championing the cause and conducting fundraising. The Subcommittee would see the absence of such individuals as lack of need or interest. If

WPF AR-1

the Subcommittee is unable to secure potential new members, the Subcommittee would recommend the Foundation be dissolved.

However, if the Subcommittee is able to identify new members, the Subcommittee would recommend the Board look to amend the Foundation name, Articles of Incorporation, and Bylaws. At that time the Foundation, would split from the Community Services Commission and be a completely separate non-profit, managing its financials, programs, projects, and meetings.

Throughout the Subcommittee discussions, there was consensus that modifying / expanding the purpose could prove to be beneficial. The Members were not comfortable with dissolving the Foundation at this time and would like to seek potential members for the newly developed Foundation as well as explore the next steps needed to modify / expand its purpose.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

RECOMMENDATION(S): The following options are provided for the Boards consideration:

1. Approve the proposed plan to seek potential members for the newly developed Foundation as well as explore the next steps needed to modify / expand its purpose and establish a timeline for the proposed transition.
2. Request additional information from staff prior to making a recommendation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends Option 1; approve the proposed plan to seek potential members for the newly developed Foundation as well as explore the next steps needed to modify / expand its purpose and establish a timeline for the proposed transition.

BOARD ACTION REQUIRED: If the Board concurs, the appropriate action is to approve Option 1; approve the proposed plan to seek potential members for the newly developed Foundation as well as explore the next steps needed to modify / expand its purpose and establish a timeline for the proposed transition.