



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

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

MEETING DATE: October 13, 2020

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Sandoval,
Recreation Manager

AGENDA LOCATION: AR-1

TITLE: 2019-2020 Boys and Girls Club Annual Report

OBJECTIVE: To provide an update on the services and programs provided by the Boys and Girls Club at the Mary Wilcox Youth Center and to requested approval for extended hours on Friday nights to provide enhanced Teen Programs.

BACKGROUND: The City of Monrovia (City) owns and maintains the Mary Wilcox Youth Center (MWYC) located at 843 Olive Avenue. The facility is 10,900 square feet of space which is currently utilized for youth services / programs as well as a gymnasium for basketball and volleyball. Amenities include a lobby and conference room, a gymnasium, a teen lounge, and technology center.

Since 2015, the City has enjoyed a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Foothills (BGC) for shared use of the MWYC. The BGC provides teen programs (6th-12th grade) after school and during the summer for 100+ teens each day. The programs are designed to provide enrichment, homework assistance, leadership, as well as a safe place for Monrovia's youth to gather.

The agreement outlines the joint use as follows:

- Both parties will have shared use of the Lobby, Conference Room, Public and Staff Restrooms, and Gymnasium.
- The City has priority use of the facility as needed for City sponsored community events and programs. The City occupies the MWYC for the Youth Basketball and Youth Volleyball Programs, open gym basketball, special events, and third party rentals. Generally, the City's use of the facility is during weekdays, after 6:00 p.m., as well as, on the weekends, as needed.
- The BGC has exclusive use of the Game Room, Technology Center, Staff Offices, and Storage closets.

The current agreement extends through December 31, 2021 and includes an annual rent of \$15,000 per year.

The BGC has requested to extend their facility usage on Friday evenings from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. to offer enhanced programs for teens. The BGC proposes to program free teen activities in an effort to provide youth an outlet to connect with their peers in a safe and socially distanced environment.

ANALYSIS: The BGC has been a tremendous partner and they continue to provide homework assistance, leadership programs, and enrichment activities for Monrovia's youth. The programs and

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services offered at the MWYC are opened to youth in middle school and high school. Students from MUSD as well as students from neighboring districts enjoy these services.

In addition to providing homework assistance and a safe place to gather, the BGC offers specialized classes, clubs, and programs for the youth to experience a variety of activities and explore varying interests. Examples of these programs include: Hip Hop Dance, Coding and 3D printing, Film Club, Yoga, Mediation, Healthy Habits, Adventurous Eats, Empowerment Groups, as well as a variety of sports programs.

To further enhance the youth experience, since 2015 the BGC has made significant improvements to the interior of the building. All these improvements were funded through the BGC and approved by the City. For example, the BGC added observation windows to the gymnasium to improve the sight lines from other rooms; the BGC removed several columns in the game room to create a more open space; the BGC repainted the interior of the MWYC; and the BGC added new furniture, flooring, and boosted the Wi-Fi accessibility. These enhancements, along with the thoughtful programming, have positively impacted the quality of services provided for the youth and attribute to the increased participation.

The BGC does require a one-time membership fee of \$15 per participant per school year. Additional fees are evaluated on a case by case basis, based on financial need and the grade level of the participant.

Staff will continue to monitor the programs and services offered by the BGC and staff will provide the Community Services Commission with regular updates.

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

1. Receive and file the Boys and Girls Club annual Report and recommend approval of extended hours on Friday nights to provide enhanced Teen Programs.
2. Request additional information from staff.

COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED: Staff recommends Option 1, receive and file the Boys and Girls Club annual Report and recommend approval of extended hours on Friday nights to provide enhanced Teen Programs.