

City of Santa Rosa
Board of Community Services Meeting
Minutes – August 27, 2008

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chairperson Lawson at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa, California.
2. Roll Call
Present: Brown, Richardson, Lawson, Bañuelos; Schwinn arrived at 4:07 p.m.
Absent: Martell, Costa
3. Public comments on items not on this agenda
None.
4. Approval of Minutes
Regalia made a motion to approve the revised Board minutes of August 13, 2008, which was seconded by Brown. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
5. Approval of Agenda
There were no changes to the agenda and it was adopted without objection.
6. Scheduled Items
 - 6.1 Overview of the City's Financial Issues

Richardson shared an overview of the City's financial problems and outlined the financial impact on Recreation and Parks. He also explained why service cuts would likely be made and how the department's Business and Strategic Action Plan will be used to make informed budget decisions. Preliminary options for addressing the structural deficit were discussed.

Richardson noted the City Manager and City Council will be evaluating and comparing the options for reducing expenditures or raising revenues within each City department in an effort to continue certain vital City services that may otherwise be reduced. The Budget Deficit Advisory Group will also continue to research, evaluate and pursue revenue options. The public will be invited to participate in upcoming processes and information will be available on the City's website concerning meeting information.

Board members expressed concerns regarding the following possibilities: Reductions to Measure O programs; Closing the Senior Center prior to the construction of the new addition at the Finley Community Center; Placing a surcharge on sports leagues to cover the cost of water for the fields; Increasing the fees of aquatic programs; and the disparity in department staff reductions vs. staff reductions in other City departments. Board commended staff for the tough decisions that will have to be made, noted the importance of educating the community and the department's need to create a future enterprise fund.

6.2 Staff Reports

Business and Strategic Action Plan Update

The General Plan Amendment will be reviewed by City Council on September 30th. Board members were encouraged to attend.

Roseland Community Park

The Open Space District Advisory Committee approved the award of 2.5 million dollars. It is hoped the Open Space District Authority Board will concur with the recommendation of the advisory committee.

7. Chairperson's and Board members' Reports

7.1 Committees

Reports were given on the Church of One Tree, Merit Awards, Senior Center and Play Equipment committees as well as the Mayor's Luncheon.

7.2 Other Reports

The Department's volunteer recognition event was held Thurs, Aug. 21st and was well attended. It is hoped the summer job and volunteer programs will be able to continue.

Richardson noted he met with the local NAACP community group concerning the selection process for funding Measure O grants and representation on the Mayor's Gang Prevention Policy Task Force.

Schwinn reported she is working on providing children's activities at future Live At Juilliard events. Suggestions for next year's event should be given to Laneil Bryant as soon as possible.

The Recreation & Parks Department golf tournament will be held on Friday, Sept. 5th and the ArtStart Auction will be held on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Tickets are available for both events.

8. Future Agenda Items

Budget reduction proposals – September, 2008 and the impact on department Measure O programs should the Council declare a fiscal crisis.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 4pm at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa, California.

Craig Lawson, Board Chair

Yvonne Earle, Recording Secretary