

OPEN MEETING

REPORT OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 14, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.
Virtual GoToMeeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jon Pearlstone, Chair, Bunny Carpenter, Yvonne Horton, Ryna Rothberg, Andre Torng, Elsie Addington, Debbie Dotson, Reza Karimi, Dennis Boudreau, Juanita Skillman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ed Tao

OTHERS PRESENT: Cash Achrekar, Bert Moldow

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Murphy, Jackie Kupfert

Call to Order

Chair Pearlstone called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Acknowledgement of Media

There was no press present.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made, and by consensus, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Committee Report for December 10, 2020

A motion was made, and by consensus, the report was approved.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Pearlstone stated Mr. Gruner is unable to be in attendance. Mr. Gruner briefed staff in order to have a productive discussion. We will have updates on the current activities and progress on our financial analysis efforts. He stated even though there are not a lot of new, powerful updates, there has been a lot going on in our activities and our staff has done an excellent job moving forward. Chair Pearlstone wished all a Happy New Year.

Report of the Recreation and Special Events Director

In Mr. Gruner's absence, Ms. Murphy read the Department Head Update. Ms. Murphy reported we continue to operate golf, tennis, lawn bowling, pickleball, paddle tennis, swimming, outdoor fitness classes, outdoor gym, bocce ball, gardening and virtual recreation.

Malware continues to have minor operational effects such as staff access to some files and remote access, but we are getting closer to the resolution. The Recreation field staff is still without computers. At the request of the last Security Committee meeting, the Recreation Department and Security Department assessed the Garden Center 2 access gate. Recreation staff will work towards activating this gate and requiring plot lessees to use their resident ID cards to access Garden Center 2 ensuring a safer gardening experience. This process will begin in a few weeks when our Garden Center staff returns. Staff is evaluating the addition of compost mulch bins at Garden Center 1. The most cost-effective plan is to modify the existing mulch bins to accommodate the compost mulch.

The Golf Maintenance division will be undergoing a restructuring process in order to meet the demanding needs of the golf course operation. Board directors were notified yesterday of pending changes. Due to low or no usage, pool 2 and pool 5 hours will be reduced to extend the hours at pool 1 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Staff continues to work with a resident that is adamant about playing pickleball doubles and hosting concerts. A letter of cease and desist was sent last week to the resident in regards to the concerts. The concert was held on City of Laguna Woods property. Recreation Department's "Villagers Have Got Cheer" decorating contest winner is Ed and Betty Pagenkopp who have lived in the Village for 23 years. They will receive dinner for two delivered by Restaurant 19 and Lounge. Congratulations!

Facility enhancements include the following: The Equestrian Center is undergoing further rat abatement measures, veterinary health is now current on all GRF horses and will continue to be monitored, staff is working with OC Fairgrounds farm crew and LART (Large Animal Response Team) to establish a safety plan for trailering and evacuation and staff is actively searching for an additional horse for trail riding and lessons. We will be discussing proposed additional staff services for boarders on the agenda.

COVID-19 cases continue to surge in Orange County averaging 3200 cases per day. Hospitals are at 0% ICU availability including Saddleback Memorial. Staff continues to maintain a positive attitude despite the many challenges. Please note the clarification on the notification sent to the Garden Center plot lessees was to indicate that the office only is closed. The Garden Centers are open for gardeners to maintain their plots. New signage is being posted currently and all are being notified. At the forefront, it is the responsibility of the Recreation Department to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for all residents within Laguna Woods Village.

Ms. Murphy stated that while this is not a Recreation program, it is important to announce that AARP will continue to offer free tax services to all Laguna Woods Village residents this year. This program is sponsored by the PC Club and will be done as a drop-off service in the Performing Arts Center parking lot with reservations necessary. The program will begin on Monday, January 25. A second reservation will be necessary to pick up the documents. Clubhouse 5 drop-off reservations will begin on March 5 and each will continue through the tax period.

Director Torng inquired as to the driving range update, new management of Golf Maintenance KPI measurements and automation of tee time registration. Ms. Kupfert stated the driving range update may need to wait until Mr. Gruner returns and an update may be provided to the committee via email; Mr. McCray will oversee Golf Maintenance; Mr. McCray will be asked to reach out to Director Torng regarding tee time automation software. All updates will be sent to the committee.

Chair Pearlstone inquired as to an update on the Malware incident and the current effect on field operations. Ms. Murphy stated the clubhouses do not have computers or devices. Staff is using either personal cell phones, tablets or laptops. Staff remains in contact with IT for dates of reconnection.

Director Achrekar inquired as to the explanation of miscellaneous YTD actual on agenda item #8, page 1 indicating a surplus. Chair Pearlstone asked Director Achrekar to email him specific questions and staff will confer with Finance for answers to the questions.

Advisor Boudreau inquired as to allowing Restaurant 19 to offer patio dining on a limited basis. Director Karimi stated those residents going outside the community are bringing COVID-1 back to the community. Chair Pearlstone stated staff is discussing ways to make activities more flexible and will update the committee members soon.

Staff was directed to discuss the Restaurant 19 patio dining option and report back to CAC next month.

Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)

A resident was called to speak regarding the use of the sculpting area at Clubhouse 4.

Discussion ensued.

Staff was directed to review this matter for allowance within the current guidelines as it may be classified as an outdoor area.

CONSENT

A motion was made, and by consensus, the consent calendar was approved.

REPORTS

None.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

Updated Outdoor Activity List – Ms. Murphy reported that a new Zumba Gold class began this week and will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays. Wednesdays are currently full and Mondays are filling up presently. Recreation is looking forward to the possibility of hosting more activities in the spring, such as outdoor art classes, outdoor bingo, holiday parades and outdoor concerts. Chair Yoga and Line Dancing instructors requested a break due to COVID-19.

Discussion ensued.

Staff was directed to send the website link and instructions for class/activity registration to the CAC members so they may assist those residents that contact them.

Staff was directed to research what activities could be offered at different areas to allow ease of access for all residents and to add Equestrian to the future offered activities list.

Staff was directed to inquire as to adding a table of available activities in the Village Breeze.

Shared Fee/Financial Analysis Update - Chair Pearlstone presented samples of the research being done to calculate cost per user (individual) per month which will assist in a budgetary review of the Recreation Department. Chair Pearlstone stated this analysis is not being researched to eliminate any amenity, but to ensure all fees are fairly assessed and will assist in creating a possible standardized fee schedule to help us achieve our budgetary goals. A standardized fee schedule would allow residents to depend upon maintaining fees for a guaranteed time instead of an increase based upon percentage calculations. He stated we are aggressively and actively researching money generating ideas including the possibility of adding guest fees to keep our resident costs as low as possible.

Chair Pearlstone was requested to include the current shared cost and the breakdown of the costs not recovered.

Discussion ensued.

Aliso Creek Park Signage – Ms. Murphy stated staff recommendation that current signage is sufficient for Aliso Creek events as many will either cease or move to facilities once COVID restrictions are lifted.

Discussion ensued.

Staff was directed to keep signage as presented at this time, request verbiage to be included in the Village Breeze and Laguna Woods Village eblast regarding feeding wildlife and request Security deter those witnessed feeding the wildlife.

Proposed Equestrian Additional Services Fees – Ms. Murphy stated the current Equestrian horse care fee for those boarders that are on vacation or have a health issue is \$35. An itemized list of horse care fees was presented as this day fee was deemed costly. Director Carpenter stated the Equestrian volunteers are not available any longer and some boarders are in immediate need of assistance due to resident health issues.

Motion was made to approve the proposed Equestrian additional services fees.

Discussion ensued.

Motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Removal of Garden Center 1 Office Building

Long Range Plans for Outdoor Activities – Chair Pearlstone clarified this is in regards to installing outside fitness equipment and will be addressed once COVID-19 is further resolved.

Pickleball Lighting – Ms. Murphy stated staff is required to obtain three quotes. Chair Pearlstone stated the pickleball club is currently researching installation of additional lighting to be funded by donations.

Garden Center 2 Access Gate – Ms. Murphy stated this agenda item was discussed in the Department Head Update.

Staff was directed to keep these items under Items for Future Agendas.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS

Committee Member Comments

Chair Pearlstone stated staff will continue to work on the financial analysis. He directed committee members to please contact him should they have any items to be discussed at the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the GRF Community Activities Committee will be held at 1:30 p.m. via the GoToMeeting platform on Thursday, February 11, 2021.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Jon Pearlstone

Jon Pearlstone, Chair