

SUBJECT: PORTERVILLE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB UPDATE

SOURCE: Administration

COMMENT: At its meeting on April 15, 2014, Council Member Shelton requested that the City Council schedule the consideration of funding alternatives to maintain the Boys & Girls Club in Porterville. After discussion of the Council Member's request, the City Council acted to postpone further consideration of funding alternatives pending any further information received from the Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors.


On Thursday, April 17, 2014, Mayor Hamilton and the City Manager met with representatives of the Boys & Girls Club of the Sequoias Board of Directors and local community advisory committee members, as well as a representative of the First United Methodist Church. The focus of the meeting was to review the current financial situation of the local Club, and what objectives would need to be met for the Club to continue to operate in Porterville.

Due to changes in Federal grant fund structures, as well as decreased local support funding, the Porterville Club was operating at an approximate \$50,000 annual deficit for almost the past two years, based upon an annual budget of approximately \$125,000. It was discussed that beyond national corporate financial support, the local community would essentially need to annually raise approximately \$50,000 to maintain the Club in Porterville.

Beyond the lack of local community funding, equally concerning to the Board of Directors was the lack of representatives from the Porterville community on the Board. Of the 19 current members on the Board of Directors, none are from the Porterville area. The Board feels that the lack of community representation is a significant factor in the lack of local community financial support.

As action items from this meeting, the Church was completely agreeable to working with the Club in maintaining its current location, and several community individuals were identified as potential candidates for the Board of Directors, who could in turn assist in raising local community awareness and funding needs.

C/M



Item No. 24

Since our meeting on April 17th, City representatives have subsequently been informed that the Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of the Sequoias is no longer employed by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America as of April 30, 2014.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council accept staff's report, and provide any further direction as appropriate.

ATTACHMENT: None