

Budget 5/5/02

#020133

7/11/02

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Recreation Center Staffing Needs

Due to a lack of adequate staffing levels, our neighborhood recreation centers are not open as often as they should be; currently, they are not open during weeknights and on weekends. This severely affects the amount of programming offered at the centers, and the Recreation Division's effectiveness at meeting community needs. These recreation centers are focal points for the communities in which they serve, and as such, should be accessible for as many hours per day and for as many days per week as possible. This will allow the centers to better serve *all* members of the community, including youth, adult and seniors.

The Mission of the Recreation and Parks Department is to meet the community's need for diverse active and passive recreational opportunities by providing professionally managed recreation and environmental education programs, stewardship of natural resources and maintenance of public landscape.

The very essence of the Department's Mission is to serve the needs of the community through diverse active and passive recreational opportunities. Expanded staffing levels at each neighborhood recreation center would help fulfill the Department's Mission.

The Recreation Division is in a state of change, and is moving to become a full-service organization. The addition of highly educated, highly motivated staff would help transform the neighborhood recreation centers from passive facilities (i.e. drop-in centers with unstructured activities) to full-service centers that are active and passive in scope, offering a full-range of programming, classes, events and other beneficial services to promote individual and community well-being.

present

Currently, the recreation centers are open from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and are closed on the weekends (except for rentals). This configuration of hours is currently the most effective use of the minimal allocation of staff time, allowing the centers to be accessible during the morning hours to community groups, and in the afternoons for after-school programs. The centers are currently available for rental in the evenings and on weekends. By expanding the staffing in the centers, the operational hours could be expanded to 8:00 am to 7:00 pm during the week, and from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturdays, thus accommodating a wider range of participants and allowing for the expansion of programming.

I ask the City Commission to consider expanding the staffing at each of the recreation centers by either making the existing five part-time Recreation Aide 1's into full-time positions, or by adding one additional part-time Recreation Aide into each of the five neighborhood recreation centers.