

**LODI CITY COUNCIL  
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION  
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET  
TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2019**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, July 30, 2019, commencing at 7:18 a.m.

Present: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Mounce, Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Kuehne, and Mayor Chandler

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Schwabauer, Deputy City Attorney Fukasawa, and City Clerk Ferraiolo

NOTE: Council Member Mounce participated in the meeting via teleconference.

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Cost Recovery Approach, Methodology, and Model (PRCS)

Deputy Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) Director Cathi DeGroot provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding a cost-recovery approach. Specific topics of discussion included need for a cost-recovery approach; pyramid methodology; benefit filters: mostly community benefit, considerable community benefit, balanced individual/community benefit, considerable individual benefit, mostly individual benefit; project approach and steps; "Fees and Charges" document; and scholarship program.

Council Member Mounce requested staff provide Council with a list of agencies that have implemented this type of cost-recovery approach and its success rate.

In response to Council Member Johnson, PRCS Director Jeff Hood stated the Department provides a recreational approach to sports, but some parents and organizations want something more competitive and look to other programs to fulfill that need. He stated there has been a decline in some programs due to this, and no change in others. In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Hood stated he will provide information on past and current participation levels.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Hood stated staff did a market analysis on facility rental fees compared to similar competitors. The City has seen a 2 percent increase in net revenue, and he stated Kirst Hall is rented out every Saturday for a year in advance and rentals continue to increase. Mr. Hood stated the proposed methodology would ensure that rental prices are at the appropriate level to generate enough revenue to off-set the cost of maintaining and staffing the facility. Feedback from users indicate that people like renting Hutchins Street Square because they are not tied to a certain caterer or wine setting.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kuehne stated that Wine & Roses and Woodbridge Golf and Country Club are similar venues and he would like to know what the fees are to rent those facilities.

Council Member Mounce added that The Merlot is similar, especially since renters are not tied to specific caterers, and she would like to know those rental fees as well.

Mr. Hood stated staff will provide that information to Council.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kuehne stated that he has received complaints about Hutchins Street

Square relating to noise late at night, insufficient security, and garbage not being picked up and suggested staff revisit the staffing levels at the facility. Ms. DeGroot stated staff is working to implement a customer satisfaction survey to be in place next fiscal year.

In response to Mayor Chandler, Deputy City Manager Andrew Keys stated that financial information from utility accounts could easily be used to determine whether a participant qualifies for a fee reduction scholarship. Mr. Hood added that the Department utilizes Finance Department information for the aquatics and Boosters of Boys/Girls Sports Organization programs, as well as documentation that qualifies participants for the free lunch program at school. The purpose is not to make a fee reduction scholarship program qualification process too onerous on participants or on staff. Ms. DeGroot stated staff can reach out to other communities for their established programs.

Council Member Nakanishi stated he supports the concept because citizens want a robust parks system.

In response to Council Member Johnson, City Manager Schwabauer stated that staff still follows the principle of charging less for youth sports and activities and more for adults, however, this proposed program gives flexibility for staff to determine whether some classes have a greater community benefit than others. Ms. DeGroot added that it also gives staff direction and guidelines in developing new programs.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kuehne stated that during events at Lodi Lake, traffic is backed up into the street and there is an inadequate supply of envelopes to pay the parking fee. He stated there should be someone at the gate collecting money, especially during special events, and Council should revisit the possibility of charging a fee for the Fourth of July event at Lodi Lake. Parks need to be well maintained, and the City should be more diligent about charging fees to utilize park properties or fields.

Council Member Nakanishi agreed, stating there should be a fee charged for the Fourth of July event to pay the City's costs.

Council Member Mounce stated the only time there was a fee to attend the Fourth of July event was when the Lodi Rotary Club organized the event for the City, but the City never charged when it hosted the event. She added that tax payers believe the fireworks show is part of the taxes they pay and will likely be opposed to paying a fee. Council Member Mounce cautioned against raising parks fees until the City can get control over the homeless population taking over the parks. Mr. Hood reiterated that the Department is not proposing increases in fees at this time; only a mechanism to provide a cost-recovery model.

Myrna Wetzel, member of the public, requested the City consider lower program fees for seniors, not solely youth programs, because older individuals cannot always afford the cost to participate in activities or lessons.

Alex Aliferis agreed that the homeless problem negatively affects parks and urged the City to get a grip on the problem. He suggested the City consider private-public partnerships, similar to what other states are doing with their parks and libraries.

Discussion ensued regarding public safety at parks and what maintenance staff does when they encounter issues; outreach and partnership with the Community Liaison Officer to address homelessness issues; and homeless sleeping on park benches. Mr. Schwabauer explained that the local judge expressed frustration to staff on the number of citations Lodi issues because it does not result in any changes in behavior or the consequences. The judge can sentence individuals, but the jail will not take them. The penal system does not allow for consequences on low-level offences; the City does not wish to put Parks personnel in a position of challenging individuals in the parks; and Police Officers will address situations, but it typically results in no jail time for individuals.

Council Member Mounce suggested a monetary fine for anyone caught sleeping on a bench and,

if it accumulates high enough, additional action could be taken against the individual.

Council Member Johnson stated that he trusts the Department is moving in the right direction with regard to the cost-recovery model that will create an equitable process for PRCS to set fees. Further, he stated he would not support charging a fee for the Fourth of July event.

Council Member Mounce stated she is not opposed to progressing toward a new method or to charging for services; however, she wants to ensure that, before any fees are increased, the City is offering a quality product for its residents.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 a.m.

ATTEST:

Jennifer M. Ferraiolo  
City Clerk