

Recreation / Learning Center / Library Budget Proposal (version 2)

Background

For a very long time the children of north Stockton have been without convenient access to city library and recreational facilities. There have been limited facilities in north Stockton in general, but for children without transportation it is as if they did not exist. Voters in the 2016 election impressively passed Measure M to address this issue for children throughout the city of Stockton. The city is in the beginning stages of implementing a plan to address their concerns.

Current Situation

City officials have developed a plan to increase availability of library and recreational services throughout the city. The plan is based upon Measure M revenues. Unfortunately the plan does not give immediate relief to children who live in the north-west part of Stockton. Concerned community members, parents, and guardians of children affected by this are very appreciative of the efforts being made by the city to address this problem. But in general they would like to see something done immediately on an interim basis until a final and long term solution can be implemented.

Proposal

I am recommending to the city council and the Strong Communities Committee that the city form a partnership with other interested community organizations to obtain an interim solution to this problem. To begin the process, one or two locations could be selected to implement a library and recreational center for north-west Stockton.

I would recommend exploring two locations for this project. One would be located at the corner of Hammer and Tam Oshanter, and the other at the corner of Hammer and Thornton Road. These two locations could serve as libraries / learning centers /recreation centers for children in this part of Stockton.

I recommend forming a partnership with the Housing Authority of San Joaquin County, Lloyd's Gym on West Lane, and Lodi Unified School District. Each of these organizations has an interest in seeing children of that part of Stockton participate in activities that will result in placing them on a track towards success.

Benefits

The benefits of this recommended partnership are numerous, and are not limited to the ones cited in this short proposal. Some expected benefits include the following:

- a. After school tutoring, library services, introduction to the arts (drama, music, dance, etc).
- b. Designated afterschool meal locations.
- c. Improved nutrition and health awareness.
- d. Development of socialization skills through community mentoring and peer interaction.
- e. Summer and weekend location for students to stay engaged in academics.

- f. Community based workshops on a host of subjects including job search techniques, driver's license materials, college preparation, etc.
- g. Recreational and athletic development.
- h. Enhanced literacy.
- i. Overall improved academic status.

Cost

No cost assessments have been made yet. But will not be made later when the members of the partnership are brought together for a discussion of this project. There will be a cost associated with books, computers, exercise equipment, workshops, and human resources.

Summary

A partnership between the city of Stockton, the Housing Authority of San Joaquin County, Lloyd's Gym and Lodi Unified could begin to address the severe shortage of access to library services and recreational facilities for the children of north-west Stockton. The end result of such a partnership will result in significant benefits to children of north Stockton and the community in general. Each of the potential partners cited in this proposal has a genuine interest in seeing this partnership proceed and are looking forward to seeing it happen.

The citizens of Stockton made a very smart decision in the 2016 election when they passed Measure M. I am sure the citizens of Stockton will support a proposal that will speed up the availability of a library / learning center / recreational facility for the children in the north-west area of Stockton.

Lester Patrick,

Member, Strong Communities Committee