



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Tell and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation
Idris J. Al-Oboudi, Recreation Services Manager

DATE: February 20, 2007

SUBJECT: Consideration of Converting a 30-hour per Week Staff Position for Older Adult Programs to a Full-Time Status

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve converting a 30-hour per week staff position for older adult programs to a full-time status.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

The Annual cost of a full-time Recreation Supervisor position is \$68,000 including salary and benefits. Funds for the current year for a part-time 30 hours a week Senior Recreation Leader II for older adult programs were budgeted at \$26,000. The Parks and Recreation Department can absorb the cost of the full-time position because of the savings from the eight months the part-time position was not filled. If approved, staff will budget the full-time position in next year's budget.

BACKGROUND:

In July 2006, the Parks and Recreation Department initiated recruitment for a part-time Senior Recreation Leader II to oversee the Older Adult Programs for 30 hours/week. The applicant pool for the Senior Recreation Leader II position fielded one potential candidate to date. The candidate declined the position because the salary was low and she was looking for a full-time position. The Parks and Recreation Department is proposing a full-time position to alleviate the lack of staff needed to adequately run the Older Adult Programs.

DISCUSSION:

Since approximately 1965, most organized programming for older adults in Manhattan Beach has been developed by two senior citizens clubs: The Heights Club and Joslyn Club. Other than meeting in the two city community centers (Joslyn/Manhattan Heights), the clubs have remained fairly autonomous in their operations. In the past, the city budgeted five hours/week for staff time to assist the senior clubs with their programming. During the last several years, there has been a grass-roots effort by the senior population to increase services and programs. Because of the requests from the seniors for more programming, the city increased staffing to 30 hours/week in the current fiscal budget. However, as stated earlier, staff was not successful in filling the position for

almost eight months. Staff believes the lack of full-time status is hurting the recruitment.

Staff advertised this position through all of the California Parks and Recreation Society publications as well as AARP, local newspapers, local universities and other senior centers.

With the City Council's intentions to enhance programs for seniors, staff believes it is important to create a full-time staff position for senior programs to attract a highly professional expert in the field of senior services and create stability in this area.

In addition, staff believes that the outcome of the Facility Strategic Plan will recommend expanding services for seniors and dedicating a building or large part of a building for senior programs. Having a professional staff member on board as we go through this process will be beneficial to the City.

CONCLUSION:

Staff has determined that there is a long-term need for a full-time recreation supervisor to manage the older adults program. Recreation for older adults is one of the largest growing areas in the recreation profession. The need for professional staff and funding for older adult recreation programs and services is needed and supported by the community.