



**GOLETA VALLEY
COMMUNITY CENTER**

5679 Hollister Avenue, Goleta, CA 93117

Phone: (805) 967-1237 Email: info@thegvcc.org

501(c)3 Tax Exempt Corporation #95-3278302

Attn: City Council and City Clerk
130 Cremona Drive, Suite B
Goleta, CA 93117

August 30, 2021

RE: Focus Groups and City Survey (GVCC) Special City Council Meeting on 8/31/21

I believe the City Survey and Focus Groups provided valuable citizen input regarding the Goleta Community Center, its use, its physical condition, needed repairs and a critical look at how it's managed. Many of the item's citizens identified as deficiencies and needed repairs were items that had been previously identified by the GVCC staff through the "City Assist Program". The survey was completed in March of 2020 and has just been released to the public in August of 2021. During that 17- month period the Goleta Community Center was closed. The Custodial Staff accomplished several significant projects, several of which are mentioned in the City Survey as still needing to be done. The Projects completed include:

- Every classroom has been repainted – All woodwork was stripped and sanded down to bare wood, primed and repainted including doors, window frames, base board, and other decorative wood trim.
- The main hallways, were pressure washed or hand washed, patched, primed, and repainted with a bright white paint.
- The main entry doors were removed one at a time, stripped and sanded to bare wood, re-stained, and finished with several coats of a marine spar varnish. The hardware was polished to a shiny new brass finish.
- The chalk boards were all given a fresh coat of new chalk board paint changing them from black to a teal color to better contrast with the trim work in each room.
- Through the City Assist Program we were successful in changing out the interior hall lighting from fluorescent fixtures to new LED fixtures greatly improving the interior lighting from dark and dingy to bright and inviting. Both the men's and women's restrooms also have new LED lighting. The change to LED lights significantly reduces electrical usage.
- The outside security lighting in the west parking lot and on the Rainbow School portable was also changed out using the City Assists Program. That change helped illuminate the parking lot and walkways
- Phase II and III of the Wall Mural Project (landscaping) adding trees, flowers, ground cover, drip irrigation and a split rail fence was completed by the GVCC

Custodial Staff during the Pandemic. They created an inviting park like setting that is pleasing and welcoming to pedestrians and motorists passing by on Hollister Ave.

- The old GVCC Tennis courts were converted to (5) Pickle Ball Courts, with new nets, court fences and pass thru gates and (3) new entry gates. The chain link fencing was re-painted. The old high intensity halide lights were changed out to new LED light fixtures, greatly improving the court lighting, and reducing electrical usage. These improvements alone have brought over 300 people to the courts as regular users. The courts have become a good funding source for the GVCC for future court improvements.
- A new high -definition digital Security Camera System was purchased and installed. The 17-camera system covers both the interior of the main building as well as several outdoor night vision cameras covering the exterior of the campus. This upgrade provides better security for our patrons and staff at the GVCC.
- Our Custodial Staff just finished creating a new Senior Center and Lounge for our many returning seniors. This project was initiated due to the fact the previous Senior Center and Lounge is in the part of the Community Center being used for the COVID Testing and is not available for use at this time. The new on-site location has 5 individual rooms for different activities as compared to the 2 rooms in the old Senior Center. We've created an office/reception area, a combined reading room, library and computer room, a game room for playing board games, card games and working on jigsaw puzzles, a recreation room for Ping Pong or arts and crafts. The main lounge has a big screen TV, a beverage and snack counter and additional seating.
- The Custodial staff just finished installing a high quality art hanging system in the main hallways to enhance the ability to display art by local artist. The next phase is the installation of the "Trac Lighting System" in the main hallways.

I just wanted the Council and staff to know that during these difficult and challenging times we've continued to be focused and productive, building on the future for the Goleta Community Center. We share in the excitement and possibilities for the much-needed ADA and seismic safety upgrades and repairs to this treasured building.

Respectfully,

Charlie Johnson, General Manager

David Cutaia

From: Michelle Seeds <seeds@rntarchitects.com>
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 11:47 AM
To: City Clerk Group
Subject: 8/31/21 City Council Meeting Questions

Good Afternoon,

I am truly looking forward to attending the City Council meeting tomorrow evening. I believe Hollister Avenue holds immense potential to reconnect its residents post pandemic, starting with the Community Center as the “heart of Old Town.” I am curious to hear additional information on the following if time allows.

- Has the City defined the Center’s mission?
- Will its future role be “community center”, a facility for rental spaces/meeting rooms, or a combination of both?
- Why did the City choose to extend the lease agreement with the Goleta Valley Community Center Management? Have they been successful? Improved communication platforms and resources for residents?
- Is there any action towards a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan?

Thanks,

Michelle Seeds | RNT Architects
285 North Ventura Avenue, Suite 102, Ventura CA 93001
P 805.626.5331

David Cutaia

From: Lee Ann Palmer <tikaneve@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 2:37 PM
To: City Clerk Group
Subject: tomorrows meeting regarding the Community Center

Dear City Council.

Is it considered appropriate notice to send an email regarding a special meeting at 9:38 on a Monday, expecting comments before noon of the same day?? It may be a surprise but some people are not glued to their computers.

I know I am past the submission deadilne but my comments are that despite the planning that has gone on I will personally never feel safe in that building as it is old, poorly lit, smells, likely has lead paint, and asbestos. The tile floor is extremely difficult for people with walkers to navigate as I was there with the AARP tax group and we had to help many clients who could not navigate that tile. It really should not be used as a community center despite the planned seismic repairs and upgrades. How about we move the City Hall staff to that relic and use the new building as a community center? Better yet with all the unleased buildings next to City Hall it likely would be cheaper to lease and or purchase one of those.

Too bad I am unable to attend this evening but hopefully in the future if you plan a special meeting you will give more notice to the public.

thank you,
Lee Ann Palmer

From: Danny Fitzgibbons <danny@equalitech.org>
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 4:36 PM
To: City Clerk Group <cityclerkgroup@cityofgoleta.org>
Subject: Goleta Valley Community Center

Thank you to Mayor Perotte and the council for this opportunity to speak to you.

I am the Executive Director of Equalitech, a nonprofit focused on bridging the digital divide in Goleta and the surrounding area. We operated a tech center in the Goleta Valley Community Center from April 2017 until June 2021. Throughout these years, it proved to be a constant challenge trying to get folks to come to GVCC to find us. We soon realized that GVCC was not truly the heart of Goleta, because not much was happening there to welcome or service the community. Many people don't even know it exists and if they do, they don't know what happens there. To me it seemed that GVCC was just a transactional partner whose main goal was to collect rent and utilities. There was no outreach on their part to promote the nonprofits providing services. The board was slow to react to requests and ultimately quite inflexible. This always made us sad as we could see the potential of this amazing property and its historic buildings.

To be the heart of the city, the community center could be a vibrant, bustling one stop shop for family services, including childcare, ESL, digital skills training, legal services, art and crafts camps during school vacations, homeless outreach, health services and much more. There could be multicultural concerts, festivals and art exhibits, which are all activities that would draw a variety of community members, but more importantly would keep them coming back and spreading word about this great community gathering place. Once this transformation takes place, a big, beautiful digital marquee sign on the grass next to Hollister Ave. would highlight the amazing services and activities happening on site.

Equalitech remains committed to helping the community center reach its full potential and we look forward to the future plans.

Regards,
Danny



Danny Fitzgibbons

Executive Director

www.equalitech.org

www.facebook.com/equalitech/

805-722-8233

From: Patricia Keelean <pkeeleen@communifysb.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 4:46 PM
To: City Clerk Group <cityclerkgroup@cityofgoleta.org>
Subject: Public Comment - City Council Meeting (8-31-21)
Importance: High

Please see attached written comment for this evening's City Council Meeting.

Thank you,

Patricia D. Keelean, M.Ed, CCAP, NCRT

Chief Executive Officer
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CommUnify
A Community Action Agency.

August 31, 2021

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Good evening, Madam Mayor and City Council Members.

I'm here tonight to support the **Ad Hoc Goleta Valley Community Center Committee's** recommendation to begin planning for the City's role in directly managing Goleta Community Center when the lease on the property ends on June 30, 2022.

CommUnify, formerly Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County, has a long history at the Goleta Community Center, with our administrative offices having been located there for many years before relocating to the Hutton-Parker nonprofit center across the street. Of course, the Goleta Community Center has also housed our Head Start Center for many years.

As a part of the proposed Strategic Planning process, we hope that we would have an opportunity to review the current rent structure at Goleta Community Center. Over the past 10 years, we have seen our rent increase disproportionately as compared to our other Head Start sites located throughout the county. We are currently paying over \$7,500/monthly for 3 classrooms serving 45 children. On top of that, we are also responsible for all needed repairs. By comparison, another south county Head Start site with comparable classroom and playground space currently costs \$4,300/monthly, roughly 43% less. We are hopeful in the future that the City of Goleta will review and revise the rent schedule to ensure it is equitable and sustainable for nonprofit organizations to operate.

As a Head Start and Early Head Start provider, we want to work in partnership with the City of Goleta to provide critically needed early education opportunities for children ages 0-5 years of age, **as well as support their parents who desperately need to get back into the workforce.** It is a win-win for the entire community! We look forward to working with you on this issue and being a part of your vision for a vibrant Goleta Community Center in the future.

Respectfully,

Patricia Keelean, M.Ed.
CEO