

## CACH Public Health and Storage Sub-Committee Report

During the last CACH meeting it was determined that the Public Health Sub-Committee would review the elements of a pilot program that would involve the deployment of portable toilets and mobile shower units within strategically placed locations, to research the city's policies/procedures regarding non-profits sponsoring portable toilets for public use and finally, at the request of City Council, review the Loudon Nelson restrooms closure.

During this reporting period the sub-committee met on four occasions to discuss strategies/solutions regarding urban hygiene stations and public toilets in the city of Santa Cruz. In this time the committee was able to meet with Parks and Recreation Department Director, Tony Elliot, visit the River Street Camp to meet with both staff and residents, speak with downtown residents, engage with the non-profit group, Food Not Bombs, and make contact and schedule a meeting with Jon Showalter from AFC to discuss possible access to a portable shower unit. The hope is to utilize the AFC shower unit in a pilot program to provide more opportunity for people in need to have access to a shower. The committee was also able to speak with the Director of Santa Cruz Public Libraries in order to collect information regarding their restroom policies and procedures.

The LNCC provides classes for people of all different ages, theater programs, and works with many different organizations including Meals on Wheels, AA, NA, and hosts a number of other community gatherings. In addition, LNCC operates the Teen Center and the County Office of Education has classes at LNCC. After the LNCC restrooms were closed to the general public, staff were directed to share information with interested parties regarding nearby restrooms that might be available.

During the meeting with Parks and Recreation Director, Tony Elliot, the sub-committee ascertained that the P&R Department continues to have major concerns with regards to opening the restrooms to the general public at the Loudon Nelson Center. The primary concern remains the same - current staff cannot adequately monitor the restrooms to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all the patrons that utilize the center. In the words of the director, "it is of the utmost importance at our community center, that we have the ability to serve users in a safe environment that is conducive to education and community services and not adversely impacted by any user who exhibits bad behavior, illegal activity, threats, and so on. This represents our "what." *What* is the critical mission and purpose of LNCC?"

The Loudon Nelson restrooms were originally restricted back in February of 2018 due to similar issues that the downtown library branch is currently experiencing ( history of blood and human waste splattered on walls outside the stalls, dirty clothes left in restrooms, clogged toilets and incidents of drug use be observed by other patrons in the center etc...etc...)and since that time the City Council unanimously voted to continue restricting the restrooms, only allowing access to center patrons. Most recently it was reported by the Department of Parks and Recreation that there have been several incidents of vandalism and threats being directed towards center staff as a result of not having the facilities accessible to the general public. Throughout the process it has become apparent to the sub-committee that in order to open the Loudon Nelson restrooms to the general public it would require considerations around the following:

- Two full-time restroom attendants to be available during the open hours of the center with an estimated cost of \$152,000 (estimates provided by P&R, see attached)
- Extra midday cleaning (similar to the libraries) \$80,000

- A code of conduct specifically for restroom use be created and applied
- Consideration of additional security measures
- Total cost ~ \$232,000

It continues to be the recommendation of the Department of Parks and Recreation to restrict the use of Louden Nelson restrooms to users of the center's programs.

The sub-committee was also able to speak with the Director of the Public Libraries and collect information regarding the use of the restrooms at the downtown location by the general public. It was established that the library is held to a different case law, and they are legally required to provide public bathrooms that are accessible to all. They have roughly 1000 guests per day and that they have a code of conduct for the whole building. The following was also reported:

- Usually the bathrooms are in "bad shape," "at times destroyed"
- Many people avoid using the facilities
- Extra \$80,000/yr for outside cleaning firm to do a midday clean
- Sharps boxes in the restrooms have helped decrease the numbers of needles that need to be picked up off of the ground
- The restrooms often have to be closed down
- Weekly incidents with blood, human waste outside of stalls
- Special training required of staff related to sharps injury prevention and disposing of biohazardous waste
- Library staff have noticed increased use of the downtown library restrooms since the Louden Nelson and City Hall restrooms closed, would like to see shared responsibility moving forward and consideration of a large, new public bathroom on the first floor of any future new downtown library building

The sub-committee has also been able to meet with city staff regularly over the past few weeks and there continues to be discussion regarding a clear path for interested nonprofit organizations to sponsor 24 hour portable toilets. These toilets would have to be located at sites that are approved by the City.

The sub-committee is also continuing to investigate barriers to placing additional portable toilets inside of garages.

In conclusion we are recommending to the CACH that the City Council direct the Department of Parks and Recreation to continue to limit access to the Louden Nelson restrooms to users of the center's programs. The sub-committee sees the feasibility issues as too great to overcome at this time and feels as though funding of this magnitude would be better spent on more 24 hour portable toilets, hand hygiene stations and showers. As a starting point, the sub-committee recommends that the City Council prioritize providing 2 additional 24 hour portable restrooms in the downtown area, preferably located within parking structures. In addition, it is our recommendation that the City Council actively pursue hiring a full-time homeless coordinator for the City of Santa Cruz.

Next steps:

- continue to investigate siting options for portable hygiene units

- meet with AFC to discuss possible use of their showers for a pilot program
- investigate staffing needs for the showers during the pilot
- investigate ways that the City can better support existing non-profits that are providing showers and other hygiene related facilities in the community
- provide final information back to the CACH regarding options for non-profits to sponsor portable toilets and the possibility of moving additional portable units into parking structures

## Parks Restrooms Attendant Cost Estimate

	Single stall	Multiple	Portable	Hours/day	Hours/year	# attendan	hours/year	\$/hr. *	\$/yr
Cowell Beach	•			16	5840	1	5840	18.952	\$110,680
Delaveaga Park		•		11 or 17	5485	1	5485	18.952	\$103,952
Depot Park		•		11	4015	1	4015	18.952	\$76,092
Golf Course	•			17	6205	0	0	18.952	\$0
Frederick St. Park		•		11	4015	0	0	18.952	\$0
Garfield Park		•		11	4015	1	4015	18.952	\$76,092
Grant Park		•		11	4015	1	4015	18.952	\$76,092
George Washington Grove		•		11	4015	1	4015	18.952	\$76,092
Harvey West Park	•			11	4015	1	4015	18.952	\$76,092
La Barranca/Neary Lagoon	•			11	4015	1	4015	18.952	\$76,092
Main Beach		•		18	6570	2	13140	18.952	\$249,029
Mike Fox Park			•	11	4015	0	0	18.952	\$0
Ocean View Park	•			11	4015	1	4015	18.952	\$76,092
San Lorenzo Park		•		11	4015	2	8030	18.952	\$152,185
Sergeant Derby Park			•	24	8760	0	0	18.952	\$0
University Terrace Park			•	24	8760	0	0	18.952	\$0
West Side Pump Track			•	11	4015	0	0	18.952	\$0
Wharf 1		•		17	6205	2	12410	18.952	\$235,194
Wharf 2	•			21	7665	1	7665	18.952	\$145,267
Wharf 3		•		21	7665	2	15330	18.952	\$290,534
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>107320</b>		<b>96005</b>		<b>\$1,819,487</b>

\* Would recommend new job description. This rate is middle of range based on Temporary Maintenance Worker Aide and Ranger Trainee + 15% FT Custodian rate starts around this amount and goes higher, plus benefits

## Parks Janitorial Supplies Costs

	FY 2018 actual	FY 2019 actual	FY 2020 budget
West	\$ 5,059	\$ 4,950	\$ 5,900
Central	\$ 12,545	\$ 11,371	\$ 12,000
East	\$ 17,617	\$ 17,644	\$ 18,000
Golf Course	\$ 2,721	\$ 3,183	\$ 4,000
Wharf	\$ 34,631	\$ 35,953	\$ 35,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 72,573</b>	<b>\$ 73,101</b>	<b>\$ 74,900</b>

