



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

Date: October 23, 2015

To: Recreation and Park Commission
Operations Committee

Through: Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager
Dana Ketcham, Director of Property Management

From: Sarah He

Subject: Self Help for the Elderly Revocable Permit at the West Portal Clubhouse

Agenda Wording:

West Portal Clubhouse - Discussion and possible action to: (1) approve a senior meal service program at the West Portal Clubhouse by Self Help for the Elderly and (2) change the \$25/hr fee required by Section 12.21(a) of the Park Code to a fee of \$800 per month to be charged under the permit to Self Help for the Elderly for operation of the program in the Clubhouse.

Background

Since 1966, Self-Help for the Elderly (SHE) has provided supportive services and aid to seniors in San Francisco. Through their programs, seniors are able to restore their independence, dignity and self-worth. Their non-profit services and companionship help guide seniors to wellness and are integral to the holistic approach to seniors living longer, healthier, more purposeful lives.

SHE currently operates nine senior meal service programs in the City. These programs enable seniors to build community and meet new friends. It provides fun, physical activities to promote active and healthy lifestyles; in addition to healthy meals designed by SHE's nutritionist and caterers.

Activities provided at the Centers:

- Arts and crafts
- Calligraphy class
- Chinese opera
- Discussion group
- ESL and Citizenship class
- Exercise class (Luk Tung Kuen, Tai Chi, etc.)
- Social dancing and group singing
- Tablet/iPad class
- Self care workshops (stress management, skin and hair care, retirement planning, etc.)
- Health and nutrition workshops



In 2014, Supervisor Norman Yee approached SHE to provide some much needed senior service programming to the Asian American seniors in his district. SHE has an ongoing partnership with the Department and operates their services at South Sunset and Portsmouth Square both of which are under long-term leases with the Department. Supervisor Yee wanted to expand that partnership. The Department did not have any vacant clubhouses available in the Supervisor's District. After discussions with the Department and SHE, West Portal Clubhouse was identified as a possible part time site due to its proximity to the library and public transit.

The West Portal Clubhouse has a very popular after school program Mondays thru Fridays from 3 AM to 6 PM and a summer camp Mondays thru Fridays from 8 AM to 6 PM. In addition, it is heavily used by the community for birthday parties on the weekends. However, it was vacant each day until 3 pm. In order to assess compatibility of the SHE's senior meal service program with the surrounding neighborhood and the afterschool program at the clubhouse, the Department began piloting a senior meal service program through the issuance of a revocable permit. The permit provides for use from Monday through Friday from 8:30AM to 3PM except when summer camp is in operation.

Since the inception of the program earlier this year, SHE has served over 300 seniors, working with an average of 80 seniors daily. 90% of the seniors are Chinese, 100% are from the neighborhood and at least 75% identify as low income.

The Department was notified by SHE recently that their use of the Clubhouse for food service requires Commission approval under Planning Code section 211.1(c)(5)(g). In order for SHE to continue this pilot, the Commission must approve the senior service program.

Reduction of Fees

Per Section 12.21(a) of the Park Code, rental fees to the West Portal Clubhouse are a minimum of \$29/hr for the days and hours SHE would be operating. Based on this rate, it would cost SHE close to \$3000 in monthly fees, to operate the Activity Center. These rates are intended for short-term rentals. We are requesting a reduction of fees under Park Code Section 12.28 to a monthly rate of \$800. This amount is consistent with the rates charged under our clubhouse leases.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that this Commission does: 1) approve a senior meal service program at the West Portal Clubhouse by Self Help for the Elderly and 2) change the \$25/hr fee required by Section 12.21(a) of the Park Code to a fee of \$800 per month to be charged under the permit to Self Help for the Elderly for operation of the program in the Clubhouse.

Supported By:

Supervisor Yee
Self Help for the Elderly

Opposed By:

None known

Attachments:

Revocable Permit