



DISTRIBUTION DATE: November 29, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR &
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: J. Nicholas Williams
Director, OPR

SUBJECT: Mosswood Recreation Center

DATE: November 29, 2016

City Administrator Approval
/s/

Date:
11-29-16

INFORMATION

We are devastated by the loss of a vital community asset, the Mosswood Recreation Center. On Saturday, November 26, 2016 at approximately 6:00 am, the Center was completely destroyed by fire. Fortunately, no one was injured and the Moss House Historical Mansion was completely preserved, thanks to the excellent efforts of the Oakland Fire Department. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Mosswood History and Programs

Mosswood Park is located at 3612 Webster Street and was established in 1907 as a city park on approximately 4.5 acres of greenspace in the center of Oakland at the time. The park hosts many outdoor festivals, events, programs and classes year round and, during the summer months, a thriving summer camp program. The after-school programs have featured cooking classes, computer and technology labs, education labs, and a variety of enrichment activities for youth. Mosswood has also been home to Oakland Parks & Recreation Department's Inclusion Center. The Inclusion Center at Mosswood Park provides an environment where people have an opportunity to participate and shine, regardless of their ability or disability. The Inclusion Center offers homework assistance, recreation, and other developmental activities in an asset-rich, safe, and accessible environment for children and teens.

Temporary Relocation of Programs

Programs at the Mosswood Recreation Center are temporarily relocated to nearby facilities. The Mosswood Afterschool Programs and the Inclusive Recreation Afterschool Program are temporarily housed at the Bushrod Recreation Center located at 560-59th Street. The OFCY-funded "Sandboxes to Empowerment" playgroup, which is held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 am -12:30 pm, is temporarily relocated at Studio One Art Center located on 45th Street. Staff contacted all registered participants in the programs immediately following the fire to let them know about this temporary change of location.

Planning for the Future

The loss of the Mosswood Recreation Center has been devastating to the community and staff has heard from a great number of people who want to help rebuild. We are optimistic about the future of Mosswood and look forward to working with the community on planning for the future. The Center was included in the City's property insurance policy and the insurance company's representatives responded promptly and have been assisting with clean-up efforts. We will continue to work with them on assessing the facility to determine the amount of coverage that will be provided for rebuilding.

Community Event – Saturday December 10

On Saturday, December 10, 2016 from 12:00 - 2:00pm Oakland Parks & Recreation, in collaboration with Oakland Public Works, will host a community event "Rebuild Mosswood: Envisioning the Future" at Mosswood Park. After a short program at 12:30 p.m. architectural designers will be on site to facilitate mini-charrettes with the community to help envision a "New" Mosswood Community Center. There will also be activities for children in addition to the visioning discussions. All are invited to attend.

Finally, immediately after the fire the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation established a "Rebuild Mosswood" account set up to receive tax deductible donations. Donations are intended to be used to support rebuilding efforts for Mosswood, including covering costs that exceed available insurance as well as amenities that the community may desire adding to the park. To make a donation please visit: www.oaklandparks.org or call the Foundation at (510) 465-1850.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

J. Nicholas Williams
Director, Oakland Parks & Recreation