

Eres, Christian

From: Greenleaf, Kim
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 5:00 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Subject: 9/19/23 BCC meeting - #33 (budget - for the proposed millage for East Lake Recreation and support of PH Community Services Agency programs)
Attachments: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #28550371; Additional letters of support for PHCSA from social media

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please add the attached emails to the records for agenda item #33 for the 9/19th BCC meeting.

Kimberly H. Greenleaf
Executive Aide to Commissioner Dave Eggers
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, District 4
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Clearwater, FL 33756
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kgreenleaf@pinellas.gov

Eres, Christian

From: Jenny Goad <jennygoadpinellas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 2:44 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Additional letters of support for PHCSA from social media
Attachments: Kristina Garcia.pdf

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Good Afternoon Commissioners,

Many community members have communicated with you directly in support of the PHCSA entities. I received these communications from a few community members through social media.

It can be very confusing and frustrating living in the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County. I'm proud of our community for choosing to espouse support, love and kindness in support of this issue. Thank you for giving thoughtful consideration to this matter and for all your hard work and dedication to our community.

(My thoughts and opinions are my own, not representative of any organization with which I am affiliated.)

Warmest Regards,

Jenny Goad

540-467-7517

Kurt Krohn

And here you go:

Fun-Filled Family Adventures Await in Palm Harbor!

Hey there, Palm Harbor friends and neighbors!

I wanted to share a heartfelt shout-out to Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation and the fantastic services and programs they offer that have had such a positive impact on my family's life.

Our journey with Parks and Rec has been nothing short of amazing. From the serene parks to the bustling community centers, there's something for everyone in our family to enjoy.

For our family, it's all about the outdoor adventures. The parks here are like hidden gems, offering a perfect blend of tranquility and excitement. Whether it's picnics at John Chesnut Sr. Park, nature walks at Wall Springs Park, or splashing around at Pop Stansell Park, we've made countless cherished memories.

The sports and recreational programs have been a game-changer for our kids. They've not only honed their athletic skills but also learned important life lessons about teamwork, discipline, and perseverance through soccer and basketball leagues.

As for me, the arts and culture programs have been a true inspiration. From art workshops to live performances at the Palm Harbor Community Center, I've discovered a newfound passion for creativity.

What truly warms my heart is how these experiences have brought our family closer. We spend weekends exploring the parks, cheering for our kids at games, and attending community events together. It's more than just recreation; it's quality family time.

Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation has transformed our lives, fostering a sense of community, health, and happiness. We're so grateful for this incredible resource.

If you haven't already, I urge you to dive into the wide array of programs and activities they offer. Let's continue to support and celebrate the heart of our community!

[#PalmHarborParksandRec](#) [#FamilyFun](#) [#CommunityLove](#) [#OutdoorAdventures](#)

Kurt Krohn

Here you go:

Exciting News!

Hey there, Palm Harbor community!

I just wanted to take a moment to share our family's wonderful experience with the Palm Harbor Library and the incredible services and programs they offer.

From the moment we stepped through the doors, we felt a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The library isn't just a place for books; it's a hub for growth, learning, and connection.

For our kids, the children's programs have been a game-changer. Storytime sessions have not only fostered a love for reading but have also helped them develop essential social skills.

Personally, I've benefited immensely from the library's educational resources. The vast collection of books, online courses, and research materials have been invaluable in expanding my knowledge and skills.

The diversity of programs available is truly impressive, from author talks to art workshops and technology classes. It's a place where everyone in the family can find something they love.

But it's not just about what we've gained individually; it's about how it's strengthened our family bonds. We've spent countless weekends exploring new books together, attending events, and even volunteering as a family.

The Palm Harbor Library has become an integral part of our lives, enriching us in so many ways. We're grateful for this treasure in our community.

If you haven't visited yet, I highly encourage you to check it out! Let's continue to support this amazing resource that brings us together, sparks our curiosity, and fosters lifelong learning.

[#PalmHarborLibrary](#) [#CommunityLove](#) [#ReadingTogether](#) [#LearningJourney](#)

To whom it may concern:

Palm Harbor Parks and Rec is very accommodating especially to our special needs children. If it weren't for them our children wouldn't have an outlet for recreation or summer camps. The staff is very kind and helpful. Our son who has been turned away from numerous activities elsewhere is welcome with open arms and they treat him with the most respect anyplace ever has. He has been able to achieve his Red Belt with black stripes in Tae Kwon do and attended summer camps and classes. They are a major part of our community as well as the Palm Harbor Library.

The makers space and the many specialized loaner devices and musical instruments are amazing. The childrens staff and front desk volunteers are very kind. We love that there isn't a turn over of staff. Amanda Sklar long time Palm Harbor resident and mom of 4 boys who have utilized the library.

(Amanda Sklar, Ozona Pizza)

To the Commissioners,

I am writing in regard to the budgets for Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation.

The library and parks/rec of this unincorporated area of Pinellas County are an essential part of this city. Personally my family uses the library weekly, not only books and the play area for our son but we attend events for children every week. Those events give us and many other parents a safe, educational, enriching place to take our children to learn, socialize and grow. Those programs are free and are a blessing to so many families who cannot otherwise afford to attend such events. Moreover, those events and programs don't exist in Palm Harbor otherwise.

While new areas grow and flourish and attract families to them to live, spend money and create a home and future, you will do the opposite by not funding Palm Harbor library and parks/rec. Palm Harbor needs places that attract families into the community. If the Board is short sighted enough to underfund this area, Palm Harbor will continue become emptying strip malls, car washes and medical marijuana stores while families continue to move to places like Starkey Ranch where they find community.

Maybe your families and children have never needed a safe place, or never needed the extra help to educate and entertain your young children, but many of the people of Palm Harbor have. Many of the people who voted for you have. Please do not turn your back on this area.

Sincerely,

Hazel Plyer

Dear Pinellas County Commissioner(s), I am writing this letter to express my concern over the proposed budget cuts that would greatly affect Palm Harbor Library. I am a longtime Pinellas County resident, one of my 6 children attend a school located in Palm Harbor and my business, Seal Swim School is in Palm Harbor. Over the years (25 to be exact), my family has been frequent patrons of the Palm Harbor Library. From when my children were toddlers to their teens, Palm Harbor Library has been the ideal place for educational and creative programming to a quiet spot for my teens to complete their homework. Currently, it's our go-to spot after school and in the summer for my youngest son. The children's area is always staffed with the kindest and most patient librarians. They have great activities available for all ages, including puzzles, computer games, and the Maker's Space. My son loves visiting the Maker's Space, it's a craft zone that kids must register for on their first visit. They get a passport and a 1-hour timer to let their imaginations soar. He always uses his full 1 hour of allotted time to get creative and craft something along with other kids utilizing the area. There are always children in there, sometimes there's even a line! During the school year we use the kid's area to get homework finished and do some reading, always checking out books for bedtime while we're there. During the week they also have story and art events, and some clubs! We are partial to Pokémon club, but they have options for everyone. During the summer, visiting the library is one of my son's favorite activities. PHL's summer reading program and incentives are awesome. He will read extra on top of his school's summer reading, because of this program. The librarians are so enthusiastic about the summer reading program, they helped him pick some books based on what he was interested in, and instead of just writing down what he read, they ask the kids to come in and talk to them about their favorite parts of the books! The prizes they received were fun and educational, and the reading time is so valuable. We wish we could keep the summer reading program going all year long! On top of the reading program, their calendar is so full of events, we make sure we're online the first day of registration to try and sign up for everything. We've attended movie nights, reptile presentations, science experiments, magic shows, craft making activities, Christmas in July gingerbread building, and so many more. Those activities are the highlights of the summer, the whole family has fun and learns so much! The highly anticipated end of summer activity is the Annual Summer Splash Down, put on with the Palm Harbor Fire Department. It is always such a blast, and it brings the entire community together. I encourage you to consider the importance of continued funding for our local community library. Our families benefit greatly from this resource. Our children need a comfortable, safe and educational environment where they can continue to learn, develop and grow. Kindly, Shannon L. Seal CEO & Owner Seal Swim School North Pinellas Seal Swim School West Pasco Main Office 863 E. Klosterman Road Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689 727.943.8782 Ext 1002 shannon@sealswimschool.com www.sealswimschool.com

Hi there! I am writing in regards to your post supporting the Palm Harbor Library. I absolutely adore the Palm Harbor Library. I teach art at Tarpon Springs Elementary- the Palm Harbor Library has great resources for my classroom. I appreciate how quickly they get books to me! I also visit the library weekly to tutor a student in reading. The Palm Harbor Library is a joyous place!

Kennan Ducey

As a resident of Palm Harbor, I wanted to tell my experiences as a child who grew up homeless right here in Pinellas County. My mother was a single mom of 3 kids. My dad left her one day and stole all the money out of their joint bank accounts. She started being a single mom with not even a penny to her name. The schools that provided me an education were the only places my brothers and I were able to get food. We couldn't afford a computer to do our school work. The library was the only place we could go to use a computer for free. We used to walk to the library every day after school to use the computers or to read a book. We would spend all day there until my mom could pick us up after work. The library holds a very dear place in my heart. If not for libraries, we would have been driven to crime, such as drug addiction or theft. The library kept us on the straight and narrow path by giving us something to do after school when my mom wasn't home. We entertained ourselves on books and computers. The library turned 2 kids into successful college graduates and 1 kid into an Army vet who did a tour overseas. 3 people whose lives were changed because we had a place to go to in hard times. We would have otherwise turned to a life of crime if libraries did not exist to help children like me.

Resa A. Bell

Subject: Gratitude for Palm Harbor Library and Parks & Recreation Programs

Dear Commissioners,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt support and appreciation for the outstanding work that the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation have been doing in our community. Their programming has had a profoundly positive impact on my family and me.

The Palm Harbor Library has been a haven of knowledge, inspiration, and connection for us. The variety of books, educational resources, and activities it offers have greatly enriched our lives. As a parent, I am particularly grateful for the diverse range of children's programs that have helped foster a love for learning in my kids. From storytime sessions that ignite their imagination to educational workshops that sharpen their skills, the library has played an instrumental role in their development.

Moreover, the welcoming and knowledgeable staff at the library have always gone the extra mile to assist us, making each visit a truly enjoyable experience. It's heartwarming to see how they create a sense of belonging within our community.

On the other hand, Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation has provided endless opportunities for us to stay active, engage with nature, and build lasting memories. The parks are meticulously maintained, and the range of recreational activities cater to a wide spectrum of interests. Personally, I have witnessed the positive impact of these programs on my family's physical and mental well-being. From family picnics at the beautiful parks to participating in sports leagues that promote teamwork and camaraderie, our quality of life has been greatly enhanced.

The sense of community that both the library and Parks and Recreation department foster is truly exceptional. It's not just about the programs they offer but the way they bring people together, creating bonds and friendships that last a lifetime.

I am writing this message to encourage continued support for these invaluable institutions. Their dedication to enhancing the lives of Palm Harbor residents cannot be overstated. These programs have not only made our community a better place to live but have also enriched the lives of countless families like mine.

In conclusion, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation for their unwavering commitment to our community. I hope that their exceptional work continues to thrive, benefiting current and future generations.

Thank you once again for everything you do.

Warm regards,

Americo Jr Mota

This is the letter I just sent. Budget cuts to Palm Harbor Library and Recreation

Susan Fisher <susanfisher44@gmail.com>

6:44 PM (0 minutes ago)

to JanetCLong, brscott, cjustice, deggers, kpeters, rflowers

I'm writing as a resident of Palm Harbor, a parent of two boys, and a teacher in Pinellas County Schools. I moved to Florida in 1994. My boys who are now young adults grew up in Palm Harbor. They attended summer events at the Palm Harbor Library. They played for the Palm Harbor Recreation soccer teams, baseball teams and football teams. As a Physical Education Teacher, I know the value that these programs had on my boys and continue to have on my family and my community. To learn that Mr. Latvala proposed cuts to these programs in the Palm Harbor and East Lake areas, quite frankly disgusts me. We want our children and our community to have a sense of belonging and pride. These programs do more to bring our community together than most other programs. We don't have fancy Pop Warner football fields like many do in cities. We don't have elaborate community centers. What we do have are people willing to provide quality programs to our community members with limited resources. Resources that need to come from the Pinellas County Commission budget should not be cut for these programs. I urge you to think about the children and the community of Palm Harbor and to support the programs as they are needed in our community.

Thank you,

Susan J Fisher

Resident, mother and teacher in Pinellas County.

For the library:

My kids and I enjoy the palm Harbor library at least once a week. As soon as we pull into the parking lot my kids cheer "yay library!" We go so frequently that all the children's librarians know my kids by name. We drop by after school to play in the AC, check out some new books, and get creative in the kids maker space. We have many maker space creations hanging up in the kids' rooms. We have also checked out hundreds of books in our 8 years living in palm harbor. Every librarian is always so eager and happy to help my kids find the perfect book to check out for the week. In addition to stopping by after school, we also enjoy their special events. We have attended countless events over the years - watching the nutcracker performance, Mr Brads Music, learning about and meeting live bats, story time with a real pig, cookies with Santa, story time with Santa, weekly mother goose rhyme time, weekly toddler story time, pirate

day, trick or treating, fire truck hose down, build a stuffy, story crafts, and so many more I could never list them all. The highlight of my kids' summer is the summer reading program carnival. This year we went on vacation the last week of summer and my kids begged to be home in time for the carnival so we actually ended our vacation early so we could be home for the carnival. They worked hard to earn their carnival tickets from the summer reading program, and would rather be at the carnival than on vacation! The library is an amazing community and a place we love going.

My kids also attended several summer camps through the palm harbor CSA and loved them. It's so nice to have a community center offering events for the kids to enjoy. We have also rented the hockey rink through the CSA and really enjoyed it for my son's birthday party. It was great to have such a nice and affordable venue available for us to rent.
Kyran Kashdin

The Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Rec have been a staple since my childhood 30 years ago. The programs that were offered to the community helped shape me into the woman I am today. I still reside in Palm Harbor now, with my own family and child. We thoroughly enjoy our time during the week with the variety of children's programs and activities. We attend many reading and music classes at the library, as often as three times a week! The Center has offered family friendly events, fitness programs, camps, sports, and countless other opinions that we look forward to! Palm Harbor is such a small community, but these locations have provided additional safe havens for our children and families to meet new people, learn new things, and engage in activities that are not offered anywhere else in the area! I support our library and parks and rec, and I feel that nearly everyone in our community feels the same.
Jami Weissman

Good afternoon,

Words cannot express the amount of positive impact the Palm Harbor Library and its events have had on my children. My first child was born right as Covid hit, so his social skills growing up the first few years took a hit as well. He was terrified to leave my side let alone play with friends or attend kid friendly events without me next to him. Through attending mother goose nursery rhymes, signing time and toddler time at the Palm Harbor Library, all of which require an adult's attendance, he has come out of his shell and participated even without me encouraging him. This has also helped him easily transition well into preschool and kids church! We are so thankful for our awesome community programs.
Corinne Pinchotti Wright

Hello from a concerned library customer-I have taken my two daughters to the Palm Harbor Library each week to get books, and for story times. We learned of the HIPPY program there which enabled my 2 year old at the time to receive services to assist in early reading. She now receives Occupational Therapy (in Palm Harbor) and loves to go to library after. We attend VPK in Palm Harbor and live at the border of US19 & Curlew Road. We are ready for the yearly summer reading challenges and really benefit from the use of the help desk. The library is of great importance to our activities as a small business owner I use it regularly for PC & printing services. Please do not cut funding to this vital part of our community!

Sincerely,

Shabre Smith

Amanda J. Sobel

To whom it may concern,

This memo is in great support of the Palm Harbor Library and the benefit that it has to our community and also to my family. We have utilized the services through the Children's Department over the last year and have experienced such profound growth in our one-year-old through their programming.

The library staff, community members, and volunteers all play a crucial role in so many children's lives on a daily basis. Every visit we take, the children's center is full of zeal and excitement as they experience a world of adventure through creative programming, interactive activities, and a love of books. Cutting the funding for the Palm Harbor Library would greatly take away from a positive place and experience for our youth and future leaders of Palm Harbor.

I implore you to ask yourself if you see the value of defunding the youth and an important pinnacle location in our community.

-Amanda Sobel

Good morning, As a Palm Harbor resident and homeschooling parent, the Palm Harbor Library is a lifeline to my family. We are there weekly to borrow books, videos and various other resources in the children's library. It is at the library that I am able to help my son embrace a life of personal growth and learning. This is where the "world" opens up for him. In addition, I often go there to study to become stronger in my career as a Realtor and Maxwell Leadership Trainer/Consultant. The atmosphere creates a space of peace and opportunity to truly dig in and absorb the content I need to bring my best to my community, my family and my clients. Sincerely, April Hawthorne, resident of Oak Trail, Palm Harbor, FL. April Hawthorne

Eres, Christian

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of rickwatson24 at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 10:29 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #28550371

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

This information is a result of a Pinellas County Online Customer Service form submission from the Pinellas County web site.

Direction of Inquiry Commissioner Janet C. Long - District 1 (2023 Chair)
Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2
Commissioner Charlie Justice - District 3
Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4
Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6 (2023 Vice-Chair)
Commissioner René Flowers - District 7
County Administrator

Subject East Lake Recreation millage

Message Dear commissioners,

My name is Rick Watson and I am the president of the East Lake Recreation Advisory Board. I have been involved continually at the East Lake Youth Sports Complex since 1988 as either a parent, coach, referee or board member.

For over 25 years we literally ran the soccer, football and baseball/softball programs on a shoestring as 100% of our funding came from user fees and fundraisers. Finally in 2014 after a lot of hard work by a lot of people in our community we were able to secure our current millage rate to help fund our programs. Commissioner Long is I believe the lone remaining board member from that time.

We have since been able to complete some huge capital improvement projects including completely updating and modernizing our irrigation and lighting systems on all 13 athletic fields, resodding our fields and major improvements to drainage and parking. We have several other large projects to be funded including

1) 3 additional multipurpose athletic fields and increased parking on the Wilde property that we lease from the county. We currently have 2 fields there.

2) We desperately need a bathroom/concession building at the Wilde property as we currently only have 2 port o lets for players and spectators.

3) Our director, Mark Sanders has operated for the past 8+ years out of an old trailer. We need a real building with an office , meeting rooms, storage etc.

We still operate our complex very prudently. Mark is the only employee and parents and volunteers still rake the clay, line the fields, run concessions stands and many other things as well.

As you can imagine the cost of the projects listed above will run into several million dollars. We are also faced with a very unique set of challenges because our fields sit on top of the county water supply. Virtually all other athletic fields, golf courses etc in the county are allowed to use certain chemicals to combat nematodes, mole crickets and other things that destroy grass. We can't use those products so we are constantly fighting an uphill and very expensive battle to keep our grass alive and healthy.

I say all this to say a reduction in our current millage rate would be devastating to our efforts to continue to provide quality and affordable recreation for the children and adults in our community.

Thank you for your consideration!

Rick Watson
President
East Lake Recreation Advisory Board

Your Name	Rick Watson
Your Street Address	3376 Tarpon Woods Boulevard
City/Unincorporated County	PALM HARBOR
Zip Code	34685-2100
Your Phone Number	7272518852
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