

CITY OF COMMERCE
SPECIAL NEEDS COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 19, 2018, 6:30 P. M.
City Council Chambers

Call to Order

Chairperson Bojorquez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Flag Salute and Invocation

Commissioner Villa and Commissioner Madrigal

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Bojorquez; Cisneros; Madrigal; Lozano-Gonzalez; Villa

Commissioners Not Present: None

Staff Present: Senior Office Specialist, Liz Chavez

Staff Not Present: Liaison Moyra Garcia

Public Comment

1. Resident Lucy Mejorado has resided in the City of Commerce since 2001. Her niece Stephanie has an illness which will cause her to go permanently blind and is seeking help for her. Mrs. Mejorado mentioned that Braille would be a good tool for her to use, and started to do research on it. She stated that right now Stephanie does not live with here, but does stay on occasion to help her take care of her parents; she can call 911; she can get a hold of the family in case of an emergency, but wants her to learn more so that living with blindness can be somewhat easy for her to live with. Mrs. Mejorado mentioned that she does not want her to go through a state of depression that's why she has been looking for places that will work with Stephanie to learn Braille. She mentioned that she did find a place that's approximately 11.6 miles from her home. She went to the library and found only one book pertaining to Braille. Mrs. Mejorado heard about the Special Needs Commission and asked for their help to try and find some information as to where she can go to get help for her niece. She mentioned that maybe Library staff can attend the Braille Institute to do research and maybe provide the service to the community who may need it. The Commission thanked her for her comments.

2. Resident Diana Gudino mentioned that a few months ago she attended the Special Needs Commission meeting in regards to the adapted swimming program and how her son had been on the waiting list for a long time. She was glad to report that he is no longer on the waiting list and thanked the Commission for that. She also mentioned that she would like to see parent support groups for special needs children, parents, and siblings, and for all

family members of the Community to come together in support of Special Needs. The Commission thanked her for her comments.

SCHEDULED MATTERS

1. Approval of Minutes (Proceeded to approve when all Commissioners were present)

Commissioner Madrigal motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 15, 2018 with the following corrections: Commissioner Cisneros mentioned that since October was Cancer Month, she would like to see decorations such as pink ribbons promoting Breast Cancer Awareness. Commissioner Lozano-Gonzalez stated that her goals were to provide sign language classes for the youth and would also like to see support groups for families with special needs children.

2. California Mentor
(Unable to attend)

3. Cerebral Palsy Day

Clerk Liz Chavez stated that at the City Council meeting on September 18th the Council approved October 6th as Cerebral Palsy Day. It was suggested by Council to have the Special Needs Commission come up with ideas to promote awareness for October 6th. Commissioner Villa mentioned that October 6th, represents “World” Cerebral Palsy Day” and suggested to have a world and have green ribbons around it. She also suggested wearing green on that day to show awareness. Commissioner Bojorquez mentioned that she would rather have a decoration at each park and not just at Rosewood Park. Commissioner Lozano-Gonzales mentioned that Parks and Recreation can usually put things together really fast, so there shouldn’t be a problem making a decoration for each park. Commissioner Bojorquez stated that she received a call about Deaf Awareness and Cerebral Palsy and was not aware. She stated that the Special Needs Commission was invited to attend the Council meeting in October in reference to Deaf Awareness. Commissioner Lozano-Gonzales stated that she was not aware and she has children who are deaf and no one informed her or her husband who works for the City as well. She also stated that she called Liaison Garcia and didn’t get a response from her. She stated that it makes her upset because she’s not being informed of these situations. Commissioner Madrigal made a statement that all Commissioners should be notified and not just one Commissioner. Commissioner Bojorquez mentioned that they should all be notified ahead of time and not at the last minute.

4. Staff Reports

Clerk Chavez reported the following:

1. Flyers for the “Together is better” walk on October 20th have been distributed to all parks; flyers were placed on all department counters and on Social Media.

2. The bus will leave at 8:00 a.m. in front of City Hall on Commerce Way.
3. A bus request with a handicap ramp was submitted to Transportation.

Anyone who is interested in taking the bus can go to the Public Safety and Community Services Department to sign-up or you can call and get put on the list as well. The deadline to register is October 19th.

4. Subtitles for movies/quiet room at all special events for the community.
An agenda item was prepared to have council discuss this topic at the first council meeting in October.
5. Deaf Awareness was approved at the council meeting on September 18th.
6. In order to approve future events or to proclaim an awareness month, city council would like for all commissions to plan ahead at least one or two months in advance before presenting it to city council. For example: various ideas; kinds of activities; a child or an adult to feature in an article before presenting it to council.

5. Commission Reports

Commissioner Villa reported the following:

Commissioner Villa stated that she would like to see the age limit removed for all children/adults with special needs only. Currently parents and grandparents with special needs siblings can get a resident card up until the age of 18. After 18 they need to have an ID/Driver's license or some sort of proof for the card. Commissioner Bojorquez made a motion to have council revisit that rule to read: Adults with special needs should be able to apply for a resident card with no age limit required. All Commissioners were in favor. Motion passed. Commissioner Villa stated that she would like to make a motion to have the Library get new resource books with information on special needs. Most of the books they have now are outdated or they don't have very many books. All Commissioners were in favor. Motion passed.

Commissioner Madrigal reported the following:

Commissioner Madrigal stated that she went to the Grandparents Day Luncheon at the Senior Center. She stated that they also had Mariachis as well and was impressed by the event. Commissioner Madrigal would like to request that they provide headphones at all city events for anyone who has a special need and does not like to be around loud noises. If they could

provide at least 2 or 3 that would help those who need them. Commissioner Madrigal made a motion to have Parks and Recreation provide headphones at all city events. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Commissioner Lozano-Gonzalez reported the following:

Commissioner Lozano-Gonzales asked if any commissioners attended movie night. And if so, did they provide sub-titles? Commissioner Madrigal mentioned that the night she went to see Coco staff couldn't get the sub-titles to work, but at one of the other movie nights they did have sub-titles. Commissioner Lozano-Gonzalez stated if park staff could block off a section near the movie screen for only those who are hard of hearing. She also mentioned that her kids can hear if they sit up close to the movie and it makes it easier when the movies show sub-titles. If the children are too far back it makes it harder for them. It doesn't have to be right in front of the screen but somewhere near the front.

Commissioner Cisneros reported the following:

Commissioner Cisneros asked if the thank you letter to Parks and Recreation was sent out.

Commissioner Bojorquez reported the following:

Commissioner Bojorquez stated that she spoke to Councilmen Ivan Altamirano and he said that he would like to have more information on Braille. Commissioner Bojorquez would like for us to reach out to the Library for the blind and the Braille Institute/Library Services to see if they could possibly come to a Special Needs Commission meeting to make a presentation on their services. She stated that she would send the link so we can look into it. Commissioner Bojorquez stated that on the surveys we could provide information as to how many families would be interested in support groups; what days and what times would work best. Commissioner Bojorquez asked if the council decided to individually appoint someone to the Special Needs Commission like all other Commissions.

Adjournment

Chairperson Bojorquez adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.