

CITY OF COMMERCE
SPECIAL NEEDS COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD JANUARY 17, 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 Lozano-Gonzalez led the Flag Salute and Vice-Chairperson Cisneros led the Invocation.

Roll Call

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

Commissioners Not Present: None

Staff Present: Liaison Moyra Garcia, Senior Office Specialist, Liz Chavez

Staff Not Present: None

Public Comment

None

SCHEDULED MATTERS

1. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Madrigal motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting held December 20, 2017. Chairperson Cisneros seconded the motion. Motion passed.

2. Rosewood Park Central Library

Evelyn Diaz, Literacy Program Manager, gave a presentation on the One-On-One Tutor Program, and introduced Beatrice Sarmiento, Library Director, to speak on the history of the program. The Library Director stated that in 2002 they received a grant to help kids with special needs in terms of reading and writing. With that grant a Special Needs Coordinator was hired to work with those individuals. It started as a remedial program to work with children in grade levels 3rd to 12th grade. After a year, the City Council approved to continue the program and it remains in existence. Evelyn Diaz stated that the one-on-one tutoring program is for children who are below two grade levels in the area of Language Arts and must have an Individualized Educational Plan, (IEP). All individuals must be identified with a Specific Learning Disability.

Parents sign a contract and regular attendance is mandatory. The class meets once a week for a period of 30-35 minutes. At this time they have a total of 15 students participating. The program is free and currently there is a waiting list. The program is

open to the public. The program is ongoing as long as the child needs the tutoring. Staff stated they are going through a transitional period because children tend to exit out of the program, transfer to another program, they improve and no longer need the service, or they turn 18 years.

Commissioners asked the following questions: Is the Read Center offered at other Libraries? Can an individual who does not have an IEP participate? How many tutors do they have and what are their titles? Are there other programs to help families and their Special Needs children? Can the Library do research to provide information and referrals on Special Needs Programs to accommodate the Children? Would it be possible to provide a program for Special Needs Children 3 and under? Does the program focus on the age of an individual or their grade level? Can the program be extended to individuals who are 22 or older? Does the Library provide services for children who can't hear nor speak? Can the Commission do anything to help the Library provide services to Special Needs Children?

Library staff answered all their questions and stated that they are assessing the program and checking progress with the Tutors to see how many students they currently have, how long they've been with those individuals, what the progression of the child is, and to see if current participants are making improvements so they can be replaced with new students. Assessing the program will determine if the program should have a limit for each individual.

Commissioners feel the Library does a great job and want to be educated with the programs they offer. Commissioner Cisneros stated that the Commission wants to get educated on the services they offer. The Commission wants to be the voice of the community to make them aware of services offered. The Commissioners thanked staff for their presentation.

3. Staff Reports

Liaison Garcia reported the following:

Festival of Human Abilities, January 27th and 28th

- Reminded the Commissioners about the Special Needs event at the Aquarium of the Pacific.
- **Public Information Office**
The Public Information Office would like to take a new approach for the Commerce Connect. They are asking for suggestions or stories that would be helpful in educating families on Special Needs Children.

4. Commission Reports

Commissioner Cisneros reported the following:

- She made a motion to discuss Autism Awareness at the next meeting in February and asked if anyone would like to second the motion

Commissioner Madrigal seconded the motion. All Commissioners were in favor.

Adjournment

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