

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
5655 JILLSON ST., COMMERCE, CALIFORNIA  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018 AT 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Griego at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Zavala led those present in the salute to the flag and invocation.

Chairperson Griego

Vice Chairperson Garcia

Commissioner: Aguilar & Zavala

Absent: L. Perez

Ernesto Gonzalez, representing Commerce Deserves, approached the Commission to inform the Commission about what the organization is about, stating that it has been in existing for about 1.5 years, it is involved in community building activities, participated in spreading holiday cheer at our local senior housing centers. Highlighting issues expressed to the organization by residents such as clean air and environmental issues, traffic as well as quality jobs in the area. How the environment is affecting their family, health and children. The organization is building projects where the community can be engaged and be part of the decision making process. They applied for the civic organization status to help the organization grow, to connect more residents to some of the work that they are doing. It's basically organizing this, and funding this with their own money and they want to be able to expand their reach as well as connect with the city and find more areas of collaboration (Mr. Gonzalez invited questions). \*Director Lipton reminded the Commission that this was public comment but allowed the Commission to ask questions.

Chairperson Griego stated that the Ernie stated the organization has been around for 1.5 years and what he just heard was that they do a lot of activities, well some, not a lot, that our commissioners already to or commissions. Although two topics that he brought up were jobs and housing that I guess residents came to you guys and asked for help. What are you guys doing on those two particular topics?

Mr. Gonzalez: In terms of jobs, what they have been doing is that we've been doing some background work on Green Tech and we've also been building a policy around that, and what we are doing is that we want authentic feedback from the community. Sometimes, community feedback is lacking in the commission meetings, right? Like I'm on the Planning Commission and I see that too, we don't get a lot of feedback from residents and one of the issues is that sometimes these platforms are not accessible sometimes families need child care, sometimes

there's language barriers, sometimes there are times that residents can't get here. So what they are trying to do is like Commerce is pretty small nit and we all kind of know each other and it's always the same people getting involved, so what we want to hear from the folks who are not involved, who are not connected to anyone in anyway and hear them out and hear what their ideas are and in community organizing, what you do is you identify an issue and identify ways on how the community can impact that issue. That is what they are trying to bridge that gap so that there is more representation and also accountability in terms of the city.

Chairperson Griego: You still didn't answer the question, like what are you doing for those two topics? You said you went to Green Tech to try to get jobs for residents? Is that what it is? Or introducing them to Green Tech so they can apply?

Mr. Gonzalez: The thing is, that's what we are doing now, the part of the process is planning this, it's not about telling the residents what they need it's about having building consensus with the residents so organizing takes time, that's primarily what we do. Community building takes time, I don't know if you have had experience with any sort of community building or community organizing, it takes quite a while to really gauge the community, have them build that capacity to try to learn how they can make an impact in their community.

Chairperson Griego: The reason I bring up that topic is, and I have experience, I work at a church and we create a job fair, you get corporate America, we got people who come in and talk to our parish in the city of Pico Rivera so that's one and then the housing, what part of the housing are you working with the community are you trying to create housing for residents or are they asking you guys..

Mr. Gonzalez: Housing is a complicated issue right? You know we stand to lose homes here in the City of Commerce with the 710 expansion and it's definitely an issue that's reigniting with residents and all over L.A. As far as solutions for housing, we'd like to create that connection between our Council, the City and constituents on what are the real demands for housing in the City right? In the City, we always talk about like wanting certain businesses, wanting certain things, right? And the excuse is always here there is not enough roof tops right? So what can we do as residents to be part of that coming up with solutions, it's something that, it's complicated, we do not have the answers to it, but the hope here is that we are creating a platform for resident engagement, because sometimes, like I said, it's tough, it's pretty disheartening like when you see meetings like this, this is the community engagement right? That we have in our City right? Our Commissions right? Civic organizations right? And it's hard, so we are trying to find creative ways to engage the community and bringing that to the City. So that's where we are at.

Chairperson Griego: Still green right? You guys are still going through the process of building and creating a better platform?

Mr. Gonzalez: That's exactly why we did the survey, because we don't want to tell the people, we want to hear from residents, we want to hear what resonates with residents.

Vice Chairperson Garcia: And where do you meet?

Mr. Gonzalez: So far we have been meeting at people's homes, since we just started, we are officially nonprofit as of February of last year. So now we hope to have some public spaces where we can invite more folks and open it up to the broader community.

Director Lipton: You'd like to be at a park? You'd like park space/meeting space?

Mr. Gonzalez: Park space or anywhere that's accessible to invite more folks.

Director Lipton: Put a request in.

Chairperson Griego: You get that right, when you become a club?

Director Lipton: You can come by and fill out a Facility Request, one of the problems is...Bandini Park is probably the.....it's where everybody meets. Rosewood's impacted.

Vice Chairperson Garcia: Your talking like a resident coming to rent out a facility is that what you're saying? Or are you talking about a club already?

Director Lipton: Well there is programming that takes place at all the parks during the week and then we do have other civic organizations that have been there for years with their meeting times.

Chairperson Griego: Other organizations use the facilities to meet as well?

Director Lipton: Yes, like Bandini Park, Joe knows, the Democratic Club meets there and we have a couple of other clubs that meet that meet there...you have to look at probably Bristow Park as a possible meeting place if you meet during the week or on a Saturday morning, there is ways to work it out. Come meet with our staff at the counter, we'll help you out.

Commissioner Aguilar: Ernie, I have one question, what was the real reason to come to this particular commission?

Mr. Gonzalez: I was asked by the department and the Commission to

explain a little more about the organization. So I kind of gave like an overview of some of our key goals and the mission of the org as well as some of the planned events. For this year what we are doing is we are doing a... to coincide with the City's Spring Clean Up, we're doing in March where we are informing residents on recycling products, recycling television and things like that and collecting those items from residents, in particular residents that can't come out and throw that on their own, like seniors for example. In the summer time we have a...we are working on sponsoring a family for back to school, we are partnering up with Rosewood School. For August we partner with Scholarship for Scholars with MUSD where we do fundraising for students, I believe they are AB540 students. So that's where we are at right now. The senior brunch that we do every year. The Commission wanted a little more information about the organization and what we have been doing in the city and why we are trying to get Civic Org status for purposes of expanding the organization and getting more folks involved.

Director Lipton: April will probably be when you come back to give us an official report, we will put you on the agenda, because right now you are on probation for this year and you'll have to do a quarterly report. April, we can put them on the Agenda to come back with some more information which is part of the process with the P&R Commission.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Commission reviewed for approval the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 4, 2018. Commission Zavala stated that she wanted to table an item to the next meeting because we do need some corrections. P&R Admin. Coordinator explained that the Commission can approve as corrected, should there be a correction to be made. So what happens is, you make your corrections and it will be approved as corrected, you will see at the next meeting that if we miss something, the minutes will be approved as corrected. You can approve as is, you can approve as corrected, or you can not approve at all. Commissioner Zavala: From the Civic Organization renewal list, where I don't see on here where we all voted to hear more on this organization. P&R Admin. Coordinator: Yes, that is when the organization comes back on its probation period and I talk to Robert because we thought we were going to bring them back. What happens is this process is that they are on probation and they come back quarterly to give you what he gave you today which are all of the information, it's the normal process. Because you wanted to hear from them, Ernie was nice enough to come during public comment to give you a heads up, because he is going to give you most of the same report plus whatever they've done.

The minutes were then approved as corrected \*Adding the Commission's request to have the organization on the agenda to provide more information to the Commission. Motioned was made by Commission Zavala, seconded by Vice Chairperson Garcia.

## Relay for Life

Commissioner Zavala reported that the American Cancer Society has made a lot of changes, their little commission (all 5) have agreed to join in with Downey, because they were so small this year, they agreed to join Downey, which is June 6, but as a team, they still fundraise, versus having their booths and having each team and compete against each other on the day of the relay. We are going to do it as a city, as a whole, so on April 14, we are going to have our fundraiser day that day which will be the same because they do it for the cancer survivor and the caregiver. It will still take place at Bandini Park, it will not be a 24 hour walk, it will be a luminarias ceremony. This will just focus on the luminarias ceremony. Met with Veronica Hannah already on Monday, so, she has everything, it's pretty simple, because we are not going to do the walk, it will be the ceremony, focused on the survivor and the caregiver. It will be from noon to 9 p.m. At the end of the evening, they are all together anyways, so that is why they decided to join with Downey. That is the biggest fundraiser because everybody purchases the luminarias bag. It will be set a little different, because Bandini is smaller, Veronica has an idea already on how to set up. Director Lipton inquired about the fees, Esther will ask about the fees. The information will be up on Facebook. They are going to show the American Cancer Society that they are not giving up, they are going to always relay. It will not be the 24 hour walk. It will be from noon to 9 p.m. Director Lipton explained the possibility of using the parking lot for the proposed rummage sale.

## 2018 Civic Organization Renewal List – Additional

The Commission discussed and approved to recommend the Commerce Aquatics Booster Club, the Model City Democratic Club of Commerce and the Woman's Club of Rosewood as a 2018 Civic Organization for the City of Commerce.

Commission Zavala asked if those are the 3 that they are going to approve, what about the ones that are already here (on the list)? It was explained that the list is what was approved last meeting. Commission Zavala asked why Commerce Deserves Better was on the list, it was explained that they are on the list as "on probation". Her question was, how did they get to that point because we didn't approve them, the question was, for us to hear first because they didn't approve for them to move, that was the question. The process was then explained to the Commission with respect to a club on probationary status. At the end of the probationary period, the Commission can and will decide whether to approve them as an official organization or not. This is a recommendation to Council. They were on the first list. Ms. Zavala stated that there was a question to hear more because we didn't agree with it. Director Lipton advised that nobody asked to exclude them from the list. That was the issue, even though it would still go forward to Council advising them that they are asking for approval. There was no questions at the Council meeting, it just passed.

Chairperson Griego: It's coming to a point where this part, in my opinion, I was uneducated about it and I apologize and that is why I've said for the past three years that I need to go to some type of training to know how to words things and also to maybe understand that because if that was the case, I would have not just said what I said last meeting, I would have said, I don't want this to go to Council, and that when maybe you guys had to come in and help us out on that because that was what I meant, was I didn't want for that, I wanted them to come and give us their spill so I can go to my Council and/or us as a group to review it and then go back to Council to let them know that they are good and they are bad at this, but apparently, what we did was, we said approved.

Vice Chairperson Garcia: I don't think we approved it.

Chairperson Griego: By not pulling them out, we approved them. That's what I'm saying about the wording.

Director Lipton: You have to say, we approve all of the agencies, expect for this one and at that point, it goes forward to the City Council with your recommendation and the City Council can actually take a look at that and move all of them forward. Which is highly unlikely, but there was an opportunity for communication, at that point, we are at the Council level.

Chairperson Griego: It's a lesson learned.

P&R Admin. Coordinator: Borunda: We can present it to Council as not approved for recommendation to proceed.

Commissioner Zavala: Since we are on the subject, can I open another motion, a motion to reconsider of the Commerce Deserves Better? I want a motion to reconsider what took place.

Director Lipton: What you are asking for, because it went to Council, you are asking us to go back to Council with the Commission's request to revoke their status?

Commissioner Zavala: Me, personally, I think, how long did they say they were here?

Chairperson Griego: One year and a half.

Commissioner Zavala: I think it's to new.

Director Lipton: To be honest with you, this may have to go to Council level to, for someone at Council to start that process.

Chairperson Griego: Again, you say they are on probation. So they are going to be coming to every meeting?



Director Lipton: They will come quarterly, every 3 months.

Chairperson Griego: Why do we have to approve them? Or suggest?

Director Lipton: That's just part of the process here in the City of Commerce.

Chairperson Griego: Of all the clubs? How come none of the other clubs came to us?

P&R Admin. Coordinator: Because all of the other clubs were already established prior to you getting here.

Chairperson Griego: Oh ok, so they have always come to P&R and P&R approves or disapproves or suggests.

Director Lipton: If there is a civic organization if you personally know they are not meeting, not doing this, not doing that, you can not recommend the group, and that happens, but we have not seen that in a long time. The only time that has happened is when they do not qualify.

Chairperson Griego: Not to knock on father time, but Joe you have been here the longest.

Commissioner Aguilar: I really don't remember anything of this nature occurring.

Chairperson Griego: I'm looking at some of the clubs, kind of are, what he mentioned, like what they do. These clubs are already established, besides us, because we are commissioners. Like he said about air quality, we already have an air quality commission right?

Director Lipton: They are a civic organization doing something at a completely different level from an actual established committee.

Chairperson Griego: But some of the stuff they do here, it kind of doubles up. Like they do the same thing.

Director Lipton: Like which one?

Vice Chairperson Garcia: The City already has a Traffic Commission or a Traffic Department, Community Services.

Director Lipton: You have to remember this is only a civic organization, they are community based. They are not an appointed commission. They are a civic organization, they go out and they do...this is what they do so it's all up to you how you want to interpret what they do for the community. So at this point, they are on probation, you are now just looking at the newer clubs at this point to approve. I know you are

bringing this up because they are on here but they already went through City Council, they are approved as probationary status, what's going to happen is, during this process, and it goes on the agenda in April, when they come back, and I have to double check on this...if you want to take some type of action at that time. During their first report, and that's when you have to do it. I need to check with the City Clerk. Let me get back to you.

Commissioner Zavala: My concern is, they are already thanking me on Facebook for approving them and I thought ..oh are you? So I want to know more because everything he said right now is fine, it's good but what they are out there saying is totally opposite of what I'm reading. So I want to know.

Director Lipton: So when they come back in April, you can hear the report and really, that's your chance to really ask them question. We will get them on the agenda for April.

Commissioner Zavala: And it will give us time to see what they do from here to April.

Chairperson Griego: Yes, they can't do much a one month. They really haven't done much in a year and a half so let's give them some time.

\*Public Comment: Johnsito Peraza who resides at 5005 Astor Ave. Stated: I think a lot of good points were raised during the discussion but what I wanted to mention at the beginning of the discussion in terms of the commission should or shouldn't, for lack of a better word, revoke it, I did notice during the discussion there were some good questions raised, I personally do feel that a lot things that Commerce Deserves Better, although noble, there a lot of things that different Commissions and other organizations do, for example reaching out to the community on neighborhood issues, our department in Community Services, we have the neighborhood watch meetings, we have town halls, Robert, you know the issues we have on Astor. So we do reach out to the community and in regards as to what the process is, for those who know me, I'm a little good at Robert's Rules of Order and if there is a motion to reconsider a previous vote, the Commission, it's my understanding, and Robert can check with the City Clerk that can be done given that the item is for discussion on the agenda on the agenda item tonight. Since it's on the agenda already, the Commission or any Commissioner can place a motion to reconsider a previous vote, so you can revisit a previous vote and you can have that motion tonight given that it is an agenda item. However, if staff wants to go ahead and confirm with the City Clerk, go ahead and do so.

Director Lipton: This is basically dealing with additional civic organizations tonight, so it doesn't include them.

Mr. Peraza: It's depended on how it is languageed on the agenda item



specifically.

Director Lipton: I'm reading it right now.

Mr. Peraza: That being said, I did want to mention that because we had that on our Community Services Commission, right after we got some new Commissioners in terms of where we are going to have patrolling and we want to send recommendation to Council asking let's not keeping going all the time to Bristow or wanting Veterans, so we've done that but we have done that under the motion of reconsider a previous vote which we have been able to go. Again, I think that can go ahead and confirm with the City Clerk's office but I did want to share my take on that.

Chairperson Griego: So by approving this, we are approving this...Commerce Aquatics Booster Club, they are in the front. But they are also in the back.

P&R Admin. Coordinator: That one was prematurely put on by staff, getting this ready. Commerce Aquatics. Commerce Aquatics is new, I have their form here. That one is also for your recommendation tonight.

Commissioner Zavala: And these are clubs that have been around for a while right?

Director Lipton: Right, they are pretty established. I don't see anything here that is out of the ordinary.

Chairperson Griego: Well, Commerce Aquatics, that's pretty much self-explanatory, they are boosters for our sports team. The Model City Democratic Club of Commerce, what do they do?

Commissioner Aguilar: (inaudible)...fundraisers, and they go to different events. Democratics they do some leg work for them. So basically, what the republicans do for the republicans, but it's been here since.

Chairperson Griego: Women's Club of Rosewood Park, is that like a PTA?

Commissioner Aguilar: Not exactly, no, they have their projects, their favorite projects, I think the Women's Club of Rosewood Park is the one that sets up the Flea Market and their basic fundraisers and they support the school. Why am I answering these questions?

Chairperson Griego: The reason I'm asking is because some of the things that the other club said, these people do.

Commissioner Zavala: Excuse me, I already had that motion and nobody second it.

Vice Chairperson Garcia: I'll second it.

Commissioner Aguilar: What motion are we talking about?

Commissioner Zavala: I put the motion, I did.

Director Lipton: What's the motion?

Commissioner Zavala: I motion the reconsideration for Commerce Deserves Better. That was my motion

Director Lipton: What do you mean by reconsider? What kind of action do you want to take? Do want to put them on the agenda for next month? Because that's what it sounds like you are doing.

Commissioner Zavala: Yes, because there was a miscommunication, there was everything that wasn't understood correctly or because we worded it wrong.

Director Lipton: Ok, so we will put it on the agenda that you basically want to take another look at the civic organizations, specifically, the Commerce Deserves Better.

Commissioner Zavala: Yes.

Director Lipton: Ok, that's fine. For reconsideration. We'll put that on the agenda. You need to get a motion on that and a vote if you want to do that. She's putting it on the floor. Is there a second? (Vice Chairperson Garcia seconded the vote).

P&R Admin Coord: We have motion, Commissioner Aguilar, your vote?

Commissioner Aguilar: I won't second it yet.

P&R Admin. Coord: Roll Call: Commissioner Zavala: Yes.

Commissioner Aguilar: Before I vote, I want a further explanation as to the reason why we are doing it. Because they are on probation so they are not official anyway, so you are recommending you don't even want them on the list?

Director Lipton: She wants to discuss it at the next meeting.

Commissioner Zavala: Discuss it because there was a miscommunication. Yes.

Commissioner Aguilar: ...Ok.

Director Lipton: I can put it on the agenda anyway, for next meeting, you don't really have to take a vote, but you want to go through this

process, I can still put it on the agenda for the next month.

P&R Admin. Coordinator: Vice Chairperson Garcia? Yes. Chairperson Griego: ....

Chairperson Griego: You are still saying you want to put them on the agenda, is that what you are saying?

Commissioner Zavala: Well because it's to reconsider....so it's going to be on the agenda.

Director Lipton: She's bringing it out as a motion so I can't really stop her.

Commissioner Zavala: Because there was already a motion out there.

Chairperson Griego: Yes (vote). Now just to be fair, so these three are submitting for renewal.

P&R Admin. Coordinator: Yes, they have been with the City for many many years and normally, it's just a general approval for recommendation to Council.

Chairperson Griego: I would just like, if you can, we are going to approve it, but if we could just have like a brief description of what they do. The only obvious one is the boosters. Like the Auld Lang Syn. 6:51

P&R Admin. Coordinator: Do you want a copy of their book?

Chairperson Griego: No, if someone can do it, or whatever, something brief because to approve this one, if other people are doing other clubs, then...I remember when I was a kid there was a couple of clubs that they did the same thing and it was like a battle.

Director Lipton: So are you asking for one of these clubs to show up?

Chairperson Griego: No, I mean, they have been here for years but what I'm saying is a little brief when someone does come up, if it happens next year, like if someone wants to have a booster club, we can tell them that we already have booster club, why do you want another one for? They may say, well we don't like them, they don't..

Director Lipton: Absolutely, if somebody new comes on board, I hear you on this?

Commissioner Zavala: Are we going to go through this every year?

P&R Admin. Coordinator: Every year they have to renew, we send out the notification letters by November, by December we gather them all and try to present them as early by December or January and that's just

the first batch. Once the organizations see that the first batch has been approved, that's when they kind of hurry and submit their form and you'll see them start trickling in the next couple of months.

## CPRS 2018 Update

The Commission received an update with respect to the upcoming CPRS Conference. March 14-16. We are providing a bus if you would like to go with us on the bus.

Chairperson Griego asked if Robert will be going, Robert responded he will go for one day, he needs to stay and watch the fort.

Director Lipton: The shuttle leaves at 6:45 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. Should the commission not be able to make the shuttle, they can go on their own. You can use your per diem for parking if you plan to do it that way. It is the 3 days we are going, I'll try to meet everyone down there for lunch (on Friday). Then we will have lunch together. Just curious, I know everyone signed up here, how are you guys for the bus, are you feeling you can handle that? It's an easy way to get down there, you don't have to worry about parking. (Discussion followed on bus shuttle). Housekeeping rules, the convention is in Long Beach so your meals need to be in Long Beach, you can't eat over here and turn in your receipts. It will be red flagged by finance. What you do is you turn in your receipts and cash not used or a check to the City of Commerce at the end. Also, you cannot buy alcohol, you cannot buy movie tickets, you cannot buy souvenirs. So it's just for parking and meals when you are there.

Chairperson Griego: Can you buy cookies? (yes)

Commissioner Zavala: Has anybody ever turned in movie tickets?

Director Lipton: There was a point when it was ok to do things like that. But souvenirs were never and alcohol was ok years ago, but not anymore. \*Discussion followed on sessions and distribution of information.

Chairperson Griego: When you say staff, what staff goes usually?

Director Lipton: The supervisors, the full time staff and I think we two part time coordinators going.

Vice Chairperson Garcia: Who's the full time staff going?

Director Lipton: The park supervisors.

Vice Chairperson Garcia: Who is that?

Director Lipton: Ernie, Maryanne, Terry and Laura Logan. (Terry will not be going). It's optional if they want to go or not.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Director Lipton: Reported on the upcoming Miss Commerce Pageant, 17 girls participating, which is the largest number of girls we've had in a long time. 20 is the max, so 17 turns into kind of a long evening. The Day of Empowerment is coming up for all the participants this Saturday. As we move forward towards the Queen's Breakfast, you are allowed one guest. We are not selling extra tickets. It's just you and a guest. \*Discussion on the number of tickets followed. We do have a Dodger Night coming up; it's coming up in May. \*Bus parking at Dodger Stadium followed. The Commission was reminded that the Commission is invited to all park programs. \*Park program information followed. We have two new pieces of equipment up in the gym.

Chairperson Garcia: Can I say something real quick? So the Monday through Friday Park Program, is there a brochure that we can have so that we can know what times things are happening? Including the City Birthday.

Director Lipton: The City Birthday was actually...they gave us direction at a Council Meeting and it was quick.

Commissioner Aguilar: Was there any publicity on that?

Director Lipton: They put it on Facebook.

Commissioner Aguilar: Ok, I don't use Facebook.

Director Lipton: It was just part of Park Program. \*Discussion followed on information provided.

Commissioner Zavala: Is there a brochure?

Chairperson Griego: They send them to the houses.

Commissioner Zavala: Like for every park, is it all on one? You know what I mean, like whatever happens at Bandini, is it all on one?

Director Lipton: We have equal Park Program, except for some specialty classes. Park Program, is the same Park Program at all four parks. \*Discussion followed.

Vice Chairperson Garcia: So then we can get the brochure and then if something last minute is thrown to you guys, can we also find out that same day, like the City Birthday. I need to know ahead of time because I work far. I'd like to attend all of the programs if I could.

Commissioner Zavala: I enjoyed that, I enjoyed that they did that at all the different parks. People came out, I know there were some women

that commented "This is it?" I don't know if they agreed with the way they were doing it, but I loved it. I had the chance to see the Kids Club, they had the music going, the cake was there. It was like a big party. Everybody was just like hanging out. The Kids Club was going on, they were being well taken care of. I enjoyed it. \*Discussion followed.

Director Lipton: In the 5 year mark, we'll have a big celebration.

## **COMMISSION REPORTS**

Commissioner Aguilar: Because of the holidays I don't think we had too many activities at the parks, but since our last meeting, one of the things I do want to mention is that we did have the celebration of life for Val, that was a fantastic event. Annelle, my stepdaughter, already sent out letters to everyone that was involved in having it. Personally, I'd like to thank Robert and staff for the outstanding job they've done. The City as a whole, starting with our Mayor, she came down to the house after the passing of Val and she basically told us that the City was ours for that particular day. If it wasn't for Val, she was one of many that got the City incorporated. She did a lot for the City, I remember her attending the Miss Commerce contest and her making her comments about what was up there and I remember staff would get a kick out of the fact that she was very outspoken and she told it the way it was. But again, I'd like to thank the entire City and the individuals that attended and I know a lot of people did not attend because it was a rainy day and people work and it's very difficult. We felt that the City's heart was with us and I want to extend my appreciation.

Commissioner Zavala: I like to think positive. I attended January's Lions Club meeting at Bandini Park. With all the changes, whatever is happening at Veterans Park, that everybody is meeting over there, there was other meetings at the same time so they were moved to I guess it was the Kids Club Room, the staff did an awesome job accommodating everybody, however, there was a couple of chairs that we sat on that were broken and I thought that's not cool. They were the white fold chairs that we set up for the meetings. There were two of them. But I just thought, accommodating everybody and just trying to do that I thought don't let those little things.. Because there's elderly's in the Lions Club and God forbid if they sat down and something happened. But I just wanted to bring that up because staff does such a good job and there is ugly people out there that.....I don't want anyone else to say something bad because I just thought wow, there's all kinds of meetings going on and well Bandini Park is may park and I just feel at home, I wish I could take my bag with me, you know. I just wanted to bring that up. Vice Chairperson Garcia: Maybe the supervisors can do inventory on their tables and chairs. Director Lipton: That's what they are supposed to be doing, I'll put that out there tomorrow. Thank You Mireya. Commissioner Zavala: I know there wasn't much just like Joe said after the holidays and stuff but I did go to the Neighborhood Watch meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>, I think to encourage everyone who can when there is a meeting to come out and either voice your opinion on something or hear what other people have to say because even though it's the



Neighborhood Watch, we have to kind of be on our ears and alert about what they have to say because whether they are talking about a certain street or a park or wherever, it's good for everybody to come out and just hear what the people have to say, some good information too. I work towards Long Beach and something goes on during the day, I hear about it there and if I want more information, and I think they are really good. I just want to encourage you guys, if you can to attend them too when you see them posting up. That's pretty much it, I did come to the Rosewood Park Birthday Celebration for my hot dog and it was good. But I did enjoy it.

Vice Chairperson Garcia: I have a question, what happened to our pictures? Our pictures that we took all together, they are really nice pictures but.. \*Discussion for to staff to follow up with PIO Division. So those do go up at the facilities? I'm glad because I attended a banquet a Veterans Park and I walked in and the banquet was over and I'm standing there, and no one told me the banquet's over. There's people walking around and they didn't really know I was a Commissioner, sorry Chris, including the Supervisor so... Director Lipton: She was there? Vice Chairperson Garcia: Yes. Director Lipton: My apologies. Chairperson Garcia: So, I'm glad the pictures are going to go up there. The second thing I want to bring up is, I had a few complaints. People going into City Hall, they're saying that they don't feel welcomed when they go to your counter. They feel that it's like empty. There is no one there. So I guess they are comparing social services office, department, where you walk in and you can see everyone and I believe they said HR or Community Development where you walk in to the left and you can see everyone, so maybe we can have something like that for our recreation department where we can walk in and you know, see someone and feel welcomed. They feel that they are not welcomed there and they have to ring a bell and I think our department is the most used department so.... Director Lipton: This is the first time I'm hearing this, it would be nice to know who this person is. Vice Chairperson Garcia: Well I like to introduce myself to the community when I do special events or when I go out there so people start voicing their concerns. Director Lipton: There is a receptionist at the counter. Vice Chairperson Garcia: I've also been there and I felt the same way so. Director Lipton: We have one receptionist counter and if it gets busy then another person is called up to the counter from there at that point. There is the opposite effect to it to, because this happened before, if you are in view and this person is actually doing work over there and there is not a line, but someone waiting and that person is being helped, then they take a turn there and they start looking, they start saying well that person should come up and that's not necessarily the truth that the person should come up. Just like in Finance, not everybody from every desk is going to come up to the counter. They only have one person handling where people pay. But they are all in view and some people can get upset saying "well why does that person not come up from way in the back?" Vice Chairperson Garcia: Well that's why we are in recreation so we can always say "we'll be with you

in a minute". We should expect, exceptional customer service and I think that when we walk to a counter, we should be able to see our staff and be excited and feel welcomed, and the community, they are not feeling welcomed, at all. \*Discussion followed.

Chairperson Griego: I too went to the birthday party, it was good, good food but I also have a complaint. I want just some clarification, what are the procedures for our travel clubs when they have to come out of pocket to purchase something. Director Lipton: What are we talking about? Chairperson: What's the procedure when our travel clubs participants, have to buy something for the club, informs, shoes, ball, bats, whatever, what's the procedure? Based on if the City buys it? They collect all of the money? What's the procedure on that? Director Lipton: Travel teams have the choice of using our uniforms and if you bringing up baseball. Chairperson: I'm bringing up just in general first, so you give them options, you can use these shirts or you can buy your own? . Director Lipton: Right. Chairperson Griego: So when they opt to purchase their own, what's the procedure from there? Director Lipton: Then it's up to them, the parents to fundraise and get the money together and we can make the purchase for them. We have gone through a lot of changes in the process, we had some issue that did come up with parents questioning how much money was fundraised, with staff involved. Now staff is no longer involved in the fundraising process. Just to protect the staff, and also to protect the parents that may be helping out. It's really up to the parents to organize, like the booster club, it's all parents. So what happens is that, if they can't fundraise, then they have to bring up the money. If they want to get expensive uniforms, they have to decide as a team because you can't wear a uniform from this store, because you got it for \$20 less, and then Joe's kid goes to this high end store and buys something that is completely different. It's got to be the same uniform. \*Discussion followed. So like Crush Volleyball, it came around this year because they were having issues getting their money turned in. Chairperson Griego: That's the complaint that I got over the weekend...I've dealt with Jorge in the past and this is out of his hands I wanted to contact Frank this week because he's name was brought up by not just one parent, but from multiple parents and the question was, there was a certain date that was presented to parents, or you don't play anymore. So they paid the money and asked when the uniforms were coming in? The answer was "well, not everyone has paid yet" so this parent was like time out, they just told me that I had to pay this by a certain date or I couldn't play anymore but you are telling me the reason why the uniforms were not ordered was because everyone hasn't paid yet. Director Lipton: I can talk to you after the meeting about this. But it backs up quite a bit. Where parents were given the deadline, and then nobody paid. And then we had another meeting and at that point we realized maybe they don't have the money or it's too expensive. So another package was offered. If you want to buy just the jersey and the shorts, that would be \$100, if want the whole package, it's \$250. \*Discussion followed on deadline and uniform order and directives. So

from now on, when Crush comes around again, these deadlines are going to be shorter, faster and we'll give them the option again. \*Discussion of package options followed. Chairperson Griego: I would like to put it on the agenda, to review our procedures of travel clubs because you said two things that are really a big concern to me and a lot of our residents. We are still the City of Commerce, we are still a City program, and then you said right now, other clubs. We are not other clubs, I think in the past, I think that some people that run these programs, Jorge, Miguel, my brother back in the day at one point or another they think they are their own club so they try to run it like that and it's impossible to do something like that. So I think there needs to be some better procedures because if our concern is just for our city residents, then we need to regulate all these things. To a certain point it is, to tell someone, because (1), Frank should not be getting involved. If you have a director which is Jorge Ortiz, then he should.. Director Lipton: He's not the director, he's a coach. \*Discussion followed: Chairperson Griego: So if Frank is the Director of the whole entire program \*Discussion of titles followed. Director Lipton: Discussed fundraisers and explained the concept of what's considered the gift of public funds. Chairperson Griego: Travel has to be a little different than just parks and rec. You said, staff is no longer involved in fundraising anymore? (correct) Does the coach have the responsibility to decide what they do with that money? \*Fundraising discussion followed. Director Lipton: The city is there to pay for their entry fees. We are here to provide a uniform, but these club teams, they have some pride there, and they want to wear their own and they have to pay for it or you fundraise and you bring the rice down. But if you don't fundraise, you are going to pay. It's pretty clear now, how we are handling it because there was some gray area and I have to admit, we did make some mistakes in the past so we are moving forward and I can have Frank come here and if there is still some discussion going on out there, we asked, we had a staff meeting, we asked what parents are complaining? We'd like to know, we'd like to talk to them directly, and we couldn't get any names. \*Discussion followed on uniform delays and reasons why the uniform was or was not ordered, uniform rates for delayed orders. Chairperson Griego I felt bad at the tournament, we really looked...even though, a lot of team, in the past, we always looked good. All of our City teams had nice uniforms. That particular day, I swear it looked like our girls were in P.E. uniforms. Literally. Our Commerce rec. uniforms are better than the ones...Director Lipton: They were wearing the practice uniforms. \*Discussion followed.

Vice Chairperson Garcia: I have one more question sorry, going back to the Miss Commerce Pageant, actually congratulations for the 17 girls. Did you guys advertise the application online because you know, we're dealing with millennials now and you know they like everything on computers. P&R Admin Coordinator: It was online, we advertised it on the Citadel bulletin, and they were nice enough to advertise it there. It was on Facebook. Chairperson Garcia: The application was online?

Oh ok. P&R Admin Coordinator: I can't say the application was online, I know we did advertise it. I have to be careful with that. Director Lipton: For Miss Commerce? P&R Admin Coordinator: Yes. Vice Chairperson Garcia: If it isn't online, can we get it online for next year? P&R Admin Coordinator: Yes, absolutely. Vice Chairperson Garcia: Ok, awesome, I'm sorry go ahead. Director Lipton: That's good, I like that. I like that question.

\*Discussion on upcoming agenda items.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 1, 2018.