

CITY OF COMMERCE
SPECIAL NEEDS COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD MARCH 21, 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 Ramona Villa and Commissioner Mai Madrigal

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

- **Lupe Jacquez, Eastern L.A. Regional Center:** Shared with the Commissioners that the Regional Center will be applying for grants and provided them with a survey to see what the needs are in the Community, so the Regional Center will know what to focus on when applying for grants.
- **Diana Gudino, Commerce, CA:** Stated that she is a mom of two boys and they have been on the waiting list for Adapted swimming lessons since November 2017. She was told that they didn't have enough swimming Instructors. Her son is going on 8 years old, and he seems to do better with the Adapted swim program, rather than a large class.

SCHEDULED MATTERS

1. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cisneros motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting held February 21, 2018, with the following corrections: "Specialized equipment will help Special Needs children improve their quality of life and gain self confidence in themselves. She also agrees with Mr. Carstensen, that more people and staff should be trained to work with Special Needs children. Ms. Ortega passed out information about various states that are accommodating sports programs for the disabled." Yays: Cisneros Madrigal, Bojorquez, Villa and Lozano-Gonzalez. Nays: None

2. Commission Meeting Time

After a discussion Commissioner Bojorquez made a motion to keep the meetings at 6:30 p.m., Commissioner Madrigal seconded the motion. All Commissioners were in favor. Motion passed.

3. Support Groups

A motion was made by Commissioner Villa to table this item for the next meeting in May. Commissioner Madrigal seconded the motion. All Commissioners were in favor. Motion Passed.

4. Abilities Walk

Liaison Garcia let the Commissioners know that the event is put on by Parks and Recreation Department, and that the Commissioners could come up with ideas and recommendations and she would present them to Parks and Recreation staff. The Commissioners were pleased with last year's walk, but would like to add some new ideas. The Walk will take place on the first Friday of June. Date hasn't been finalized yet. After a discussion on the Abilities walk the Commissioners came up with the following suggestions:

- Resource Fair with booths to provide information on services and programs for parents and children.
- Finalize date before next meeting.
- Invite agencies such as, Regional Center, Social Services, and Social Security office etc.
- Set up a Quiet Room in the Rosewood Park meeting room for breaks, if available.
- Purchase ear phones to cancel out noise.
- Coloring books and Bean Bag chairs.
- Rent tents if meeting room is not available.
- Provide colorful t-shirts that represent different diversities spreading the word of "kindness and acceptance in this community."
- Special Needs Commission Booth.
- Jumpers for children.
- Activities using tricycles as in previous years.
- More food vendors for a variety of foods.
- Tables and chairs for children and parents to enjoy their food.
- Advertisement: Social Media, Mass Mailer, the Commerce Connection.
- Invite Library and Aquatorium to provide information on their programs.

All the Commissioners agreed to contact agencies they know to see if they would like to participate at the Abilities Walk to provide their resources to families and children. If they are interested in participating they will have them contact Liaison Moyra Garcia.

5. Staff Reports

Liaison Garcia reported the following:

- The Commerce Connection News for March was delayed but wanted the Commission to know that they are being represented. On page 9 there is information on Disabled Person Parking and consequences for breaking the law. On page 11, the recognition of World Down Syndrome Day.
- Dodger Community Night – Friday April 13th, all Commissioners will receive one free ticket. If you would like to purchase more tickets you can contact the Parks and Recreation Department no later than April 5th.
- Passed out a flyer for the Disabilities Athletics Fair held on Wednesday April 7, 2018.

6. Commission Reports

Commissioner Ramona Villa had nothing to report:

Commissioner Madrigal reported the following:

- Commissioner Madrigal attended “We Rock the Spectrum” and informed the Commissioners on the hours for Spring Break. She mentioned that the staff who works there goes to school to educate themselves on working with Special Needs Children. Commissioner Madrigal will contact them to see if they would like to attend the Abilities Walk in June. Commissioner Madrigal wanted to know when the meeting with Chase Carstensen and Parks and Recreation would take place. Liaison Garcia stated that Parks and Recreation staff were at a conference and would schedule a meeting with him after they returned.

Commissioner Bojorquez reported the following:

- Commission Bojorquez would like to discuss the possibility of having links attached to the Special Needs website with various programs and resources so the community could have access to information on Special Needs. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting in April.

Commissioner Cisneros reported the following:

- Commissioner Cisneros stated that she felt very positive and very proud to see Commerce residents come together at the Council meeting in support of National Down Syndrome day. As she was in the Lobby parents were thanking the Commission for their support and she could see how the parents and the children were glimmering with joy, which made her very happy.
- **Commissioner Lozano-Gonzalez had nothing to report:**

Adjournment

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