

CITY OF COMMERCE
SPECIAL NEEDS COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD DECEMBER 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 Madrigal

Roll Call

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

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 Bojorquez motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 21, 2018. Cisneros seconded.

2. Discussion on Support Groups

Commissioner Bojorquez mentioned that having support groups was brought up a couple of months ago. She asked Liaison Garcia what would be the procedure to request support groups. Liaison Garcia stated that it would have to go through the chain of command. It would go through the Department Director then she would decide whether it would be sent to council for final approval. Commissioner Villa asked if it would be held in one of the meeting rooms in the Library or at Rosewood Park meeting room. Commissioner Bojorquez suggested having groups once a month in the Library. Commissioner Bojorquez asked if there was a question on the survey asking if residents would be interested in attending support groups. Liaison Garcia said the survey was approved but not ready to be sent out. She also stated that a mass mail out to residents would be done if another department had something to send out as well, but if not; it would be posted on social media.

It's up to the Director to decide how it's going to be sent out. Commissioner Bojorquez asked when the next mail out will be going out and Liaison Garcia

mentioned that there is no set date as to when the city does mail outs. Commissioner Villa asked what would be the topics for the support groups and would there be childcare? Or can the community come as a family. Commissioner Lozano-Gonzalez made a statement that when she attended support groups the parents would be in one area and the children would be in a different room. She also stated that each parent would take turns introducing themselves and talked about a good situation and a bad situation that's going on in their lives. Commissioner Bojorquez liked the idea of having that type of support groups, and be able to share their feelings. Commissioner Cisneros stated that it would be good to have a chalkboard or easel board so they can write down their information. She also stated that they could let the community know that they are having an informal get together, rather than calling it a Support Group, to see what questions or concerns the Community may have, and they will be given 5 minutes to speak. This will give us a better way to see what kind of help or support they may need. Commissioner Lozano-Gonzalez suggested having the class in two sections, one would be to discuss the situation and/or problem and the second half could be about how to support the situation and/or problem. Liaison Garcia suggested that the Commission come up with a proposal listing: Goals, Philosophy, cost of the classes, how many classes, what topics, who would be giving the classes, will they have to be certified and licensed. These are all factors that the Director and City Council will want to know. Liaison Garcia suggested they table the topic of support groups until February so they could do research to present a proposal. Commissioner Villa suggested to the Commissioners that they could contact Regional centers to get information. Commissioner Lozano-Gonzalez stated that they could call it another name other than support group classes. All Commissioners were on the same page about researching this topic further. Each Commissioner will contact a separate agency to get information and share at the meeting in February. Commissioner Bojorquez made a motion to table this topic until February. Commissioner Madrigal seconded. Motion passed.

3. Staff Reports

1. Liaison Garcia reported that on February 1, 8 and 22, 2019, Parks and Recreation will be having an Arts and Craft class for Adults and Special Needs at Bristow Park from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
2. Liaison Garcia reminded Commissioner Lozano-Gonzalez that she is still on to do a presentation to the Education Commission on Monday, January 14th, for Sign Language classes.
3. California Mentors will attend the Special Needs Commission meeting on January 16, 2019.
4. Liaison Garcia passed out some information in regards to the "Special Needs Commission" Mission Statement and what it stands for. She asked

the Commissioners to look it over and if they had questions they could recommend discussing it at the next meeting. Commissioner Bojorquez made a motion to add this to the Agenda for the next meeting on January 16, 2019. Commissioner Villa seconded. Motion passed.

4. Commission Reports

Commissioner Villa reported the following:

Commissioner Villa wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and be safe.

Commissioner Madrigal had nothing to report:

Commissioner Madrigal mentioned that during the holiday break there are many places such as theme parks that offer resources for Special Needs patrons when you arrive earlier. It makes it easier to enjoy the theme park before the crowds come in. She stated that you can find information on the Internet.

Commissioner Bojorquez reported the following:

Commissioner Bojorquez mentioned that there was going to be an Abilities Expo on February 22, 2019, a two day event at the Convention Center in Los Angeles. She would like to see if it is possible to provide transportation to and from the Convention Center.

Commissioner Cisneros reported the following:

Commissioner Cisneros reminded everyone that there was going to be a Posada on Thursday December 20, 2018 and on Saturday there was going to be another Posada in Olvera Street with lots of activities.

Commissioner Lozano-Gonzalez reported the following:

Her son asked her to teach the Commissioners how to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in Sign Language.

Adjournment

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