

CITY OF COMMERCE
SPECIAL NEEDS COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD JANUARY 16, 2019, 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 Susana Cisneros

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

Resident Richard Hernandez commented that he had called City Hall at 2:00 p.m. and was told there were no meetings scheduled. He stated that he has an interest in these meetings and likes to keep informed on what goes on in our City, and with various departments. It's very upsetting to him when he calls and gets misinformed. He also stated that it shouldn't be difficult to get the correct information when calling City Hall, and there needs to be a better system in place to get the information out to the residents. The Commissioners thanked him for his comment.

SCHEDULED MATTERS

1. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Bojorquez motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 21, 2018 and December 19, 2018. Cisneros seconded. Motion passed.

2. Update on Sign Language Classes to the Education Commission

Liaison Garcia reported that the presentation to the Education Commission went well. The Commission received information on establishing sign language classes to educate the community and family members who may be interested. The Education Commission liked the idea and approved to move forward. The Library Directory mentioned that they could probably start with a ten week session sign language class and would discuss this further. She is going to have her staff do research and get more information. On that note, Liaison Garcia reminded the Special Needs Commission to please notify her,

Liz Chavez or the Chairperson, when scheduled to do a presentation and will not be able to make it.

3. Discussion on Mission Statement

Liaison Garcia stated that she had given each Commissioner a copy of the Special Needs Commission Mission Statement for all Commissioners to read. Commissioner Bojorquez stated that she wanted to make the Mission Statement accessible to everybody and to possibly add equity and equality to the Mission Statement, and asked how the other Commissioners felt. Liaison Garcia reminded the Commissioners that the Mission Statement was available on the website. Commissioner Bojorquez stated that when a recommendation is made it is not to highlight or separate those from Special Needs. Liaison Garcia stated that the Commissioners need to focus on the Mission Statement and promote inclusion when making recommendations. She also suggested to the Commissioners as they move forward and make recommendations they need to try and focus on bringing Awareness, Acceptance and Accessibility to the community. Commissioner Bojorquez stated that when a suggestion is made to setup a certain area for those who are deaf, and need to sit closer to read the subtitles, it is only a request. If no one with a Special Need sits there, it can be accessible to anyone. Commissioner Cisneros stated that as a Commission we need to keep focused on what our mission is and do what's best for everyone and not make anyone feel separated or secluded from others. She also stated that the Commission needs to modify the situation to include Special Needs Individuals without putting labels. Commissioner Bojorquez stated that the Council Chamber has an area that's accessible to accommodate four individuals on wheelchairs if needed. Commissioner Cisneros mentioned that there are no signs labeling wheelchair accessibility. Liaison Garcia stated that at the last meeting it was suggested to post signs and reminded the Commissioners that the Commission Statement is a reminder of why we're here and what we stand for. She also suggested that the Commission needs to go back and focus on what the City expects from this Commission. Liaison Garcia gave an example, for the Haunted House the Commission asked if Parks and Recreation could provide headphones just in case it got too loud. Headphones were provided in case anyone needed them, but it was never advertised. Commissioner Madrigal mentioned that the suggestions they ask for is not to change anything but to make it accessible for Special Needs. Commissioner Cisneros stated that labeling sections for Special Needs could be hurtful to individuals. Commissioner Villa stated that the language needs to be reworded so that it's fair to everyone. Commissioner Bojorquez stated that the only reason the Commission was asking for labels or signs was because during movie nights there were a couple of times that subtitles were not available. Commissioner Bojorquez stated that she was fine not having labels/captions. Commissioner Cisneros stated that if the Commission does not use the correct terminology, they are not representing what the Special Needs Commission is all about. Commissioner Bojorquez stated that all Commissioners were in agreement to what the Commission Statement stands

for. Commissioner Bojorquez made a motion and requested to have the following three words added to the Special Needs Commission, Mission Statement: Awareness, Acceptance and Accessibility. Commissioner Madrigal seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

4. Staff Reports

- Liaison Garcia reported the following.
- Parks and Recreation staff will give an update at the next Commission meeting in February.
- Survey was approved and should be available by the week of January 21st.
- Survey will be on Social Media and copies will be distributed to all parks, libraries and the Commerce Connect.
- Public Information is looking to create an account on Survey Monkey so surveys can be filled out online.
- Commissioners need to concentrate and decide on two or three goals they would like to focus on and accomplish.

5. Commission Reports

Commissioner Villa reported the following:

Commissioner Villa had nothing to report.

Commissioner Madrigal reported the following:

Commissioner Madrigal reported that during the Commissioners discussion to provide someone to conduct presentations to parent group sessions, she checked with Rock the Spectrum, and found out that the owner is certified to do presentations but does not provide outside services. She mentioned that the owner would see if she could find someone who could maybe provide services to Commerce.

Commissioner Lozano-Gonzalez reported the following:

Commissioner Lozano-Gonzalez reported that she was in an accident on New Year's Day and was put on bedrest by her doctor. She apologized for not being able to do her presentation to the Education Commission meeting held on Monday January 14, 2019.

Commissioner Cisneros reported the following:

Commissioner Cisneros reported that March 21st is National Down Syndrome Day and would like to discuss some ideas she has, and would like to share a video presentation on Down Syndrome. She is also interested in promoting it at schools to educate students and residents. Commissioner Cisneros made a motion to add this to the agenda for the next Special Needs Commission meeting on Wednesday, February 20th. Commissioner Bojorquez seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Commissioner Bojorquez reported the following:

Commissioner Bojorquez reported that she went to the Regional Center and received information on different support groups offered for children and adults living with Special Needs. She would like to have flyers sent out to the community so they can be aware of the services they provide.

Commissioner Bojorquez made a motion to add this to the agenda for The Special Needs Commission meeting in March for discussion.

Commissioner Madrigal seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Chairperson Bojorquez adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Next Special Needs Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 2019.