

CITY OF COMMERCE
SPECIAL NEEDS COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 20, 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 Villa and Commissioner 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

Oscar Flores from the City of Bell Gardens invited the Commissioners to attend the Drum Circle on Saturday March 30, 2019 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm., for ages 5 years and older. The event is put on by the Bell Gardens Recreation & Community Services Department. Flyers were also handed out to each Commissioner. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Flores for the invitation.

Councilwoman Oralia Rebollo wanted to extend her gratitude to Oscar Flores for reaching out and inviting the city to their event. She hopes in the near future other neighboring cities will establish a Special Needs Commission like ours. She highly praised our Commission for the great work that they have done in the first year. Ms. Rebollo mentioned that the goal for this commission is not to put labels on our kids and include them as much as possible. Even though there are children who don't want to be included, or just not ready to be included. Ms. Rebollo also invited the Commission to an event put on by the City of Lynwood and the Lynwood Unified School District, "A Celebration of Persons with Special Needs" to be held on Sunday, February 24, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 P.M. Ms. Rebollo handed out flyers for the event and asked if the Commissioners would like to volunteer, make a donation, or attend with her feel free to give her a call.

SCHEDULED MATTERS

1. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cisneros motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 16, 2019. Villa seconded. Motion passed.

2. Follow-up from Parks and Recreation Department

Assistant Director Adolpho Marquez returned with staff to go over some of the programs they discussed at the meeting in January. He introduced Frank Garcia, Sports Supervisor to talk about their programs. Mr. Garcia mentioned that they have made some changes to try and accommodate those who participate and evaluate the child to see where they're at in the sport they choose to play. They are trying to work something out with Oscar Flores from the City of Bell Gardens to try and get more ideas or possibly get into a sports league with other cities. He asked if the Commissioners had any questions. Commissioner Bojorquez mentioned that her son played on the Hot Shots team and commended staff for their coaching abilities. Commissioner Madrigal also mentioned that her sons participate in the sports program and enjoy their programs as well. Commissioner Cisneros thanked staff for their patients working with the children and for doing such a great job and having such a great program. Mr. Garcia shared how they have a young lady who plays soccer and has a staff member assigned to her. They have also bent some of the rules to make it easier for her to participate. He mentioned that they try to accommodate everyone as best as they could so they can participate in the programs. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Garcia for his report.

Mr. Marquez introduced Melissa Romero, Day Care Specialist/After School Program. She stated that they try their best to work with everyone to the best of their ability. Since she has taken over the program she works mostly with children who are Autistic. They have been working with a young man who is now 21 years of age. As she started to work there she felt that staff was not trained to work with a child who had a disability and looked into places they could go to get training. Melissa stated that they went to Club 21 and other agencies for training. She made reference that Club 21 opened up their eyes to a broader spectrum, although they work more with children who are Down syndrome, there teaching techniques can help in all areas with Special Needs. Club 21 does have a program they call Circle of Friends that Parks and Recreation will try to implement by next year. Right now they have a child who is in third grade and has been a part of the program since he was in Kindergarten. He is assigned to work with someone on a one on one basis at this time. Melissa stated that right now he likes to play near a group but not with the group, and their goal is to eventually get him to play with the group and interact with everyone else. Working with Club 21 didn't just teach them to work only with children who have a disability, but to make the program work for everyone so they can all communicate with each other and not single anyone out because of their disability and make it the best program for all individuals. Melissa asked the Commissioners if they had any questions. Commissioner Bojorquez asked if the City pays for the individuals who have a one on one working with them. Melissa stated that the Regional Center and the parents pay for the one on one. The Commissioners thanked her for her

presentation. Mr. Marquez stated that they reach out to the parents so that staff and parents can work together to provide a one on one service. Mr. Marquez mentioned that in reference to the adaptive swim program they have reached out to Mr. Cartstenson and have had no response, but staff is still looking to find someone else for the program. He stated that Park staff will be attending the Drum Circle event in the City of Bell Gardens. Mr. Marquez asked if the Commissioners had any questions. No questions were asked. The Commissioners thanked him for his presentation.

3. Down Syndrome Awareness Video Presentation

The Commissioners watched a 10 minute video called, “Just Like You,” a video that shows how to understand and accept people with Down syndrome. After the video the Commissioners shared their ideas on what they would like to do for Down syndrome day. Commissioner Cisneros stated that she was interested in hearing from the rest of the Commissioners as to the ideas they might have. She suggested that maybe on March 21st, Down syndrome day; the video could be shown on the city’s cable channel. Commissioner Cisneros stated that she spoke with the Principal at Rosewood Park School and suggested that they could have a pep rally with the upper level grades and show them the video at the council chambers to help educate the children and the community. Commissioner Cisneros said that she would also like to see the council chambers decorated as well. Commissioner Bojorquez stated that she would like to see it on cable TV and show it at a council meeting. Commissioner Villa suggested having it at the park and showing it on the big screen with a few decorations. Commissioner Cisneros mentioned that maybe the aquatorium would be a good place to show it because they have screens. Commissioner Bojorquez asked if PIO could put it on the city’s Facebook page. Liaison Garcia stated that they would have to get permission for that, but with enough time PIO could add it to cable as soon as they review. Liaison Garcia stated that she would have to check with our Director about showing it at a council meeting. If they can show it at a council meeting maybe highlights would be a better option rather than showing the whole video. As far as the decorations in the council chambers, that has always been provided by Parks and Recreation staff. Commissioner Bojorquez made a request to have all **4 parks decorated for Down syndrome day on March 21st**. She also requested to have the **video shown on the city’s Facebook page**, at a **council meeting**, the **Aquatorium**; and to have a **Pep Rally**. Commissioner Bojorquez made a motion for the items above. Commission Madrigal seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

4. Goals for 2019

Liaison Garcia asked the Commissioners to come up with 3 goals that they would like to focus on for this year. Commissioner Madrigal said that she would like to keep focus on the Sign Language classes and do something different for the Abilities Walk. Commissioner Cisneros suggest another goal would be to “Go Green” have the community learn how to grow a garden,

plant vegetables. Commissioner Cisneros mentioned partnering up with Rosewood Park and working together. Commissioner Bojorquez stated that we want to enhance the programs we already have and not create new programs. Commissioner Cisneros mentioned that we don't have a garden so that would be about creating one. Liaison Garcia stated that we could probably partner with the city's Spring Clean-up program. Liaison Garcia mentioned that we can go for new programs but it would take longer because we would have to provide a proposal with all the details and present it to council. Commissioner Madrigal asked if we enhance programs do we have to get approval and go through proper channels. Liaison Garcia mentioned that would pertain to new programs. Commissioner Bojorquez made a motion to implement the following 4 goals for 2019. Sign Language classes, Resource Fair/Grand Marshall, Aquatic Search and Community Gardens. Commissioner Cisneros seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

5. Staff Reports:

- Liaison Garcia mentioned if any Commissioners attend the events it would be great to come back and give us a report during their Commission reports.
- A copy of the Resident card guidelines from Parks and Recreation were given to each Commissioner to go over and review regarding the provisions they were concerned about. Liaison Garcia suggested to have the Aquatics Manager come to a meeting to discuss the concerns from the commissioners
- Liaison Garcia gave an update on the Survey that was posted on Survey Monkey. She has collected 10 surveys to date. They were sent to all parks and Library's and posted on Facebook.

6. Commission Reports:

Commissioner Villa reported the following:

Commissioner Villa had nothing to report.

Commissioner Madrigal reported the following:

Commissioner Madrigal reported that Parks and Recreation staff do make accommodations when needed and she is very pleased with the programs they provide.

Commissioner Cisneros reported the following:

Commissioner Cisneros reported that she attended

Commissioner Lozano-Gonzalez reported the following:

Commissioner Bojorquez reported the following:

Adjournment:

Commissioner Bojorquez Adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Next Special Needs Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019.