

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF LA MIRADA**

JANUARY 5, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Community Services Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Chairman Rebecca Cline
Vice Chairman Susan Savage
Commissioner Scott Anderson
Commissioner Raymond Fernandez
Commissioner Diane Gramajo

Absent:

Commissioner John Grotz
Commissioner Desiree Johnson

Staff:

Oliver Osuna, Community Services Director
Liza Soto, Aquatics Manager
Veronica Luna, Community Services Coordinator
Tammie Ann Acosta, Department Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Rick Cline said he attended a "Love La Mirada" heroes benefit dinner that was well attended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 3, 2021

Chairman Cline moved and Vice Chairman Savage seconded to approve the amended minutes of the November 3, 2021 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Anderson, Fernandez, Gramajo, Chairman Cline,
Vice Chairman Savage

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Grotz, Johnson

ABSTAIN: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. 2021 SALUTE TO VETERANS EVENT

Community Services Director Oliver Osuna reported on the 2021 Salute to Veterans event that was held November 8 at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. He reported the event was attended by an approximately 270 community members. He said the event included a reception, veterans' displays, a community slide show and five veteran service organizations providing information pertaining to veteran's programs and services.

Mr. Osuna reported that the patriotic ceremony included the posting of Colors by VFW Post 9148, Boy Scout Troop 438 leading the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem performed by musical quartet Soundwave, and special guest speaker Senator Bob Archuleta. A military banner recognition segment and a special adapted performance of the "American Soldier" performed by Doug Taurel completed the ceremony.

Vice Chairman Savage reported on her attendance and said she felt that the theatrical stage performance was not suitable for children. She commended staff for creating a great program for the community.

Chairman Cline reported on her attendance and said the lobby displays were well received. She thanked the City for showcasing the names of veterans on the City marquee prior to the event.

3. CHILI HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Community Services Director Osuna reported on the 2021 Chili Holiday Celebration held on Saturday, December 4 at Splash! He provided a recap of the event and said the event was well attended.

Vice Chairman Savage reported on her attendance and said the lines were long for some food stations. She suggested next year the more popular stations be separated from one another.

Commissioner Fernandez rated the event a nine out of ten, with ten being best. He reported the lines for food were busy, yet reasonable. He noted the hot chocolate line was a bit long. Community Services Director Osuna added that many of the local businesses that participated in the event are understaffed.

Chairman Cline reported the Christmas lights at Splash! were terrific, especially in the front of the building under the trees.

4. 2021 HOLIDAY TOY AND FOOD DRIVE

Community Services Director Osuna reported the 2021 community-wide Holiday Toy and Food Drive was held November 1 through December 13. He reported that approximately 3,088 non-perishable food items and 715 new and unwrapped toys were collected. He said donated items were distributed to Beatitudes of Our Lord Church, Interfaith Food Center, St. Paul of the Cross Church, and Grace Evangelical Free Church.

Commissioner Scott Anderson commended the program and said he's glad to see the program continue through the years.

Commissioner Fernandez asked if clothing items could be donated as part of this program. Community Services Director Osuna said this particular program does not accept clothing donations.

5. FARMERS MARKET UPDATE

Community Services Coordinator Veronica Luna reported on the farmers market that is anticipated to begin in March of 2022. She reported, once operational, the new farmers market will feature approximately 20 to 25 vendors and be held in the parking lot east of the Activity Center within the Civic Center campus. The market will be open weekly on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Vice Chairman Savage asked if dinner would be available for purchase from the farmers market during summer concerts in the park. Community Services Coordinator Luna responded and said dinner items would be available.

Commissioner Gramajo asked how local restaurants could participate in the program. Community Services Director Osuna said City staff would notify the Chamber of Commerce as well as the La Mirada Living to promote the opportunity for local businesses to partner with the farmers market organizer.

Commissioner Fernandez said he has seen positive responses on social media from the community regarding the farmers market.

NEW BUSINESS

6. VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION RECOGNITION

Community Services Director Osuna reported on the Volunteers in Action recognition program. He discussed the history of the program as well as a recent survey conducted to better identify what type of recognition volunteers would prefer. He reported, some 40 percent of those surveyed indicated a preference for keeping the recognition as is, three percent indicated a preference for a recognition to take place during a City Council meeting, and 57 percent indicated a preference for a dinner and reception event hosted

by members of the City Council. He asked Commissioners to provide feedback and suggestions and said the comments and suggestions would be shared with the City Manager's office for consideration.

Vice Chairman Savage suggested the recognition take place at the Theatre and a small portion of an existing Theatre performance be incorporated.

Chairman Cline recalled a Splash! volunteer recognition day in the past. Community Services Director Osuna said the Splash! day was a day of gratitude for volunteers and was not part of the recognition program.

Commissioner Fernandez noted that the local VFW can accommodate approximately 200 people should the City need a venue.

Commissioner Anderson suggested the recognition event be combined with an existing event.

Chairman Cline suggested volunteers be recognized in the La Mirada Living.

7. VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION – JUNE THROUGH DECEMBER 2020 REPORT

Community Services Director Osuna reported on the Volunteers in Action – June through December 2020 report. He reported some 241 active volunteers contributed 5,063 service hours.

SENIOR, HISTORICAL, AND YOUTH COUNCIL REPORTS

Historical Preservation Advisory Council (HPAC) representative Marlene Olsen reported a new porch was installed at the Neff house, and that HPAC members continue to review and update the La Mirada history brochure.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Gramajo reported on her attendance to the "Love La Mirada" heroes benefit dinner. She said there was a great turn out and the event was well received.

Commissioner Fernandez reported on his attendance to the "Love La Mirada" heroes benefit dinner, Rotary event and that Polly's Pies in La Mirada announced its closing.

Vice Chairman Savage said she enjoyed all the holiday events throughout the City.

Chairman Cline said she attended the housing element meeting and reported on her participation as a judge for the holiday home decorating contest. She also reported on her participation in the pickle ball program at the La Mirada Community Gymnasium.

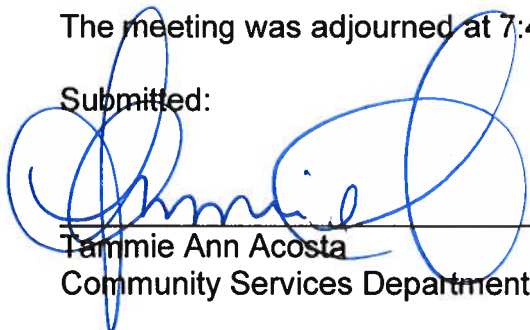
STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Services Director Osuna reported a ribbon cutting ceremony would be held at Frontier Park on January 27 in honor of the new community gardens.

ADJOURNMENT


The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Submitted:



Tammie Ann Acosta
Community Services Department Secretary

Attest:



Rebecca Cline
Chairman