

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

September 6, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Community Services Commission was called to order by Chairman Johnson 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 Desiree Johnson
Commissioner Rebecca Cline
Commissioner Susan Savage
Commissioner Matthew Wight

Absent:

Vice Chairman Raymond Fernandez

Staff:

Oliver Osuna, Community Services Director
Eric Villagrancia, Public Works Project Manager Works
Veronica Luna, Community Services Coordinator
Tammie Ann Acosta, Department Secretary
Victoria Santana, Senior Recreation Leader II

PUBLIC COMMENT

Community Member Rick Cline spoke on behalf of the 130 pickleball players who participate in the program at the La Mirada Community Gymnasium. He commented that there are only three pickleball courts at the Gymnasium, which he said is nice but not enough. He said some players use the courts at La Mirada Regional Park and that it would be nice to have additional courts at Neff Park.

Historical Preservation Advisory Council (HPAC) Chairman Harry Scott spoke on behalf of HPAC. He commented on the current lack of parking at Neff Park and said, by adding additional programs at the park the parking situation would be further impacted. He expressed his concern with the possibility of aged historical trees at Neff Park being removed during the upcoming renovation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 2, 2023

Commissioner Cline moved and Commissioner Savage seconded to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2023 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Cline, Savage, Wight, Chairman Johnson
NOES: None
ABSENT: Raymond Fernandez
ABSTAIN: None

NEW BUSINESS

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 2022-06, NEFF PARK ACCESSIBILITY AND LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Community Services Director Oliver Osuna provided a brief overview on the Neff Park capital improvement project. He said the City is in the early design phase of the project and that the goal of tonight's agenda item is to collect feedback from Commissioners on the project. Mr. Osuna introduced Public Works Project Manager Eric Villagracia.

Mr. Villagracia along with consultants from RRM Design Group reported on the project and shared a presentation that included renderings of proposed upgrades at Neff Park.

Commissioner Savage asked if pickleball courts were added to Neff Park, would there be additional parking added or use of the adjacent school property. Mr. Osuna said parking would remain as is, and the adjacent parking lot would only be utilized for community events.

Commissioner Cline read a comment from a fellow pickleball participant, who expressed the desire to leave the existing tennis ball courts as is at Neff Park and add a new pickleball court. Commissioner Cline asked if there was an approved budget for this project and if any grants have been received. Mr. Villagracia said that staff is in the process of exploring grant opportunities and that the project has been part of the City's approved budget for several years.

Commissioner Wight inquired about the lighting that is proposed for the project RRM Design Group architect responded and said the lighting that is proposed to be added is a newer style and that it is designed to be energy efficient as well as not to carry over to nearby homes.

3. COMMUNITY HEALTH INFORMATION AND SAFETY FAIR

Community Services Director Osuna reported on the Community Health Information and Safety Fair to be held at the La Mirada Activity Center on September 13. He said the fair provides an opportunity for community members to connect with non-profit organizations, health and wellness agencies, and other local businesses that offer

various informational services and health screenings. He said the fair is free and open to the community and would feature a food vendor this year.

Commissioner Cline said it is a great event and reported on her attendance at last year's event.

4. 2023 CONCERTS UNDER THE STARS AND NIGHT MARKET

Community Services Director Osuna introduced Community Services Coordinator Veronica Luna who reported on the 2023 Concerts Under the Stars and Night Market.

Ms. Luna shared a presentation that highlighted the concert series that began on June 8 and concluded August 24. She reported on the variety of live music, food vendors, community participation and the National Night Out concert on August 3. Community Services Coordinator Luna also reported on the survey findings that staff distributed during the events.

Commissioner Wight reported on his attendance at several of the concerts and expressed that he and fellow community members enjoyed the events.

Commissioner Cline asked how staff determines how many youth verses adults attend the concerts. Community Services Coordinator Luna said it is difficult to get a true representation of the demographics of attendees, and that staff attempts to gather data by using surveys and offering children's crafts.

Chairperson Johnson inquired about the budget for the concert series. Community Services Director Osuna said the entire concert series is accounted for in the annual City budget and that staff would email the budget to Commissioners the following day.

Chairperson Johnson asked if attendance had resumed to pre-covid years. Community Services Coordinator Luna said that staff reported that attendance is similar to the years prior to covid.

5. TRAFFIC CONTROL BOX ART CONTEST 2023-2024

Community Services Director Osuna reported the third Traffic Control Box Art Contest would begin Monday, October 2 and conclude Friday, March 15. He said winners would receive a prize of \$250 each. He reported on the low number of submissions during the second contest and announced that artwork from previous contest winners would remain on traffic boxes.

Commissioner Cline said she assisted in the first round of the contest as a judge. She said it is a wonderful program.

Chairperson Johnson said the program has been well received in the community and that she is glad to see the program continue.

SENIOR, HISTORICAL, AND YOUTH COUNCIL REPORTS

Senior Council Chairperson Martha Viera reported on the passing of long-time community member, Veteran and Senior Council Member Larry McCollum. Ms. Viera reported on the recent All That Dance event that welcomed approximately 95 community members. She reported that Senior Council Members would volunteer during the upcoming Community Health Information and Safety Fair at the Activity Center.

Historical Preservation Advisory Council (HPAC) Vice Chairperson Marlene Olsen reported on the recent tours of the Neff House and said attendance has been steadily increasing. She said HPAC members are looking forward to opening the Neff House during the upcoming Halloweenfest event.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Matthew Wight reported on his attendance and participation at the volunteer recognition concert. He also reported on fall youth sports programs.

Commissioner Cline thanked staff for making pickleball more accessible for players by adding additional playing times. She expressed her gratitude for Community Services Supervisor Paul Castillo's heroic efforts to help save the life of a Gymnasium participant who suffered a heart attack.

Chairperson Johnson thanked staff for their continued efforts to maintain City parks and athletic fields.

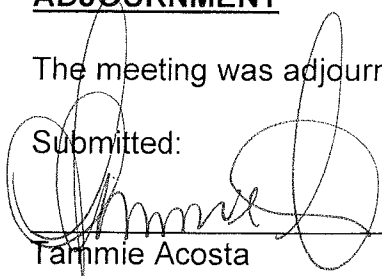
STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

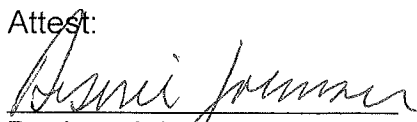
The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Submitted:



Tammie Acosta
Community Services Department Secretary

Attest:



Desiree Johnson
Chairperson

