

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

**March 1, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER** The regular meeting of the Community Services Commission was called to order by Chairman Savage 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 Susan Savage  
Commissioner Rebecca Cline  
Commissioner Raymond Fernandez  
Commissioner Diane Gramajo  
Commissioner John Grotz  
Commissioner Matthew Wight

Absent: Vice Chairman Desiree Johnson

Staff: Oliver Osuna, Community Services Director  
Lisa Montoya, Community Services Supervisor  
Veronica Luna, Community Services Coordinator  
Valeria Andrade, Administrative Analyst I  
Micaela Diores, Community Services Secretary

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jack Miranda addressed the Community Services Commission and recommended that Commissioners encourage the City Council to consider diversifying the Public Safety Department's portfolio.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

Commissioner Cline made an amendment to Rick Cline's remarks under Public Comment.

Community Services Secretary Micaela Diores responded and said the amendment would be made.

**Commissioner Gramajo moved and Commissioner Cline seconded to approve the amended minutes of the February 1, 2023 meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Cline, Fernandez, Gramajo, Grotz, Chairman Savage  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** Vice Chairman Johnson  
**ABSTAIN:** Commissioner Wight

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**2. 2023 PARK EVALUATIONS**

Community Services Director Oliver Osuna provided a brief background on the annual park evaluations. Mr. Osuna invited Commissioners to share their completed evaluations.

Commissioner Grotz provided his evaluation of Anna J. Martin Park.

Chairman Savage provided her evaluation of Creek/Oak Creek Park.

Commissioner Cline provided her evaluation of Frontier Park and Veterans Park.

Commissioner Gramajo provided her evaluation of Gardenhill Park.

Commissioner Fernandez provided his evaluation of Neff Park and Windermere Park.

Community Services Director Osuna thanked the Commissioners for completing the park evaluations. He said printed copies of Vice Chairman Johnson and Commissioner Cline's evaluations would be included in the packet sent to the Public Works Department. Mr. Osuna said the packet would also be provided to the Commissioners.

Chairman Savage inquired if the main bridge at Creek Park would be replaced.

Community Services Director Osuna responded and said new bridges and other park refurbishments are part of the Creek Park Master Plan. He said Public Works Director Mark Stowell would be invited to an upcoming meeting to report on the park evaluations and provide an update on the project.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**3. SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING FY 2023-24 AND FY 2024-25**

Community Services Director Osuna introduced Community Services Supervisor Lisa Montoya.

Community Services Supervisor Montoya reported on the City of La Mirada's Social Services Funding for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25. She said representatives from eight social service agencies requesting funding were in attendance. She invited agency representatives to address the Commission and provide a brief overview of their respective agencies and funding requests.

Business Development Coordinator Natalie Saenz reported on the funding request for CAPC, Inc.

Executive Director Jeffrey Farber reported on the funding request for Helpline Youth Counseling.

Commissioner Fernandez inquired about the increase in funding requested for Helpline Youth Counseling.

Mr. Farber responded and said the additional funding provided by the City for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 through the American Rescue Plan Act assisted in providing services in challenging years. He said the additional funding would help continue providing these services for the community.

Executive Director Veronica Castro reported on the funding request for Interfaith Food Center.

Commissioner Grotz commented that Interfaith Food Center received \$6,500 in funding per year for FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23. He inquired about the \$30,000 funding request per year for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25.

Ms. Castro responded and said families enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program will no longer receive additional emergency food benefits beginning March 1, due to increased food prices and inflation. She said Interfaith Food Center is expecting an increase in demand for its services and additional funding would help meet the demand and offset inflation costs.

Director of Development Nolan Ross reported on the funding request for the Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Co-President Steve Jones reported on the funding request for Meals on Wheels La Mirada.

Executive Director Roberta Cone reported on the funding request for Straight Talk La Mirada.

Executive Director Kirk Kain reported on the funding request for the Southeast Area Social Services Funding Authority (SASSFA).

Senior Director of Development Julia Scalise reported on the funding request for The Whole Child.

Community Services Director Osuna thanked the agency representatives for attending the meeting. He said site visits to the agencies are part of the funding request process. He requested each Commissioner select an agency to visit and completed evaluations be submitted to City staff by March 28. Mr. Osuna said the evaluation form will be provided to Commissioners next week.

Commissioner Cline volunteered to conduct the site visit to CAPC.

Commissioner Wight volunteered to conduct the site visit to Helpline Youth Counseling.

Chairman Savage volunteered to conduct the site visit to Interfaith Food Center.

Commissioner Gramajo volunteered to conduct site visits to The Whole Child and the Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Commissioner Grotz volunteered to conduct the site visit to Meals on Wheels La Mirada.

Commissioner Fernandez volunteered to conduct the site visit to Straight Talk La Mirada.

Community Services Director Osuna assigned Vice Chairman Johnson, who was absent, to conduct the site visit to SASSFA.

Community Services Director Osuna recommended a recess of ten minutes.

Commissioners expressed support of a ten-minute recess.

Chairman Savage called the meeting back to order after a ten-minute recess.

#### **4. 2023 OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION DAY AWARD**

Community Services Director Osuna reported on the 2023 Older Americans Recognition Day Award (OARD). He recommended Commissioners discuss the eight nominees and select one senior to nominate as the City's honoree for the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging's (LACCOA) awards ceremony in May. Mr. Osuna said the honoree will also be receive the City of La Mirada's Proclamation for Older Americans Month at a City Council meeting in May.

Chairman Savage inquired about the age requirement.

Community Services Supervisor Montoya responded and said seniors ages 60 and above are eligible for the LACCOA award.

Commissioner Grotz requested that Commissioners be given the opportunity to review the nomination form prior to its distribution for next year's award.

Community Services Director Osuna said the OARD nomination form and selection process would be included as a future agenda item.

Commissioners discussed the eight nominations received. They concurred that all nominees were assets to the community and deserving of recognition. Commissioners expressed appreciation for the nominees and nominators.

Commissioner Cline left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

**Commissioner Wight moved and Commissioner Grotz seconded to nominate Steve Jones as the City of La Mirada's honoree for the LACCOA Older Americans Recognition Day Award.**

**MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES: Commissioners Fernandez, Gramajo, Grotz, Wight, Chairman Savage**  
**NOES: None**  
**ABSENT: Vice Chairman Johnson, Commissioner Cline**  
**ABSTAIN: None**

Community Services Director Osuna thanked the Commission for its assistance.

## **5. SPRING BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM**

Community Services Director Osuna introduced Community Services Coordinator Veronica Luna and Administrative Analyst Valeria Andrade.

Community Services Coordinator Luna and Administrative Analyst Andrade reported on the Spring Beautification Program.

Community Services Coordinator Luna said canvassing of neighborhoods would begin April 3 through April 14. She encouraged Commissioners to serve as volunteer judges for the program and said an orientation meeting would be held on March 29.

Administrative Analyst Andrade reported on the Spring Beautification awards ceremony on June 26 at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts.

## **SENIOR, HISTORICAL, AND YOUTH COUNCIL REPORTS**

La Mirada Senior Council Chairperson Martha Viayra reported on the Love a Tree poster contest and the All That Dance event on March 3.

**COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Grotz provided an update on the La Mirada Community Foundation. He commented on the significant amount of paper used to produce the Commission packets. He recommended that Commissioners request digital versions of the packet instead of a printed copy to lower the environmental and monetary costs associated with the monthly packets.

Commissioner Gramajo said she attended the La Mirada Kiwanis Club's Lou Piltz Memorial Spaghetti Dinner on February 3.

Commissioner Wight provided an update on the community's youth sports leagues.

Commissioner Fernandez said he attended the La Mirada Kiwanis Club's Lou Piltz Memorial Spaghetti Dinner on February 3.

Chairman Savage said she attended the La Mirada Kiwanis Club's Lou Piltz Memorial Spaghetti Dinner on February 3.

**STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no staff announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Submitted:

*Micaela Diores*

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Micaela Diores  
Community Services Secretary

Attest:

*Susan C. Savage*

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Susan Savage  
Chairman