

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

January 3, 2024

CALL TO ORDER The regular meeting of the Community Services Commission was called to order by Vice Chairman Fernandez 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: Vice Chairman Raymond Fernandez
 Commissioner Cathy Alvarez
 Commissioner Rebecca Cline
 Commissioner Susan Savage
 Commissioner Matthew Wight

 Absent: Chairman Desiree Johnson

 Staff: Oliver Osuna, Community Services Director
 Tammie Ann Acosta, Department Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

Commissioner Wight moved and Commissioner Savage seconded to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2023 Community Services Commission meeting.

MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Alvarez, Cline, Savage, Wight, and Vice Chairman Fernandez

NOES: None

ABSENT: Chairman Johnson

ABSTAIN: None

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

Commissioner Wight moved and Commissioner Savage seconded to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2023 Community Services Commission meeting.

MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Alvarez, Cline, Savage, Wight, and Vice Chairman Fernandez
NOES: None
ABSENT: Chairman Johnson
ABSTAIN: None

NEW BUSINESS

3. 2023 HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS WRAP-UP

Community Services Director Oliver Osuna reported on several community events and activities that were held in the month of December. He reported on the annual Chili Holiday Celebration, the Santa's Holiday Caravan, the Santa in the Park program, the Holiday Toy and Food Drive and the Letters to Santa program.

Commissioner Wight reported he was overwhelmed by efforts made by the City to provide wonderful holiday programs and events for all members of the community. He said the Santa's Holiday Caravan program was a great way for the City to give back to the community.

Commissioner Alvarez reported on her participation at the Chili Holiday Celebration. She said 2023 marked her third year participating and that each year the program has continued to get better. She reported there were several volunteers from La Mirada High School participating at the Chili Holiday Celebration. She reported on her participation in the Santa's Holiday Caravan program and said she hopes the City continues the program in the years to come.

Commissioner Savage reported on her attendance at the Chili Holiday Celebration. She said the new layout worked well and she made suggestions on ways to enhance the event. Commissioner Savage said the Santa's Holiday Caravan program was a wonderful experience for all community members and she hopes to see the program return next year.

Community Services Director Osuna thanked Commissioner Savage for her suggestions and said staff would take her suggestions into consideration.

Commissioner Cline said the Chili Holiday program was a wonderful event. She said it was apparent that a lot of planning and preparation was involved in executing all the

holiday programs. She specifically thanked the City for the new Santa's Holiday Caravan program and asked if the program would be brought back next year.

Community Services Director Osuna said City staff has received positive comments from community members, and discussions about the future of the event will be made.

Vice Chairman Fernandez reported on his participation in the Santa's Holiday Caravan program and said he was impressed by the overwhelmingly positive responses received from community members in person and on social media. He reported on the Chili Holiday Celebration and said parking was great and the Santa line was long, which he said can be expected. He said, overall, the City's holiday programs were first class events and that he heard from several residents how they appreciated the City's efforts to provide warm family-oriented programs.

4. 2024 OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION DAY AWARD

Community Services Director Osuna reported on the annual Older Americans Day (OARD) awards program. He reported on the overall program and provided the application to Commissioners and asked if the Commission had any suggested changes. He also explained that anyone could nominate a potential OARD recipient.

Commissioner Wight said the OARD program is a valuable program that helps to support the older adult population.

Commissioner Alvarez asked about the history of the OARD program.

Community Services Director Osuna said the program began some 59 years ago and that the City of La Mirada has been involved with the program since the 1980's.

Commissioner Savage asked if the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts volunteers are participating in the OARD program.

Community Services Director Osuna replied and said volunteers from the Theatre are eligible to participate in the OARD program.

Commissioner Cline said last year she submitted an award application in support of long time City volunteer and former City Councilmember Steve Jones.

Vice Charman Fernandez said he recalls growing up in La Mirada and that the Kling Center was involved with senior services and programs like the OARD program.

SENIOR, HISTORICAL, AND YOUTH COUNCIL REPORTS

None

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Wight reported tryouts for baseball and softball programs would be scheduled soon.

Commissioner Alvarez reported the annual Lou Piltz Memorial Spaghetti Dinner, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, would be held at the Activity Center on February 2.

Commissioner Savage said she is looking forward to a wonderful 2024.

Commissioner Cline reported on her attendance at a recent holiday production, Christmas with C.S. Lewis, at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. She thanked the City for its assistance in providing space for a recent Pickle Ball tournament. Mrs. Cline also distributed information about the Southeast Academy, and suggested the organization be considered as part of the City's social services funding process.

Vice Chairman Fernandez thanked the City for its continued efforts to provide programming that supports the greater sense of unity in among its residents.

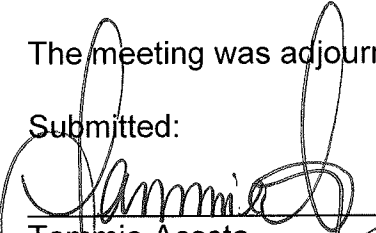
STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

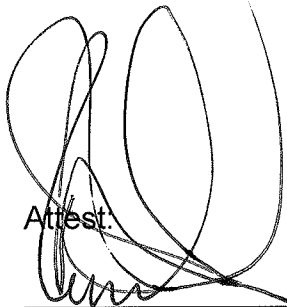
The meeting was adjourned at 7:02p.m.

Submitted:



Tammie Acosta
Community Services Department Secretary

Attest:



Raymond Fernandez
Vice Chairperson