

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

**March 6, 2024**

**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:        Vice Chairman Raymond Fernandez  
   Commissioner Cathy Alvarez  
   Commissioner Rebecca Cline  
   Commissioner Susan Savage

   Absent:        Commissioner Matthew Wight

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

Commissioner Cline moved and Commissioner Alvarez seconded to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2024, Community Services Commission meeting.

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

**AYES:**                      Commissioners Alvarez, Cline, Savage, Vice Chairman Fernandez  
   and Chairman Johnson

**NOES:**                      None

**ABSENT:**                  Commissioner Wight

**ABSTAIN:**                None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**2. 2024 PARK EVALUATIONS**

Community Services Director Osuna reported on the 2024 Park Evaluations. He discussed the evaluation process and asked Commissioners to briefly discuss their park evaluations. He said that the evaluations would be submitted to the Public Works Director and that the Director would be invited to attend an upcoming Commission meeting to discuss updates and projects planned for the parks.

Commissioner Savage reported on her evaluation of Splash! She said overall the park looks great and that she noticed the landscaping has been kept up very well. She said the water slides looked newly polished and that there were some areas of concern with the pool deck and exposed rebar.

Community Services Director Osuna said that the City is actively working on a pool deck project that would address the pool deck issues noted. He said it is anticipated the project would be completed in phases to allow for minimal program disruption.

Commissioner Cline reported on her assessments of Anna J. Martin and Windermere Parks. She said Anna J. Martin Park was well kept. She asked if there was a plan to add a pickle ball court and lighting at Windermere Park. She asked if there was a plan to add updated water bottle filling water fountains at park sites.

Community Services Director Osuna said updated water fountains are among items on a list of possible improvements at park sites. Mr. Osuna said there is a plan to add a pickle ball court at Windermere Park and that the Public Works Director would be best to address the specifics at an upcoming meeting. He said there has been no community outreach to address the need for lighting at Windermere Park thus far.

Chairman Johnson reported on her evaluation of Creek and Oak Creek Park. She reported while walking in the tunnel that connects both parks, on a sunny day at 2 p.m. it was very dark inside and could be a safety concern. She also reported that it was nice to see all the improvements made to the park. She asked if there were any plans to add additional restroom facilities.

Community Services Director Osuna said there are plans in place to update a lot of items at Creek and Oak Creek Park including the pedestrian bridge however there are no plans to add additional restrooms at this time.

Vice Chairman Fernandez reported on his evaluation of Neff and Gardenhill Parks. He said the restrooms at both parks need updating and cleaning. He said the restrooms at Neff Park appeared to be unsafe. He noted the increased visibility of homeless people utilizing Neff Park for shelter.

Commissioner Alvarez reported on her evaluation of Veterans Park. She reported the park could benefit from the addition of flowers to the landscaping and cleaning under the benches. Overall, she said the park is being utilized for people who park and at lunch.

Commissioner Cline noted that the Gymnasium was not on the list of parks to review this year.

Community Services Director Osuna said the Gymnasium was not on the park review list as it's more of a facility than a park. He thanked Commissioners for their evaluations and feedback and said the item would be on an upcoming agenda to continue the discussion with the aid of the Public Works Director.

### **3. 2024 OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION DAY AWARD**

Community Services Director Osuna reported the City of La Mirada would observe Older Americans Month in May 2024. He said one senior resident would be selected as the City's honoree to be recognized at the Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD) Awards Program hosted by the County of Los Angeles in May 2024. He reported during the Senior Council meeting of February 28, Senior Council Members reviewed and discussed the four nominations received and reported they were all deserving of the award and recommended that the Community Services Commission consider all four nominees.

Chairman Johnson opened the floor for Commissioners to discuss the selection of this year's OARD recipient.

Commissioner Savage said all nominees are deserving of the award. She said Bruce Dixon stands out for his continued dedication to the Community Emergency Response Team (A-CERT) program.

Commissioner Alvarez said she knows nominees Lana McMillen, and Chris Pflanzner from the education industry and said they are both deserving of the recognition, and that all nominees are deserving. She suggested the requirements and nomination form for next years OARD program be updated to allow the nominator to provide more information about the nominee.

Community Services Director Osuna said staff would bring the nomination form back to the Commission at an upcoming meeting to further discuss ways to enhance the application.

Vice Chairman Fernandez said based on continued, consistent loyalty and participation throughout the city he is in favor of nominee Chris Pflanzner as the recipient.

Chairman Johnson recommended Bruce Dixon be chosen for his continued dedication and participation with the Community Emergency Response Team (A-CERT) and as a County of Los Angeles Volunteer on Patrol. She asked if there could be two OARD recipients, a male and female.

Community Services Director Osuna explained the process of staff submitting the OARD recipient to Los Angeles County and said, technically there could be more than one recipient. However the recipient acts as the Older American “representative” for the City and having more than one could be difficult to balance the role.

**Commissioner Savage moved and Commissioner Cline seconded to select Bruce Dixon as the 2024 OARD award recipient.**

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**4. 2024 EASTER EGG HUNT**

Community Services Director Osuna introduced Community Services Coordinator Victoria Santana.

Community Services Coordinator Santana reported on the 2024 Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday, March 30 from 9 to 11 a.m., at La Mirada Regional Park. She reported on the various aspects of the program and invited Commissioners to attend the event.

Chairman Johnson asked if the city purchased the same amount of candy for the Easter Egg Hunt as was purchased for the Halloweenfest event.

Community Services Coordinator Santana said the city purchased \$4,400 of candy for the Easter Egg Hunt compared to \$7,000 for the Halloweenfest event. She said some 10,000 plastic Easter Eggs are stuffed and ready for the event.

Commissioner Alvarez said she attends the Easter Egg Hunt annually as a volunteer with the Kiwanis Club of La Mirada.

Commissioner Savage asked how much the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast would be.

Commissioner Alvarez, who is a member of the Kiwanis Club, said the pancake breakfast is expected to be either a \$7 or \$8 donation.

Commissioner Cline suggested the city invite local religious organizations to attend the Easter Egg Hunt and provide entertainment on stage.

Community Services Director Osuna said staff has not reached out to religious organizations due to the event being non-denominational, and not connected to any religion.

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

Historical Preservation Advisory Council representative Marlene Olsen reported some 40 community members attended the most recent tour of the Neff House. She thanked long-time community member Mrs. Eggan for continuing to bring students to attend the historical tours. She reported on the recent All That Dance event held at the Activity Center that was very well attended. Mrs. Olsen

**COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Alvarez reported on her attendance to the All That Dance event at the Activity Center, she said it was her first time attending the event and expressed she enjoyed the event. She reported on La Mirada High School's PTA Reflections program.

Vice Chairman Fernandez reported on his participation as a volunteer at Foster Road and at Escallonia Elementary Schools where he read to students. He invited Commissioners to attend the Rotary Club meeting at Northwoods Inn La Mirada on March 7 at 6 p.m.

Commissioner Cline reported she read to students at Escalona Elementary School. She thanked the city for efforts to update the bleachers at the La Mirada Gymnasium.

Chairman Johnson thanked the city for the floral arrangement sent to the home in support of her fathers passing.

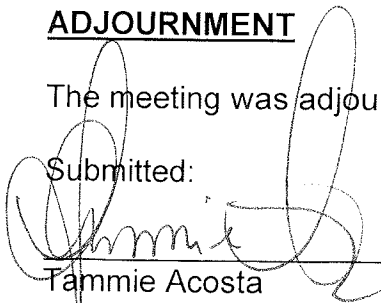
**STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Community Services Director Osuna reminded Commissioners that the Love A Tree judging would be held prior to the Commission meeting on April 3 at the La Mirada Library.


**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34p.m.

Submitted:

  
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Tammie Acosta  
Community Services Department Secretary

Attest:

  
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Desiree Johnson  
Chairperson