

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

**November 6, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER** The regular meeting of the Community Services Commission was called to order by Chairman Susan 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  
Vice Chairman Rebecca Cline  
Commissioner Cathy Alvarez  
Commissioner Desiree Johnson  
Commissioner Adriana Spirescu

Absent: Commissioner Matthew Wight

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Resident Rick Cline invited Commissioners to attend the Salute to Veterans event at Neff Park as well as the Veterans ceremony in the Civic Center Plaza.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2024**

Vice Chairman Cline moved and Commissioner Johnson seconded to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2024 meeting.

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

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2. HALLOWEEN EVENTS DEBRIEFING**

Community Services Director Oliver Osuna introduced Assistant Community Services Director Liza Soto and Community Services Coordinator Victoria Santana who reported on the recent Halloween events.

Ms. Soto reported on the second annual Floating Pumpkin Patch event held at Splash! on Saturday, October 26 and the annual Halloweenfest event that was held Thursday, October 31 at the historic Neff Estate. She reported on both events and spoke about the highlights, which included attendance numbers and overall feedback received from attendees.

Chairman Savage asked if participants were allowed in the water while participating in the Floating Pumpkin Patch event. Ms. Soto replied and said, yes, participants entered the water to retrieve the pumpkins.

Commissioner Spirescu asked if there are any other cities that host Floating Pumpkin Patch events. She also asked what the average age of participants for this event was. Ms. Soto replied and said, there are a few cities that she is aware of that host similar events, and that participants range in age from young children to older adults

Commissioner Spirescu asked if it is a requirement for those who participate in the Floating Pumpkin Patch to get into the water. Ms. Soto replied and said, if a participant does not wish to get into the water a lifeguard is able to retrieve the pumpkin for the participant.

Commissioner Alvarez said she attended the Halloweenfest event for the first time and enjoyed the event.

Commissioner Johnson reported she and her family attended the Halloweenfest event for a short time and enjoyed the event. She said she attended the event in years past and has seen the event continue to get better year after year.

Chairman Savage said the Halloweenfest event was well attended. She reported on her participation as a volunteer judge for the costume contest and said it was great seeing all the children and families dressed up.

Commissioner Spirescu said this was the first time she attended the Halloweenfest event, and she enjoyed it.

### **3. HOLIDAY TOY AND FOOD DRIVE**

Community Services Director Osuna reported on the annual Holiday Toy and Food Drive. He reported the community-wide Holiday Toy and Food Drive was held November 1 through December 9. He said new unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items were collected and distributed to local organizations.

#### **4. CHILI HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**

Community Services Director Oliver Osuna introduced Assistant Community Services Director Liza Soto who reported on the Chili Holiday Celebration.

Ms. Soto reported the annual Chili Holiday Celebration was held December 7 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center. She reported on the various components of the event and said the event was well attended.

Vice Chairman Cline asked if there was any new programming in the 25-yard pool this year to replace the synchronized swimming performance that was offered by the Aquabelles swim team in the past. Ms. Soto responded and said, there was no new program to replace that aspect of the event this year.

Commissioner Spirescu asked if the Santa photographer was the same photographer that was at the event in 2023. Ms. Soto responded and said, this year's photographer was the same photographer as was in the past.

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

La Mirada Senior Council Chairperson Mary Hall reported on the recent passing of Senior Council Member Eugena Thomas. Ms. Hall also reported on her attendance at the Fall Festival, Chili Holiday event and the Halloweenfest event. She said it was nice to see so many young families in attendance at the Halloweenfest event. She reported the Interfaith food center is low on volunteers and donations.

Historical Preservation Advisory Council (HPAC) member Marlene Olsen reported on the need for additional docents to assist with tours of the Neff Mansion and George house. Mrs. Olsen said she is looking forward to the upcoming Veterans event and that line dancing at the Vista senior community continues to gain in popularity among residents.

#### **COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Alvarez reported on a silent auction in support of the La Mirada High School PTA. She also reported on the Fall Festival at the Activity Center and a trunk or treat event to be held at the Palms senior community.

Commissioner Johnson reported on an upcoming fundraiser in support of the La Mirada High School Soccer Team on December 8.

Commissioner Spirescu commended the City and staff for the recent Halloweenfest event. She said the event provided a safe place for families to enjoy the evening, she said the inclusion of Hot Dog on a Stick as a food vendor was a wonderful option for attendees.

Vice Chairman Cline thanked the City and staff for continued efforts to produce well organized City events suitable for the whole family.

Chairman Savage said the recent City-wide events have been well received by the community and that they are well thought out to allow for residents of all ages to enjoy safe community events.

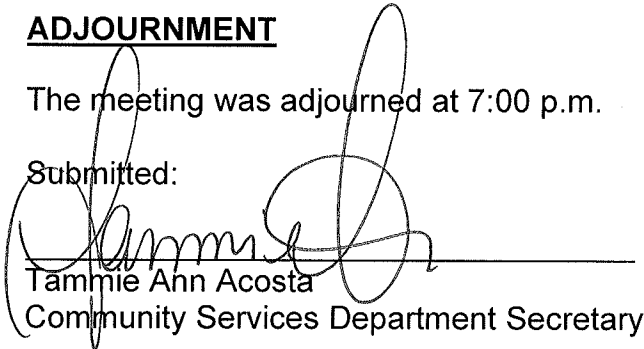
**STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Community Services Director Osuna encouraged Commissioners to bring friends and family to the upcoming Salute to Veterans Celebration at Neff Park to be held November 9. He also invited Commissioners to participate in the Santa Caravan event and ride in the caravan December 17, 18, and 19. He asked Commissioners to sign up with Department Secretary Tammie Acosta.

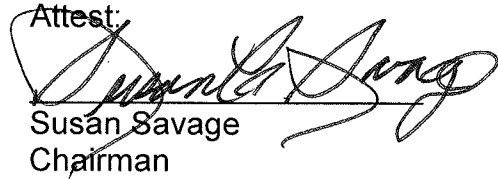
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted:

  
Tammie Ann Acosta  
Community Services Department Secretary

Attest:

  
Susan Savage  
Chairman