

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

February 5, 2025

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
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 NOVEMBER 6, 2024

Commissioner Wight moved and Commissioner Alvarez 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, Wight
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

NEW BUSINESS

2. “LOVE A TREE” POSTER CONTEST

Community Services Director Oliver Osuna introduced Community Services Coordinator Victoria Santana who reported on the “Love a Tree” Poster Contest. Ms. Santana reported the City of La Mirada annually celebrates Arbor Day by hosting the “Love a Tree” poster contest. She said school children throughout La Mirada are invited to submit works of art showcasing the importance of trees in the community. She said the contest begins Wednesday, February 5 and continues through Tuesday, March 18, and that Commissioners will be asked to select first place winners on April 2.

3. 2025 PARK EVALUATIONS

Community Services Director Osuna reported on the 2025 Park Evaluation process. He reported that each year Commissioners are asked to visit La Mirada parks and submit an evaluation that is used by the Public Works Department to better understand the needs of the park from an outside perspective. Mr. Osuna encouraged Commissioners to provide suggestions for the various parks and asked that Commissioners provide suggestions for improvement. He also advised Commissioners to download the My La Mirada app to report any immediate needs at the parks or facilities.

Vice Chairman Cline asked if there was an outside vendor hired to clean the bathrooms at the parks. Community Services Director Osuna replied and said Public Works staff members are responsible for cleaning the park bathrooms and that a contracted vendor is hired to clean the bathrooms in facilities such as the Gymnasium.

Chairman Savage briefly explained her understanding of the evaluation process to newer Commissioners.

Vice Chairman Cline suggested talking to park attendees when conducting site visits.

Commissioner Spirescu said she’s aware that La Mirada Regional Park is not a city owned and operated park, yet she has concerns about the bathroom cleanliness. She asked staff if there was a contact person at the park to talk to about the bathrooms. Mr. Osuna said staff would share the contact information with Ms. Spirescu and that contact information could also be found on the Los Angeles County website.

4. 2024 WINTER SPECIAL EVENTS RECAP

Community Services Director Osuna reported on the Holiday Toy and Food Drive, Chili Holiday Celebration and the Santa’s Holiday Caravan. He reported on the various aspects of each event and provided in depth information regarding each of the events.

Unanimously, all Commissioners reported the Santa’s Holiday Caravan was very well received by the community. Commissioners reported the caravan greatly improved from the first year in 2023 and that they are excited to see how the caravan continues to improve and gain in popularity.

Commissioner Spirescu said the Santa's Holiday Caravan event was phenomenal and very well received by community members.

Chairman Savage said although she was not able to attend the Chili Holiday Celebration, she heard from several community members who reported they enjoyed the event.

Commissioner Alvarez reported on her participation assisting with photos at the Chili Holiday Celebration. She said the event was well attended and well organized.

Commissioner Wight reported on the Santa's Holiday Caravan and said the addition of the Edco trash truck was wonderful and that residents enjoyed the entire program.

Chairman Savage said the Santa's Holiday Caravan was very much appreciated by community members of all ages.

Commissioner Spirescu said the Santa's Holiday Caravan was a great program for the community and it allowed residents to participate by simply walking outside their front door.

Commissioner Johnson said it was great to see so many residents out celebrating the holiday season during the three nights of the Santa's Holiday Caravan.

5. 65th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Community Services Director Osuna reported on the 65th Anniversary Celebration. He said the celebration would be held at Neff Park on Saturday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. He reported the celebration would include a craft and farmers market, various live entertainment acts and tours of the Neff House and George House. He said Commissioners wanting to volunteer could do so as a docent assisting with tours of the Neff House and George House. Mr. Osuna reported that former La Mirada Mayor, Biola University professor and current Historical Preservation Advisory Councilmember, Dr. Dave Peters, has agreed to host history talks in the Carriage Barn during the event. Mr. Osuna said since the report was generated, the proposed budget for the event has slightly increased.

Chairman Savage inquired on the type of food that would be available during the event. Mr. Osuna responded and said the same food operator that oversees the Night Market in the summer is spearheading the food for the event. He said staff members have directed the operator to provide interesting food items that are not readily available.

Chairman Savage suggested moving the food vendors closer to the main event space to allow for more visibility and sales. Mr. Osuna responded and said that staff members have arranged to have the food closer to the Neff House.

Chairman Savage asked if residents could participate in the craft vendor portion of the event. Mr. Osuna responded and said that residents interested in participating should inquire with the craft/food operator and that they would need to have the necessary business licenses and sell appropriate handmade items to be considered.

Commissioner Wight inquired about volunteering as a docent and asked for more information about the opportunity. Mr. Osuna responded and said the opportunity involves guiding tours of the Neff House and or George House and that members of HPAC along with staff would provide printed historical information to be used to aid in providing tours.

Commissioner Spirescu said she is glad to see the 65th Anniversary Celebration as there was not a celebration for the 60th anniversary due to Covid.

Vice Chairman Cline asked if there would be an information booth and an opportunity for service organizations to provide information. She also asked if there would be an advertisement in the Lamplighter newspaper. Mr. Osuna responded and said that there would be an opportunity for service clubs to provide information and that staff members are arranging to advertise in the Lamplighter newspaper.

Commissioner Alvarez asked if there would be a history exhibit at the celebration. Mr. Osuna responded and said that the historical timeline and some additional items would be on display during the celebration.

Vice Chairman Cline asked if the School District could advertise the celebration on its website. Mr. Osuna responded and said it is a City event and it is unlikely the School District would allow for advertising.

Commissioner Wight suggested community members share the event on their personal social media accounts to help spread the word.

Chairman Savage inquired about parking and street banners. Mr. Osuna responded and said parking would be available in the adjacent school field and that street banners would be installed in the coming weeks.

6. OLDER AMERICAN'S RECOGNITION DAY AWARD

Community Services Director Osuna reported on the 59th annual Older American's Recognition Day (OARD) Awards program. He reported this year's theme is "Flip the Script on Aging". Mr. Osuna reported that the OARD Awards Program recognizes seniors throughout Los Angeles County for their dedicated volunteer service and positive impact on the lives of others. He said nominations are due by February 17 and that Commissioners would be asked to select an honoree during the March 5 Commission meeting.

Vice Chairman Cline asked if a past nominee that was not selected could be nominated again. Mr. Osuna responded and said that past nominees could be nominated again.

SENIOR, HISTORICAL, AND YOUTH COUNCIL REPORTS

La Mirada Senior Council Chairperson Mary Hall reported Senior Council Members volunteered at the Chili Holiday Celebration, and at the December All that Dance event. She reported the next All that Dance event would be held March 14. She reported Senior Council Members are looking forward to volunteering at the 65th Anniversary Celebration and assisting with judging the "Love a Tree" Poster contest entrees.

Historical Preservation Advisory Councilmember Marlene Olsen reported on the Veterans event that was held in November at Neff Park. She reported the event was well organized and she anticipates the event will gain in popularity and attendance in the coming years. Mrs. Olsen reported HPAC Members are working on gathering items to display during the upcoming 65th Anniversary Celebration.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Alvarez reported on the upcoming Kiwanis Club of La Mirada's annual Lou Piltz Memorial Spaghetti Dinner, the Kiwanis Club Scholarship program, and an upcoming financial workshop sponsored by the La Mirada Community Foundation.

Commissioner Wight reported the holiday programs offered by the City were wonderful. He reported that the various athletic organizations are beginning their spring season.

Vice Chairman Cline said she's grateful to be living in La Mirada and that she will be serving as a judge for the Spring Beautification program.

Commissioner Johnson invited Commissioners to attend the upcoming mental awareness event titled, "Let's T.E.A.M. Up" to be held April 2 in the City of Industry.

Commissioner Spirescu invited Commissioners to attend the Kiwanis Club of La Mirada's annual Lou Piltz Memorial Spaghetti Dinner on February 7 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the La Mirada Activity Center.

Chairman Savage reported on her observation of the street slurry project underway in the Green Hills neighborhood.

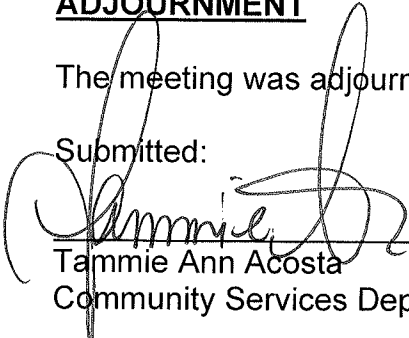
STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no staff announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

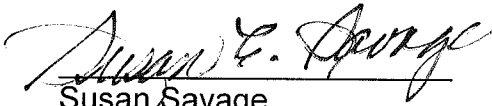
The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted:



Tammie Ann Acosta
Community Services Department Secretary

Attest:



Susan Savage
Chairman