



CITY OF BELL GARDENS
SPECIAL MEETING
RECREATION, CULTURAL AND YOUTH COMMISSION

MINUTES

Thursday, July 15, 2021

Call to Order:

Recreation, Culture and Youth Commission Chairperson Solorzano called the meeting to order at 6:01pm

Roll Call:

Commission Secretary Estrella Rodriguez:

Chairperson Tiara Solorzano -	Present
Vice-chair Osaël Romero-	Absent
Commissioner Victor Casas-	Present
Commissioner Laura Cortez-	Present
Commissioner Carmen Vargas -	Present

Reporting on Posting of the Agenda:

Commission Secretary stated that the agenda was posted in accordance with state law.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairperson Solorzano asked for a motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2021. Commissioner Casas motioned to approve the minutes. Chairperson Solorzano seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

A. Department Update- Recreation Director, Rozanne Adanto reported an update on the Concerts/Movies at Ford Park and Veterans Park. This week a vaccine clinic has been implemented to the concerts/movies, provided by the County. August 3, RCS, and PD will Co-host National Night Out at Ford Park. Supper Program continues to provide meals, thus far 382,000 meals have been served since April 2020. Award Ceremony for youth Baseball will take place at Ford Park, and the department has started preparing for registration for teen basketball, volleyball, t-ball and other sports for the community. Recreation classes will begin in the next couple of weeks. Youth golf program will begin at the end of August, free or low cost and equipment will be provided by LA84 grant. Director Adanto informed the Commissioners that Governor Newsom visited Bell Gardens, Wednesday, July 14 and talked about the rent relief program. Bell Gardens is the only municipality providing services for rent relief. Governor Newsom also spent some time with the Kreative kids' program. Vaccine clinics are still ongoing on Wednesdays. Great plates is still being offered to the seniors, along with the utilities program for all residents. July 24th the aquatics program will begin and will be a 10-week program. Final interviews will be conducted for the new Recreation Coordinator, and three new clerk typists were recently hired.

- a. **Commissioner Casas** inquired on how many new positions are being added to the department. Director Adanto informed Commissioners the department has 2 vacant coordinator positions, 2 new clerk typists, roughly 20 part-time, 15 aquatics personnel, a

total of 30-40 new hires who are about 90% BG residents. Commissioner Casas asked if staff levels are the same as pre-covid or more? Rozanne let them know we now have more personnel due to the new programs, and additional work. Commissioner Casas would like to know if there are programs to assist residents on applying for jobs, filling out resumes, or any partnerships with agencies or job fairs where the residents can attend? There will be resource at the Family Service Center, for trainings and providing computer access, with Wi-Fi. Director Adanto mentioned that there has been a job fair in May, and there is planning and talks with Community Development department to conduct additional fairs.

- b. **Commissioner Vargas** would like to know an update on facility reservations? And recognition of Parks month and would like to know if the community and residents can do anything for the employees to show their appreciation? Director Adanto informed the commissioners there have been recommendations from the LA County for Facility use and they are still very strict (temp checks, 72hour prior to event must provide negative test, or vaccine card), so the department has decided to hold off on private events at this time (birthday parties, quinceañeras) due to the restrictions. The department has allowed small non-profit meetings to be hosted at the facility, until restrictions are lifted. A tentative date for staff recognition is being planned, but will probably be in August, due to all the programming.
- c. **Commissioner Casa** would like to know if they can help for National Night out. Director Adanto encouraged the commissioners to participate in the event, there will be several booths for activities for the community members. Event will end with a concert, by Past Action Heroes.
- d. **Chairperson Solorzano** would like to know if there are plans for major food distributions coming up? Third Saturday of every month department still offers 500-700 food boxes for the community. First distribution with LA Food Bank will be August 21 and continue with the third Saturday of every month. La food Bank has guaranteed an increase of food and supplies if the community has a need. November and December there will be two events, rather than one.
- e. **Commissioner Casas** asked for an average attendance and would like to know if the request for food can be decreased if the department notices a lack of attendance. Director Adanto stated the event sees about 300-400 families every weekend and with the increase of food, the residents still benefit from the distribution.
- f. **Chairperson Solorzano** would like to know what the plan is when children return to school? Director Adanto let commissioners know the game room at both Youth Center and Veterans Park are open and will remain open when the children return to school. Scholarship recipients are being hired as tutors.
- g. **Commissioner Casas** wants to confirm that any adult interacting with children is being live-scanned and fingerprinted. Director Adanto confirmed all adults are being properly scanned before they are fully hired.
- h. **Chairperson Solorzano** inquired on why there is a fee for the Volunteen Program. Director Adanto informed Commissioners that not only are the teens being coached and trained, but they are also participating in the excursions and program, to offset the cost.
- i. **Commissioner Casas** would like to donate \$100 to sponsor 10 Teens to join the program. Director Adanto let commissioners know that the budget was approved for \$150K for scholarships, for activities and program participation.

- j. **Chairperson Solorzano** wants to know what the plans are if there is a second lockdown? Director Adanto stated all children are masked during programming, and all PPE supplies are available if the children need them. Hopefully there isn't another lock-down, but the department will be ready to pivot the programming if necessary.
 - k. **Commissioner Cortez** inquiring if the commission would benefit from the LA River Master Plan? And if the department has plans for grant money that has been allocated for parks. Director Adanto informed the commissioners that the department will be applying for the outdoor recreation grant funding program, due in October. The Community will have input, along with the Commissioners, for the Prop 68 and the other grants.
 - l. **Commissioner Casas** would like to know what August events are taking place. One of the events happening is the Back-to-School event and commissioners can attend and assist.
- B. Teen Night Workshop** Chairperson Solorzano joined a workshop for a teen night at a different City and feels that our community would benefit from such workshop. Managing credit card and debt, maybe conduct a 30–45-minute workshop, while partnering with the High School to spread the word and bring guest speakers.
- a. **Commissioner Casas** agrees to the workshop would be beneficial to the community. Director Adanto feels there is a need for such programming and expects the new coordinator to take on this program and with the partnership with the district, it will open the programming for the teens and youth.
- C. August Meeting-** Commissioner will vote on going Dark or having a special meeting, request an earlier time.
- a. **Commissioner Casas** made a motion to host a special meeting on Thursday, August 19 at 5pm.
 - i. Cortez 2nd the motion
 - ii. Roll call was conducted, motioned passed 4-0, Commissioner Romero Absent

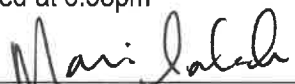
Public Comments: None.

Comments from Commission:

- Commissioner Casas-none,
- Chairperson Solorzano-none
- Commissioner Vargas-none
- Commissioner Cortez-None

Adjournment:

- Chairperson Solorzano adjourn the meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm

Recorded By: pp 
Estrella Rodriguez, Recreation Secretary