



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

MINUTES

Thursday, August 19, 2021

Call to Order:

Recreation, Culture and Youth Commission Chairperson Solorzano called the meeting to order at 5:06pm

Roll Call:

Commission Secretary Mariana Salceda:

Chairperson Tiara Solorzano -	Absent
Vice-chair Osaël Romero-	Present
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:

Vice-chair Osaël Romero asked for a motion to approve the minutes of July 15, 2021. Commissioner Casas motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Vargas seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- A. Department Update-** Recreation Director, Rozanne Adanto reported an update on the Back-to-School event on Saturday, August 7. Thanked the commissioners for attending the event, 850 children received a free backpack with school supplies, access to free health screening and youth and family resources. Smileland Dental provided a donation to the city to purchase additional school supplies. Acknowledged Kaiser, First 5 LA, SELA, AAA and Southeast Community Development for their donations. City has partnered with LA County and LA 84 to bring a Youth Golf Program to Bell Gardens. First event will be held on September 11, to introduce the youth to a new sport and to encourage participation. Update on Movies/Concerts at Ford Park and Veterans Park. Several sports going on, Small Fry Soccer, Small Fry T-Ball, Youth Volleyball, Teen Basketball, and the start of our Youth Soccer League. Continue with Covid vaccines weekly and are working with the superintendent on have additional clinics and testing sites for the city. First partnership event with the LA Food Bank Distribution held at Bell Gardens Veterans Park. It is a first come first serve event, enough for 500 families. Supper Program going well, distributing 1200 meals a day. Several seniors still receiving food assistance everyday up to 200 Senior Meals. September 15 department plans on opening the Senior Center. Director Adanto informed the commissioners the vaccination rate for the City of Bell Gardens for seniors is at 98.5% which is the highest in the LA County, tied with Beverly Hills and Calabasas two weeks ago but have now overtaken them. Recreational classes schedule to resume, Ballet Folklorico, BG Hip Hop Dance

Team, Fusion Dance, as well as Creative Kids. Day Camp and Volunteen program, 35 participants, has come to an end and in the fall, we will introduce our Youth Ambassador Program working with the youth to develop them as potential recreation leaders in the future. Recreation acknowledgement forecast for August 25.

- a. **Commissioner Casas** asked if the Volunteen program is still active or was it just a summer program? Director Adanto informed commissioners it was only a summer program and helped in the Day Camp and Block Parties, Youth Ambassador program plan to become a year-round program. Commissioner Casas suggested a cleaning program with the volunteen to clean up around the city. Director Adanto informed commissioners there are several protocols to follow before we can enlist their assistance.

B. Aquatics Update Supervisor Armando Andrade reported an update on Aquatics, city has partnered with Montebello Unified to utilize Bell Gardens High School Aquatics facility to offer residents swim lessons, swim classes, and adult lap swim. Lifeguards and instructors have provided 95 Bell Gardens residents swim lesson for the first session. Second session has 65 residents registered which will be ending next Friday, and the third session will be starting the end of August through the beginning of September. Learn to swim program which has have 160 participants has been the focus this summer, participants numbers will surpass over 200 swim lesson instructions.

- a. **Commissioner Vargas** suggested to get feedback/highlights from the participants who registered and from parents on how satisfied they were with the aquatics program and use this information for future programming.
 - i. **Commissioner Casas** suggested to publicize on city website so that people can know what the lessons offer, it might increase our registration numbers.
 - ii. **Director Adanto** informed commissioners that she will work with staff to create a mini survey for past participants and mentions that she did speak to a couple of the parents personally and were pleased with the program. Number of participants were significant considering the small window time that we had, also with the small amount pool time that was available to us. Acknowledged the instructors and lifeguards on doing a tremendous job teaching the kids. Hired ten former Bell Gardens High School Water Polo swim team members.
 - iii. **Supervisor Andrade** reported that all swim lesson participants are Bell Gardens residents. Once we open our new aquatics facility, we're hoping the numbers of participants will be closer to 500 with the 12 weeks of summer and offer it all year round.
 - iv. **Commissioner Vargas** suggested using our social media accounts to highlight moments of the swim lessons giving residents more insight on the lessons.
- b. **Commissioner Romero** Thanked city personnel for their work on the aquatic's programs, acknowledging the hard effort put in to making this program possible and looks forward to the opening of our new Aquatics facility. Supervisor Andrade thanks and agrees with commissioner Romero, acknowledges all the hard work that was put in by the aquatics team.
 - i. **Commissioner Casas** Thanks and acknowledged the great leadership and suggested more advertisement to increase participant numbers. Supervisor Andrade informed commissioners the reason for percentage of participants being higher in the first session was due to students not being in school.

- ii. **Director Adanto** informed commissioners about continuing to work with Montebello Unified in the future, a great partnership has been developed with the district, planning to start up back in March or early April.

Public Comments: None.

Comments from Commission:

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

Adjournment:

- Vice-Chair Osael Romero adjourn the meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm

Recorded By: _____


Mariana Salceda, Commission Secretary