



CITY OF BELL GARDENS

REGULAR MEETING EDUCATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Thursday, August 12, 2021

Call to Order:

Chairperson De Leon Sanchez called the meeting to order at 5:15pm

Roll Call:

Commission Secretary Estrella Rodriguez:

Chairperson Francis De Leon Sanchez- Present
Commissioner Oscar Boado Jr. - Present
Commissioner Miguel Flores - Present
Commissioner Kristina Paulo - Absent

Reporting on Posting of the Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Chairperson asked if there was any deletions or additions to the minutes from the meeting of July 8, 2021. Chairperson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of July 8, 2021. Commissioner Miguel Flores motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Oscar Boado Jr. seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- A. Department Updates-** Recreation Director Rozanne Adanto provided a brief update on the department. Director Adanto informed commissioners that the Council Chambers are closed due to the numbers of Covid-19 cases. Director Adanto thanked commissioners who helped on the back-to-school event August 7, 2021. It was a new event put together by the recreation and community and services department. The Director Adanto mentioned having a large amount of number of partners who joined to conduct the event. It was a well-attended event by children and families. At the event, the department distributed 750 backpacks and throughout the week, they gave out another 125 backpacks. For those children who registered at the day of the event. The department had great partners such as, First 5 LA, SELA Collaborative, AAA and Southeast Community Development Corporation on site distributing Chromebook and hotspots for children. The Boys and Girls club was present as well as Pico Care Pharmacy administering Covid-19 vaccines. They vaccinated 55 new people on the day of the event. School supplies and health screenings were given as well. The Century Beauty of Academy gave haircuts to approximately 62 children. Director Rozanne Adanto mentioned children looked great after the services they received. Senator Lena A. Gonzalez and assembly member Cristina Garcia were present. This is an event that the city will continue to serve to encourage children as they move into the new school year. Director Rozanne Adanto gave a brief update of a new youth golf program. The city of

Bell Gardens has a nine-hole golf course and has partnered with the City of Los Angeles and with three upcoming events to promote golf. The goal is to provide free golf lessons to promote a new sport during the Fall. This partnership is with Los Angeles 84 county parks of recreation department. Recreation Supervisor Ana Avalos shared an update of the concerts taking place and Corazon de Mana being a participant. The concerts are very well attended; people are enjoying themselves while dancing. Although there is high attendance during concerts, people are maintaining social distancing. The department will be wrapping up the concerts on August 26 with a salsa cumbia band called Sangria. Then a few more movie nights will be held which will include the Little Giants movie. On August 19, the park will show Despicable Me movie and the last movie night will be Lilo and Stich on August 24. It will be a Hawaiian Luo theme, everyone who attends will receive a lei. During the events a craft table is available that coincides with the movie theme. Children have been making handmade instruments using recycle materials. Recreation Supervisor Ana Avalos mentioned it's exciting to see children engage with other peers and how they enjoy making crafts. The staff has also made friends with families who attend movie nights. Director Rozanne Adanto announced a food distribution with a new partnership with Los Angeles Food Bank. A total of 500 boxes will be distributed at Bell Gardens Veterans Park the 3rd Saturday of each month. The first session of aquatics was a 3-week session that provided swimming instructions to a total of 95 children to learn how to swim. Another 65-95 children are registered for another session for the month of September. Bell Gardens smaller parks will be having new Block Parties. Marlow Park will be having a block party on Saturday August 14 from 11am-2pm. On August 28 at Julia Russ Asmus Park will be hosting a block party. The goal is to encourage the neighborhood to get to know each other, and learn about the community. Director Rozanne Adanto mentioned new recreational classes will be available online such as, ballet, folkloric, fusion dance, and hip-hop dance. Outdoor recreation and fitness are coming online. Creative Kids summer program will wrap up soon, Fall session will begin in September. There is also a finalized partnership with the school district to hold two vaccination clinics in August. Hosting a vaccination clinic will target Montebello Unified School District students and staff to participate. The Neighborhood Youth Center will have a clinic on August 17 and Veterans Park on August 18 Tuesday from 2pm-6pm. The goal is to have parents participate after school at the vaccine clinics and vaccinate their children. Dodger game tickets, video game systems are eligible for incentives for those who receive the second dose of the vaccine at the Bell Gardens clinics. Director Rozanne Adanto is proud to mention vaccination rate for seniors is over 98%. The department will be welcoming a couple of new coordinators in the next few weeks. The Community Family Service Center has a new temporary location, moving forward with a mini grand opening in the month of September. Staff has been working hard and would like commissioners to participate in the grand opening. Director Rozanne Adanto thanked the commissioners who participated and supported the back-to-school event. It was a well-attended event, and everyone had a good time.

B. District Partnership Update:

- a. **Chairperson De Leon Sanchez:** had a question regarding the official partnership with the Montebello Unified School District. Vaccination clinics and a pool space has been mentioned already. What is the update on the district relationship?
 - i. Director Rozanne Adanto discussed the thirty-year agreement the City of Montebello and Montebello Unified School District that was ratified in 1971. Both party attorneys are looking at it and seeking to speak with their

Assistant Superintendent. Current plans are to meet in mid-September and go over point by point. In the meantime, an exchange of facilities opened the doors to each other. The swimming pool is one, and the other was to use the soccer fields to assist with youth soccer. Soccer coach requested to speak with the department, and requested to host a soccer tournament for them. The department will also be hosting some of their Adult Education classes. Dialogue has been opened and the department has already participated in the Montebello Unified School District Back to School event back in July. Director Rozanne Adanto informed Chairperson De Leon that a demonstration of a positive reason of having an agreement has already been made and will move forward in the next 60-90 days. The Assistant Superintendent notified the Education Commission would like to participate in being part of the touring of schools.

- b. **Commissioner Flores:** requested an update with tutoring in schools? What is the goal for the city participating in tutoring?
 - i. Director Adanto informed Commissioner Flores, the department is recruiting tutors for the learning centers operating at the Neighborhood Youth Center and Veterans Park. For now, the goal is to be at the facilities and engage through the government program. Approximately ten lifeguards are working at the aquatics program and are players of the water polo team. Director Adanto confirms they did not have certification. The department made an investment to start in getting the students certified. Overall, making investment with the entire school district students. Eventually the aquatic center will need to recruit more water polo students to work with the city. Recreation Supervisor Avalos added the scholarship recipients were reached out first for the learning center tutoring opportunities. One of the scholarship recipients will begin working with the learning center in the following days. The RCS department gave an opportunity of employment to those students who applied previously for a scholarship. Keeping employment opportunities in house for the entire scholarship and recipient community is the goal.

C. Public Art Policy:

- a. **Chairperson De Leon Sanchez:** mentioned Commissioner Boado Jr. suggested potentially having artwork in the utility boxes. Commissioner Oscar Boado Jr. gave a brief statement of possibly having something that is not new in many cities. Commerce, Long Beach and Montebello currently have artwork in the utility boxes. To establish a beautification program to beautify the communities. Basically, transform common traffic control utilities into works of art by creating a more vibrant attractive city landscape. Either paint them or wrap them in vinyl. Commissioner Boado Jr. does not know if it is feasible, moving forward if this does happen that is something that could even create a theme around it. A contest for Bell Gardens residents or students, local artist's community organizations can participate. Honor Bell Gardens legends, Eddie Cochran, DJ Muggs, he was a DJ producer that produced hip-hop acts back in the days. In sports Brenda Villa, Michael Granville, and Patty Cardenas (professional soccer players). Recreation Supervisor Avalos confirmed from Hector Jiménez, he was a professional soccer player who donated.

Chairperson De Leon Sanchez highlighted it would be great idea to beautify them by creating artwork.

- i. Director Rozanne Adanto informed commissioners about a report that is being worked on that is going to counsel soon. Art in public places and trying to establish a policy, what is public art? Park art is very subjective, and they want to be able to evaluate how the council wants to proceed. Director Adanto confirmed there is a definite interest in art and the utility boxes, murals, or other pieces. The Aquatic Center is going to be a public art piece, but the community needs to determine the process. It will have everyone's input, a meeting with the City Manager proposing something like this will take place in a week. Director Adanto agrees with Commissioner Oscar to beautify the city. The City Developer must then dedicate 1% into art in public places account so that money can support art programs. Commissioner Oscar Boado Jr. shared the right team is in place to complete this task. Commissioner Flores suggested the district partnership should give two or three of those utility boxes specifically to middle school, and high school students.

Public Comments: None.

Comments from Commission:

Miguel Flores-wants to applaud that there has been a large amount of movement with the facilities and it is moving a lot faster. There is appreciation of being able to see changes and cannot wait to see what will come out. It is exciting and Flores gave thanks to the entire staff.

Commissioner Oscar Boado Jr.-thankful for allowing commissioners to participate in the backpack giveaway. Being able to connect with residents and seeing their smiles was wonderful. Gave thanks to all City employees including Public Works. Acknowledge all City employees who participated. Thanked Rozanne and it is amazing to give Bell Gardens students the opportunity to work for the aquatic center.

Chairperson Francis de Leon Sanchez- Thankful of all the services that the city provided. Highlighted how families were excited to participate in the haircut event. Thankful for all City employees for coordinating events.

Director Adanto- would like to thank Diana Ortiz, Acting Community Services Supervisor for leading an amazing job along with Ramon Escobedo, the Recreation Coordinator. Exceeded expectations and did an outstanding work with the event.

Recreation Supervisor Avalos- shared vaccines will be available in the last movie night. Pre-registration is required. Requested all commissioners to help with sharing the final vaccine on August 24 at Ford Park.

Adjournment:

- Chairperson De Leon Sanchez requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Commissioner Oscar Boado Jr. motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- Commissioner Miguel Flores seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:48pm

Recorded By: Miriam Vargas-Cervantes
Miriam Vargas-Cervantes, Recreation Secretary