



CITY OF BELL GARDENS

SPECIAL MEETING SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Call to Order:

Community Family Service Center Supervisor Diana Ortiz called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Community Family Service Center Supervisor Diana Ortiz forewent the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call:

Commission Secretary Miriam Vargas-Cervantes:

Commissioner Jacob Poliquin- Hernandez	Present
Commissioner Tiffany Quintero-Maldonado	Present
Commissioner Ana Maria Sanchez	Present

Reporting on Posting of the Agenda:

Commission Secretary, Miriam Vargas-Cervantes stated that the agenda was posted in accordance with state law.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

Commission Secretary, Miriam Vargas-Cervantes confirms there are no public comments.

Approval of Minutes:

Supervisor Diana Ortiz informed there are no approval of minutes due to the Senior Citizen Commission not having a quorum. Commission Secretary, Miriam Vargas-Cervantes confirms there are no minutes to approve.

New Business:

- A. Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson Election-** CFSC Supervisor, Diana Ortiz requested nominations for Chairperson, Commissioner Poliquin-Hernandez nominated himself. Commissioner Quintero seconded the nomination. Commission Secretary took roll for votes, Commissioner Sanchez voted yes, Commissioner Quintero voted yes, and Commissioner Poliquin voted yes. Nomination passed unanimously. Supervisor, Diana Ortiz requested nominations for Vice-Chairperson, Commissioner Sanchez nominated Commissioner Quintero. Chairperson Poliquin seconded the nomination. Commission Secretary took roll for votes, Commissioner Sanchez voted yes, Commissioner Quintero voted yes, and Chairperson Poliquin voted yes. Nomination passed unanimously.
- B. Department Updates-** Supervisor Diana Ortiz invites all the commissioners to attend the Veterans Commemoration Ceremony scheduled for Thursday, November 11th at 10:00 a.m. The event will take place at Bell Gardens Veterans Park in front of the memorial. Diana Ortiz informed the Youth and Sports Recreation classes are resuming. Several dance classes are expected to resume soon.

Free art classes are currently taking place and accepting registrations. Classes will begin in December, and anyone interested can contact the Recreation and Services department. The Community Family Service Center is providing essential services to the entire community. The center opened in the beginning of the pandemic and have been working directly with the community to obtain housing security, emergency food assistance and utility assistance. Just to name a few of the services that CFSC assists residents. Supervisor Diana Ortiz encouraged residents to contact the CFSC directly at 562.928.2000 or visit the office at 6662 Loveland St. The department is currently facilitators with the Covid-19 Rent Relief Utility Assistance Program. A State Program assisting Bell Gardens residents that fall under the income bracket regardless of the citizenship status. The Recreation department continues to provide supper meals to all children in our community. The Covid-19 testing center continues to serve the community with free testing Monday-Friday from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Bell Gardens Veterans Park. The Covid-19 vaccine center is offering Pfizer 1st and 2nd and Booster, Pediatric Pfizer and Moderna Booster. Supervisor Ortiz shared 42 pediatric vaccines were administered to children 5-11 years of age. Lastly, the Recreation Department will be having the Fishing Derby at Ford Park. The Self-Defense free workshop at Veterans Park. Supervisor Diana is excited to share the Aquatic groundbreaking will take place at Ford Park pool. For additional events please visit the Bell Gardens social media page and Website. The department will also have a health fair at Veterans Park. Supervisor Diana Ortiz invites all commissioners to attend city events.

- C. Senior Updates-** Supervisor Diana Ortiz shared the department is open Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Time slots are being used in the pool room to ensure proper social distancing is being followed. Staff is disinfecting the facility and any material being used by seniors. Senior food distribution will take place on Friday November 12th at Bell Gardens Veterans Park. Food distributions occurs monthly, scheduled every 2nd Friday of each month. Seniors 55+ are invited to drive or walk up and receive LA Food Bank boxes. Seniors can designate family or friends to pick up their meals. Erica Rodriguez Senior Center Coordinator shared meals are continuously distributed during the pandemic. Human Services Association continues to share frozen meals on a weekly basis. Coordinator Erica is happy to report the center will be opened to have seniors congregate for meals. Safety guidelines and protocols will be followed to ensure the safety of all seniors. Coming up the Senior Center will have a Thanksgiving Dinner at Veterans Park. Pre-Registration and proof of vaccination is required to attend this event. On November 29th the senior center will be hosting a mini health fair. The fun continues, Tuesday with a movie day at the senior center. Loteria will be on Wednesday with a small fee of \$3.00, snacks and refreshments will be served. On Thursday the Senior Center will celebrate everyone's birthdays. Coordinator Erica invites the community to join on December 3rd to share any ideas and become a volunteer. On Friday December 10th the Senior Center will have a Holiday event at Veterans Park. In the next few months, we are planning to offer different fun classes such a painting. Supervisor Diana Ortiz would like to invite Seniors that need assistance in paying event fees to speak with the department. The department wants to make sure all seniors can participate in all the events.
- D. Covid 19 and Protocols-** Coordinator Erica Rodrigues confirms the Senior Center has been closed during the pandemic. As they continue to resume with activities, adjustments have been made to ensure seniors are kept safe. The department has created an emergency contact form for all the seniors. Proof of vaccination is required, and staff will keep records. Everyone is required to wear facemasks. Pre-Registration is required in all the events, this allows the department to keep count of the number of residents attending.

Public Comments:

Commission Secretary, Miriam Vargas-Cervantes confirms there are no public comments.

Staff Comments:

Supervisor Diana- would like to thank the Commissioners for being part of the Senior Citizen Committee. The Community Family Service Center can assist seniors with consumer action services that is related to any medical need or essential resources. Bring health and wellness to all seniors.

Comments from Commission:

Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez- wished the entire retired veteran community a safe Veteran's Day. Vice-Chairperson Tiffany Quintero-Maldonado- Happy Veteran's Day. She is excited to collaborate with the Senior Citizen Committee.

Commissioner Ana Maria Sanchez- on behalf of all the seniors she would like to thank the city of Bell Gardens for all the hard work. She is also asking for senior transportation. Many seniors that live in the senior center are limited to transportation. The Senior Center does not have enough parking space.

Supervisor Diana Ortiz- shared transportation has been taken into consideration and definitely working to ensure reliable transportation is available to seniors.

Adjournment:

- Supervisor Diana Ortiz requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- Vice-Chairperson Tiffany Quintero-Maldonado seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Recorded By: Miriam Vargas-Cervantes
Miriam Vargas-Cervantes, Senior Citizen Commission Secretary