



CITY OF BELL GARDENS

REGULAR MEETING SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Call to Order:

Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez forewent the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call:

Commission Secretary Miriam Vargas-Cervantes:

Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez	Present
Vice-Chairperson 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:

Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez asked to motion the minutes from the regular meeting of February 9, 2022. Commissioner Ana Maria Sanchez motioned to approve the minutes. Vice-Chairperson Tiffany Quintero-Maldonado seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- A. Department Updates-** Supervisor Diana Ortiz introduces the new Recreation Community Services Director Elizabeth Nava. Director Nava is excited of being part of the City of Bell Gardens. Director Nava worked for about 14 years in the City of Norwalk. Obtained a degree in sociology from the University of Nebraska. Director Nava has a master's degree in public administration from Cal State Long Beach. She worked for about eight years at a Senior Center and at the Social Services Center in the city of Norwalk. Director Nava is looking forward working with the commission. Informs the commissioners they can reach her at any time for questions and concerns. Supervisor Diana Ortiz informs commissioners of the updates on the Covid-19 testing center. On April 5th there was a recent change to the uninsured program and unfortunately any provider that was providing testing to uninsured is unable to submit a claim for reimbursement. There has been a change to the Covid-19 testing site where folks that are uninsured are no longer able to receive free testing. The City of Bell Gardens is providing free testing to all residents that have insurance. Any resident that does not

have insurance there is a cash option. The good news is that the department of Community Family Service Center reached out to the county to obtain location of free testing sites. The CFSC currently has available a few rapid antigen covid-19 test kits. As far as vaccines the department will continue to offer vaccines to insured or uninsured residents that needs any dose. The CFSC was assisting the residents with the Los Angeles County Breathe pilot program. This program is doing some research to allow residents breathe easier knowing that they can be financially secured. The program is currently offering \$1,000 per month for up to three years. A total of 1,000 Los Angeles County residents will be selected. Today April 13th is the last day to apply for the Breathe program anyone in need of assistance please contact CFSC. The Community Family Service Center is happy to announce second booster is now available. The fourth dose or second booster is being offered to adults fifty years and older. It must be taken four months after the last booster dose. Pfizer second booster is being offered on Monday's from 1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Moderna second booster is being offered on Thursday's from 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Supervisor Ortiz shares a friendly reminder Pfizer pediatric is being offered every Wednesday from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. The vaccine center is located at Bell Gardens Veterans Park. Currently turf replacement is taking place at the soccer field at John Anson Ford Park at the sports center. To ensure the safety of residents and staff half of the parking lot will be closed from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Approximately at 4:30 p.m. the parking lot will be open for any recreation activities. Staff has also done some research on Farmers Market. The City of Bell Gardens is looking in offering Farmers Market at the city special events. The goal is to introduce the idea and eventually transition it to a larger stand-alone Farmers Market. Depending on the outcome and success it will determine the result of a permanent Farmers Market event. The American Cross will be hosting a blood drive at Bell Gardens Veterans Park on April 14th. Those residents who are interested in donating blood can schedule an appointment online. Reminds residents the City of Bell Gardens will host a Food Distribution on Saturday April 16th at 10:00 a.m. at Bell Gardens Veterans Park. We invite all residents and the Bell Gardens surrounding's residents to participate.

- B. **Senior Updates-** Coordinator Erica Rodriguez at the Senior Center invites all commissioners to visit the Senior Center any time from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Coordinator Rodriguez is happy to announce the department will resume the lunch program on May 2nd. Anyone who participated in the food program please contact Human Services Association for a new application. Invites seniors to participate in the first lunch event on May 2nd. The center will adjust the schedule to ensure the food hours run smoothly. Encourages residents to participate the movie events at the Senior Center. Currently English and Spanish movies are being offered. On Wednesday's, the department offers Loteria free to all seniors. A great way to make new friends and engage with new people. If you haven't had a chance to stop and visit the senior birthday gatherings. Coordinator Rodriguez informs residents the department has options to take care of their health while engaging with other seniors. On May 7th at 10:00 a.m. the department will have caregiver information. The department is resuming several events and will soon celebrate Mother's Day with tea party on May 9th. A hat competition will also take place on Mother's Day. Be on the look for the Father's Day gathering "Compas and Papas celebration." The Senior Center will also be hosting Karaoke on May 23rd from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Encourages everyone to participate in all the amazing events. Encourages residents who lost a friend or family member who served in the military, please contact the Senior Center as the City of Bell Gardens will be honoring them on Memorial Day. Encourages everyone who had a loved to submit a photo to bgseniors@bellgardens.com. More information will be provided in the future. Coordinator Erica invites commissioners and residents that are interested in more information of all the Senior Center events to please contact the department.

- C. Utility Box Art Beautification-** Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez announces it has been an ongoing item added to the agenda. Chairperson shares previous Program Director Rozanne Adanto submitted standards to art policy and was waiting for approval from council. Chairperson Poliquin-Hernandez reached council and it could be possible this item was overlooked. Requests for the city to reach out to again and see what the status is on this project. Regardless of the approval or denial of the project Chairperson Poliquin-Hernandez is requesting a response.
- a. **Director Elizabeth Nava-** informs Chairperson Poliquin-Hernandez there is no current policy for the utility art box. However, communication has been made with the artist who will be working with a future utility box. Director confirms no progress has been made towards the beautification of a utility box. Elizabeth Nava will obtain more information about the progress and inform commissioners soon. Director informs commissioners requires councils' approval and budget expenses.
- D. Talent Show-** Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez informs due to lack of quorum on the last meeting this topic was not discussed. Emphasizes the City of Bell Gardens will be hosting a karaoke event for all seniors to participate. It will be open to all members of the community. It will be an intergenerational event for the entire community. As of now the talent show will be on September 9th, 2022. This will allow plenty of time to establish auditions, performers, and guidelines. The talent show will take place at Bell Gardens Ross Hall. This event would be a great way to kick off fall and allow residents to engage in a friendly activity. The Senior Center will plan this amazing fun event. Invites the commission to collaborate and plan something interesting and fun for the talent show. Chairperson Poliquin-Hernandez hopes to start a new trend and hopefully this event can be something that will go on every year. His goal is to ensure that seniors are represented properly.
- a. **Supervisor Diana Ortiz-** The talent show is something that was pending and is grateful of Chairperson Poliquin-Hernandez incorporated it to the agenda. Informs commissioners Coordinator Erica has a great volunteer program that assist with the special events. Welcomes commissioners to visit the Senior Center.
 - b. **Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez-** Informs committee members having support from a councilmember. Invites Coordinator to elaborate more on the senior updates.
 - c. **Coordinator Erica Rodriguez-** Informs residents a small fee will be added to the talent show to ensure enough seating and interests are available to all senior participants. Highlights the interest in showcasing and emphasizing the variety of ideas and talents. Agrees with Chairperson Poliquin-Hernandez recognize the Bell Gardens talent. Invites residents to provide suggestions and ways to enhance the talent show.
 - d. **Vice-Chairperson Tiffany Quintero-Maldonado-** Would like to ensure that all Bell Gardens seniors are being allowed to participate in the talent show. Proposes virtual participation or would it be limited to in person participation. Suggests seniors should also be allowed to participate virtually due to mobility issues or health concerns. Vice-Chairperson would like to know are virtual participants be allowed?
 - e. **Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez-** Agrees with Vice-Chairperson Tiffany Quintero-Maldonado. Virtual participation could be something that can be added. However, establishment is taking place and currently working on the type of rewards.
 - f. **Coordinator Erica Rodriguez-** Mentions the establishment is still developing.

Public Comments:

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

Staff Comments:

Supervisor Diana- would like to thank the commissioners for their participation. Encourages commissioners to view the events listed on the agenda. Contact Erica Rodriguez for any questions or concerns. Invites commissioners to participate in the swing into spring dance April 22nd. Table is reserved for any senior citizen commissioners that would like to participate.

Director Elizabeth Nava- expresses excitement in meeting the commission team in person. Director Nava is available to meet with them at any time.

Coordinator Erica Rodriguez- would like to thank the commission and the Bell Gardens community for their participation. Lots of new faces embracing the senior center program.

Comments from Commission:

Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez- Welcomes the new Program Director Elizabeth Nava. Encourages the public to attend monthly volunteer meetings at the Senior Center. The next meeting will be on April 15th at 11:00 a.m. Chairperson would like to thank the Recreation and Parks department and staff for the continue work they do for the community. Would like to request for Council to look fill in the remaining of the commissioner seats. This will help maintain a quorum and provide an insight of the meeting.

Adjournment:

Chairperson Jacob Poliquin-Hernandez requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Vice-Chairperson Tiffany Quintero-Maldonado motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Ana Maria seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37p.m.

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