

City of Fresno Youth Commission – Minutes - Draft

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Location: Fresno City Hall – Room 2665A

1. **5:45 P.M. Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call**

Present: 8 - Chair Nina Narahari* (CD 2), 2nd Vice Chair Jovan Mendez* (CD 3), Commissioner Antonio Jauregui* (Mayor's Office), Commissioner Marco Sanchez (Mayor's Office), Commissioner Chandler Baladjanian (CD 2), Commissioner Adriana Reyes* (CD 5), Commissioner Citlali Palma* (CD 6), and Commissioner Miranda Lara (CD 7)

Absent: 6 - 1st Vice Chair Lady Abangan* (CD 4), Sergeant of Arms Gabriel Murillo* (CD 7), Secretary Alyssa Villegas (CD 4), Commissioner Diana Gallardo* (CD 1), Commissioner Chance Lau (CD 1), and Commissioner Jaylin White (CD 3)

Youth Leadership Institute coordinator Jose Espinoza announced the resignation of 1st Vice Chair Lady Abangan and Commissioner Diana Gallardo. Their resignations were effective immediately. This created two new vacancies for seats with voting rights, which were immediately filled by their Council District alternate members (Secretary Alyssa Villegas (CD 4), and Commissioner Chance Lau (CD 1)), respectively, until such a time as the vacancy is filled and the responsible Councilmember appoints permanent voting rights.

Vacancies: 4 - Seats for CD 1, CD 4, CD 5, and CD 6.

In the absence of Sergeant of Arms Gabriel Murillo, Commissioner Miranda Lara exercised voting rights for this meeting.

3. **Review & Approve Agenda**

On motion of Commissioner Reyes, seconded by Commissioner Lara, that the agenda for 2/13/18 be approved. Passed 6-0.

Ayes - 6: Jauregui, Lara, Mendez, Narahari, Palma, Reyes

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Lau, Villegas

2nd Vice Chair called for a seven minute recess (at 5:56 P.M.) so that the new Secretary could meet with Marco Martinez to discuss her role. The meeting reconvened at 6:03 P.M.

4. **Presentations: Presentation by Central Valley Community Foundation (CVCF) Parks Ballot Measure**

Chair Narahari called for the presentation to be heard first on the agenda. The presentation was given by CVCF Policy Director Danielle Bergstrom, and by Dr. Venise Curry, Regional Director for Communities for a New California Education Fund (CNC Education Fund).

Policy Director Bergstrom introduced her organization and their mission. She mentioned that Dr. Curry's organization was part of a coalition to increase park space in Fresno. Key points of the presentation included: Fresno was ranked last on The Trust for Public Land's ParkScore index for 2012; Fresno underspends on a per capita basis on parks than most other cities (\$38.21); polling in Fresno indicates that a majority of voters (75%) support a quarter-of-a-cent or even half-of-a-cent tax increase to benefit parks; crime and homelessness reduction in parks was most important measure component; Feasibility study indicates that half-of-a-cent would provide up to \$54 million dollars for parks, which would augment the current City budget currently set at \$22-\$24 million per year; and it costs about \$1 million per acre to build a new park and city needs 1800 acres by 2035 to meet population needs (including fixing deficient parks).

Policy Director Bergstrom also spoke about the Fresno Parks Initiative which proposes a framework to spend money if a parks ballot measure is passed. No less than 25% of funds would be spent on existing parks. No less than 25% would be spent on new parks. No less than 25% would be spent on trails and San Joaquin River Parkway. 4.5% would be spent for youth, senior, and recreational program (augment City's program); 4.5% for youth jobs, and 8.5 % for Arts and cultural programs and facilities.

Dr. Curry spoke about CNC and its involvement in parks since 2013. She said that young people organized by Building Healthy Communities surveyed over 400 youth and parks were a top priority. This same group documented the condition of park spaces in Fresno and submitted their comments to City Council at the time of the General Plan's adoption, including urging the City to attend to the park needs of south Fresno. She said that there is a lot of industry in the south of Fresno and that that land use designation led to a lack of parks. She mentioned that while including joint-use space (spaces at schools used as parks) had increased the City's score, it was not enough. She also related the story of how youth initiative has created a skate park in Fresno. The idea was youth driven and now youth are designing the park

Questions from commissioners included:

Chair Narahari asked what's the plan to get higher on the ParkScore index? Dr. Curry replied that it was increasing the amount spent per person. Also by advocating for increasing budget restoration from recession levels.

Commissioner Jauregui asked about the ranking in 2008. What can we look at "sister cities" like those in Minnesota that have the highest park rankings, so we don't have to reinvent the wheel? Policy Director Bergstrom stated that we should start with having a dedicated funding strategy, and that top ranked cities had established their park commission in the 1900s. It would also help to re-establish a parks commission in Fresno. Dr. Curry also spoke about the adopt-a-park model for the 49 acres the City

received as a gift at Peach and Butler. She said that this land would become a park and that increasing acreage would help increase the park score.

Commissioner Narahari asked where Sacramento was on the ParkScore index. Dr. Curry said at about 30.

Commissioner Jauregui asked if there was language designating where in Fresno funds would be spent. Policy Director Bergstrom said that at least 25% of funds dedicated to existing funds should be spent on parks designated as being in poor condition. And that for new parks, no less than a quarter go to park poor neighborhoods.

Commissioner Jauregui asked if a dollar amount could be stated in terms of the “at least 25%”. Policy Director Bergstrom said that it would be difficult to determine an exact dollar amount at this time. Commissioner Jauregui spoke about Hyde Park and Pride Park and said that he had spoken to people who use Pride Park and that the people who use that park pay for the amenities (like port-a-potties) themselves. He wants to make sure that the 25% goes to parks like these. Director Bergstrom said that there could be changes made to the map overlays to reflect that concern.

Commissioner Jauregui asked Dr. Curry to speak on the disparity of life span in terms of park space. Dr. Curry said there was a study done on a zip code in southwest Fresno compared to a zip code in Woodward Park and that they found a disparity of 20 years. Consistently where you live determines how long you live. She suggested that commissioners look at CalEnviroScreen, which is a tool used to gauge how communities are impacted by environmental factors. She also spoke about Hyde Park and said that while it did increase the park acreage, it was not really useable due to extensive contamination, and that they fought to make that clear in the City’s Southwest Specific Plan. Commissioner Jauregui asked how a park can lose its designation as a park. Dr. Curry said it had to do with zoning.

2nd Vice Chair Mendez asked if there were considerations for youth centers in the plan. Dr. Curry said that there was information about centers in the Parks Master Plan. There was also the idea also to merge senior and youth centers that could be used at different times.

5. Review & Approve Minutes

On motion of Commissioner Lara, seconded by Commissioner Palma, that the minutes of 1/30/18 be approved. Passed 6-0.

Ayes - 6: Jauregui, Lara, Mendez, Narahari, Palma, Reyes

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Lau, Villegas

6. Workshops: Youth Jobs Task Force Resolution

Coordinator Espinoza said that he had sent an email updating that the resolution is a Youth Commission proposal supported by interns. He said that the interns updated Councilmember Soria and received input.

Commissioner Sanchez said the main change was to condense the goals from all three years into one year in order to get the task force to start working immediately. It was clarified that the task force should meet once a month. Soria also recommended that the commission obtain letters of support for the resolution. Commissioner Sanchez also said that the other commissioners should meet with their respective councilmembers and ask that they support the resolution.

Coordinator Espinoza urged the commissioners to email or call their councilmembers and ask them to support the resolution. He stated that letters of support could come from Fresno Unified and suggested that commissioners Narahari and Lara ask Christopher De La Cerda for a letter of support. Other letters of support could be obtained from PG&E and Bitwise. Commissioner Reyes will reach out to PG&E. Commissioner Jauregui will reach out to Bitwise.

The commission read and reviewed the draft resolution. Coordinator Espinoza said some parts involving the youth commission were removed from the language and that those parts could be acted upon once the task force is created as youth commission recommendations to the task force. He said that the commission is still waiting to hear back from Soria and that the final version of the resolution would be presented at the next meeting.

Chair Narahari expressed concerns about obtaining the letters in time. Yesica Prado (UC Berkeley student) suggested that commissioners show up at the offices of those people that the commission is requesting letters of support.

Coordinator Espinoza asked that given the short time frame to presenting the resolution on March 1, 2018, that the commission approves the resolution with the recommendations that Soria and the Youth Jobs ad hoc committee made, with a final reading at the next meeting.

On motion of Commissioner Lara, seconded by Commissioner Reyes, that the task force resolution with edits from Soria and ad hoc committee be approved.

Ayes - 6: Jauregui, Lara, Mendez, Narahari, Palma, Reyes

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Lau, Villegas

This item was re-opened after public comment. On motion of 2nd Vice Chair Mendez, seconded by Commissioner Lara, that the Youth Commission's liaison (Youth Leadership Institute) obtain letters of support on behalf of the Youth commission. Approved 6-0.

Ayes - 6: Jauregui, Lara, Mendez, Narahari, Palma, Reyes

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Lau, Villegas

7. Committee Reports

1. Civic Engagement Task Force: Chair Narahari said that she and Commissioner Lara could now resume attending meeting because they no longer had a conflicting college class.

2. District 5 Youth Commissioners: Coordinator Espinoza said that projects awarded funds would continue until 6/30/18, and that there would be a celebration organized by Council District 5 sometime in the future. Commissioner Reyes said that Dr. Kinman had sent an email saying that she had met with students from Roosevelt.
3. Social Media Committee: No updates.
4. T-shirt Committee: Coordinator Espinoza said that t-shirt designs have not yet be approved. There was discussion about the status of the committee, its current task, and its only remaining member Lady Abangan. There was general consensus to add new members to the committee and that the new members would bring a design for approval at the next meeting.
On motion of Commissioner Lara, seconded by Commissioner Reyes, that the following commissioners be added to the T-shirt Committee: Chair Narahari, 2nd Vice Chair Mendez, and Commissioner Palma. Approved 6-0.
Ayes - 6: Jauregui, Lara, Mendez, Narahari, Palma, Reyes
Noes - 0: None
Absent - 2: Lau, Villegas
5. Other Committee Reports:
 - a. Vote 16: Commissioner Lara said she was terming out in April and asked for volunteers to take over.

Motion by Commissioner Baladjanian, seconded Commissioner Lau, that the minutes for 1/16/18 be approved.

Ayes - 6: Baladjanian, Lau, Jauregui, Mendez, Reyes, Villegas

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Murillo, Palma

8. **Reschedule Meeting Dates.**

Coordinator Espinoza said there has been concern about attending meetings and finishing terms. He also stated that the meeting in April should be a celebratory meeting with invited local officials to celebrate those commissioners that are terming out.

On motion of Commissioner Lara, seconded by Chair Narahari, that the meeting schedule be modified to reflect 2/27/18, 3/13/8, and 4/24/18 as the meeting dates for the Youth Commission, removing all other previously scheduled dates. Approved 6-0.

Ayes - 6: Jauregui, Lara, Mendez, Narahari, Palma, Reyes

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Lau, Villegas

9. Public Comments

Yesica Prado (UC Berkeley graduate student), said she was in Fresno to do a thesis project about Fresno. She asked if the commission had thought of any other sources for letters of support in case the people that they reach out to don't respond.

On general consensus, the Commission re-opened the Workshops – Youth Jobs Task Force Resolution item.

10. Adjournment

On motion of Commissioner Lara, seconded by Commissioner Jauregui, that the meeting be adjourned. Passed 6-0.

Ayes - 6: Jauregui, Lara, Mendez, Narahari, Palma, Reyes

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Lau, Villegas

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 P.M.