

City of Fresno Youth Commission – Minutes - Final

Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Location: Fresno City Hall – Room 2665A

1. 5:46 P.M. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Present: 8 - 2nd Vice Chair Jovan Mendez* (CD 3), Secretary Chandler Baladjanian (CD 2), Commissioner Antonio Jauregui* (Mayor's Office), Commissioner Marco Sanchez (Mayor's Office), Commissioner Chance Lau (CD 1), Commissioner Jaylin White (CD 3), Commissioner Alyssa Villegas (newly elected Secretary (CD 4), and Commissioner Adriana Reyes* (CD 5)

Absent: 6 - Chairperson Nina Narahari* (CD 2), 1st Vice Chair Lady Abangan* (CD 4), Sergeant of Arms Gabriel Murillo* (CD 7), Commissioner Diana Gallardo* (CD 1), Commissioner Citlali Palma* (CD 6), and Commissioner Miranda Lara (CD 7)

Vacancies: 2 - Alternate Seat for CD 5, and Alternate Seat for CD 6

Commissioner Jauregui was absent during roll call and did not enter the room until 5:58 P.M. He left the room at 6:23 P.M. and did not return to the meeting.

In the absence of commissioners with voting rights: Nina Narahari, Lady Abangan, Diana Gallardo, Citlali Palma, and Gabriel Murillo; the following commissioners exercised voting rights, respectively: Chandler Baladjanian, Alyssa Villegas, and Chance Lau. The corresponding alternate seat for CD 6 is vacant, and alternate for CD 7 was absent.

Current vacated positions: CD 5 Alternate, and CD 6 Alternate

3. Discussion Items

Election of Officers. Coordinator Marco Martinez of the City Clerk's office asked Secretary Baladjanian and 2nd Vice Chair Mendez if they were still interested in finishing out their terms (de-facto until 4/28/18, with credit for time served). Secretary Baladjanian stated that she wanted to make an announcement in regards to her position. Therefore, this item was heard first on the agenda.

Secretary Baladjanian stated that she was yielding her position as secretary immediately, and that she was resigning from the Fresno Youth Commission effective April 29th, 2018 in order to attend college.

Commissioner Villegas nominated herself for Secretary. There were no other nominations. On Motion of Commissioner Villegas, seconded by Commissioner Reyes, that Commissioner Villegas be elected to the position of Secretary, with immediate effect. Passed 6-0.

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

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Murillo, Palma

2nd Vice Chair Mendez expressed interest in finishing out his term until 4/28/18. There were no other nominations for 2nd Vice Chair. On motion of 2nd Vice Chair Mendez, seconded by Commissioner Baladjanian, that 2nd Vice Chair Mendez receive credit for time served de-facto as 2nd Vice Chair and that he finish out his second term in that position until 4/28/18. Passed 6-0.

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

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Murillo, Palma

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. Ice Breaker:

What are you proud of that you've accomplished by the end of January 2018? How was your Winter break and what are your plans/goals for the new year? Commissioners and staff discussed their accomplishments during the first month of the new year.

5. Commissioners Reports and Comments

Marco Martinez of the City Clerk's office explained that this new section of the agenda would allow the commissioners to provide reports in regards to topics about their Council Districts, including "happenings." They could also use this space to briefly comment on issues that are not on the agenda, in particular procedural issues.

There were no reports or comments.

6. Review & Approve Agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Lau, seconded by Commissioner Baladjanian, that the agenda for 1/30/18 be approved.

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

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Murillo, Palma

7. Review and Approve Minutes.

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. Youth Jobs Presentation.

Youth Leadership Institute coordinator Jose Espinoza stated that there would be a meeting with the youth job interns to finish putting the task force resolution together. The piece before the commission was almost complete, with just the conclusion remaining. He said that the bullet points would be incorporated into a final resolution and to make the document “look” like an official resolution. The resolution was presented by 2nd Vice Chair Mendez and Commissioner Sanchez.

9. Youth Commission Input on Task Force Resolution.

2nd Vice Chair Mendez and Commissioner Sanchez presented this item. Commissioner Sanchez said the resolution was split into three parts: Introduction (primary and secondary research, including surveys), the middle (years 1, 2, 3), and the conclusion. He then proceeded to read the sections of the resolution.

He said for year one that the task force would further the research the commission already had done, including creating a central location to find jobs directed toward youth. Year two would be for finding funding. And year three would be used to execute everything. During each year, the task force would be required to update Council annually. Marco Martinez suggested that they include language that the task force would update Council continually with at least once annually.

2nd Vice Chair Mendez spoke about year two. The task force will look for funding to direct to City Council and work with the City to apply for grants to create more Youth jobs in order to create sustainable jobs. Marco Martinez suggested that the wording be changed to reflect that the task force will be seeking outside funding sources as well. He also received permission from the commission to add ideas and improve formatting to the resolution.

Commissioner Lau said he thought the task force would be creating jobs with the private sector and a free market approach. Sher Moua of the Youth Leadership Institute said that it would be a public-private partnership.

Commissioner Sanchez spoke about year three, which would involve the task force presenting a plan or policy for youth jobs. This would include proposals derived from the youth surveys.

Commissioner Lau asked about including a percentage as part of the goal for youth jobs creation. Commissioner Sanchez said that Councilmember Soria dissuaded them from putting a percentage as a goal because it's difficult to tell sectors to create a certain percent of youth jobs.

Coordinator Espinoza spoke about the need to have Council adopt the task force resolution by the end of February in order to not jeopardize the grant funding for the youth jobs interns. Commissioner Lau asked about the definition of a successful task force and coordinator Espinoza said it would be the adoption of a long-term and sustainable plan of policy that maintained and increased youth jobs in the city.

Commissioner White asked what a policy that increases youth jobs would look like. Coordinator Espinoza responded that it would be up to the task force to create the policy and to put it before Council. That the goal would be to increase and maintain those youth jobs.

2nd Vice Chair Mendez asked the commission for input about the role of youth on the task force. Coordinator Martinez said that the youth on the task force would already have a voice and to be careful about stipulating what their role should be. There was discussion about mandating that youth be part of any subcommittee within the task force. Commissioner Lau recommended a standing youth subcommittee with the power to put items on the agenda. Coordinator Martinez clarified that in general, if you're member of a committee or body that you already have that power.

There was further discussion about the role of the Youth Commission in presenting the task force resolution to Council. Coordinator Espinoza stated that the resolution would be presented by the youth jobs interns. He noted that 2nd Vice Chair Mendez and Commissioner Sanchez were part of the youth jobs internship program grant. He said that other members of the Youth Commission could attend the Council presentation. He said that the grant obtained by Youth Leadership Institute for the youth jobs interns required that the proposal be made by the youth jobs interns program. And also, that the interns had done most of the research for the resolution.

Coordinator Martinez said that upon seeing a youth related item before them, that Council would probably expect the task force resolution be a proposal of the Youth Commission, and not exclusively of an outside group. He said that he thought that the youth jobs interns were working in support of the Youth Commission as an ad-hoc committee. He encouraged the commissioners to take a look at the ordinance that created the Fresno Youth Commission; since it stipulated that the role of the commission was to advise Council. He said that the commission had spent a lot of time on the resolution, which made him think it was a commission initiative.

There was some confusion from commissioners in regards to the role of the youth jobs interns. Commissioners Lau asked if it would be okay for the Council presentation to start off with a youth commissioner stating that the youth commission had been working with the task force. Coordinator Espinoza said that it might be that the interns have to make the presentation since there could be funding for the internship program at play. There could be two scenarios, one where it has to be an youth interns' initiative and the other as stated by Commissioner Lau.

Commissioner White stated that she could understand both sides and was also concerned about how Council might see the presentation if it wasn't a Youth Commission effort. Commissioner Lau stated that the commission had spent a lot of time on the resolution and that if the task force resolution and that if it was not a Youth Commission effort, then perhaps the Youth Commission should have been focusing on other things. Coordinator Espinoza said that he would seek clarification with his supervisor in regards to this issue. With further conversation it was decided to move forward with the task force resolution and that Coordinator Espinoza would provide an update.

On motion of Commissioner Lau, seconded by Commissioner Baladjanian, that the task force resolution be approved as amended, and with any changes added by the coordinator. Passed 6-0.

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

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Murillo, Palma

10. Table Remaining Items

On motion of Commissioner Baladjanian, seconded by Commissioner Lau, that the task items for remaining agenda items (Action Planning (youth jobs), and Committee Reports, be tabled due to time constraints. Passed 6-0.

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

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Murillo, Palma

11. Adjournment

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

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

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Murillo, Palma

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 P.M.