

City of Fresno Youth Commission – Minutes - Final

Date: Friday, March 22, 2019

Location: Fresno City Hall – Room 2165A

1. 5:17 P.M. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Present: 7 – Chair Antonio Jauregui* (Mayor's Office), Sergeant of Arms Kyra Vang (CD 5), Secretary Gabriela Martinez (CD 6), Commissioner Daniel Galvan* (CD 3), Commissioner Alyssa Villegas* (CD 4), Commissioner Luis Guzman (CD 4), and Commissioner Adriana Reyes* (CD 5)

Absent: 2 – 1st Vice Chair Marco Sanchez (Mayor's Office), and 2nd Vice Chair Citlali Palma* (CD 6)

Vacancies: 7 – Voting seats and alternate seats for CD 1, CD 2, and CD 7; and alternate seat for CD 3.

Secretary Martinez exercised voting rights for CD 6 in the absence of her counterpart, 2nd Vice Chair Palma.

CD = Council District

Asterisk (*) = Voting Member

3. Review & Approve Agenda

Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) Program Coordinator Jose Espinoza requested that the Capacity Building Trainings Item be removed. Commissioner Villegas asked that the FYC T-Shirt and Card Design item be removed since 2nd Vice Chair Palma would not be available to present.

On motion of Commissioner Villegas, seconded by Secretary Martinez, that the agenda for 3/22/19 be approved as amended. Passed 5-0.

Ayes - 5: Galvan, Jauregui, Martinez, Reyes, Villegas

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 0: None

4. Ice Breaker / Team Builder

Commissioner Guzman joined the meeting at 5:21 P.M.

YLI Program Assistant Truong “Rich” Nguyen and Coordinator Espinoza led the activity. Commissioners paired off and participated in an activity called “human go-car.” They took turns being the “driver” and the “car.” The driver “pushed” the car throughout the floor and gave driving instructions; while the car had his or her eyes closed and maneuvered obstacles. After the exercise, the commissioners shared their experiences being the driver and car. Some found the experience confusing and scary because they had to allow someone else to take control. Coordinator Espinoza summarized the activity and stated that the point of the activity was to learn to communicate and trust.

5. Commissioners' Reports and Comments

City Clerk's Office Coordinator Marco Martinez reminded the commissioners that they could call into a meeting only if they call in from a public location with access for the public and if the agenda is posted from the public location in accordance with the Brown Act.

6. Review & Approve Minutes

Coordinator Martinez announced that the minutes for the meeting of 3/8/19 should be approved as amended to reflect that upon reviewing the meeting notes after the meeting, the commission in fact did not have quorum after Commissioner Galvan left the meeting and that while discussion can continue on an item started before losing quorum, that no action can be taken on the item and that the only action allowed subsequent to losing quorum is adjournment.

On motion of Commissioner Villegas, seconded by Commissioner Reyes, that the minutes for 3/8/19 be approved as amended. Passed 5-0.

Ayes - 5: Galvan, Jauregui, Martinez, Reyes, Villegas

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 0: None

7. Presentations / Workshops / Action Items

Chair Jauregui called for the next item.

a. Capacity Building Trainings

This item was removed from the agenda.

b. Identifying Current Youth Issues

Coordinator Espinoza asked the groups to meet briefly and report to the commission in regards to their research. The groups met from 5:45 P.M. to 5:55 P.M.

Pollution (Sergeant of Arms Vang and 2nd Vice Chair Palma). Sergeant of Arms Vang reported that Fresno is the fourth most ozone polluted city in the state. She also read about the effects of pollution from the Heart Association. She requested more time to conduct additional research and stated that an obstacle to her research was that many articles were outdated.

Gang violence (Commissioners Guzman and Galvan). Commissioner Guzman reported on survey results his group carried out. They interviewed a total of 25 people. He stated that most people thought the biggest issue was robbery, in particular stolen bikes at Fresno State. They asked the following survey questions: 1. How many times a month do you experience violence? Seven people responded that they experience violence zero to five times, three people reported six to ten times, and one person responded over eleven times; and 2. Do you feel safe in your neighborhood? Eight people said their

neighborhood was not safe, two people said their neighborhood was somewhat safe, three people said their neighborhood was safe, and one person said their neighborhood was very safe. Commissioner Guzman stated that he wasn't surprised that people felt unsafe and that he had a difficult time researching criminal reports.

Parks (1st Vice Chair Jauregui, 2nd Vice Chair Sanchez, and Commissioner Villegas). Chair Jauregui reported that his group was still in the research phase and that he was working with a professor to create a survey. He said that one of the challenges was to conduct polling by age bracket. Commissioner Villegas stated that she had interviewed about five to six people and asked if there was a need for more parks. She said the common answer was yes, and that people asked for more green parks.

Chair Jauregui invited Josh Cruzat from Barrios Unidos to speak in regards to parks. Mr. Cruzat spoke about the Invest in the West campaign which is focused on improving west Fresno, including the possibility of merging an abandoned golf course with a nearby local park. He also spoke about Prop. 68, and explained that the proposition provides local entities with funding to create or improve parks. He stated that he had met with Council Vice President Arias (CD 3) and that the City will be applying for funding. In response to a question about the funding deadline from Chair Jauregui, Mr. Cruzat said the deadline to apply for the next round of Prop. 68 funding is August 5, 2019.

Coordinator Espinoza added that requirements to qualify for funding include that there needs to be less than eight acres of parks space within a .5 mile radius of any specific point, and that households need to have an income of less than \$51,000. He also spoke about the Council District 7 proposal to create a trail. He mentioned that Fresno is ranked 94th nationwide in terms of parks space and that it's considered a parks desert.

Streets/Sidewalks (Secretary Martinez and Commissioner Reyes). Commissioner Reyes reported that Fresno is the fifth largest city in the state and that it's a recipient of Measure C funding. She also spoke about the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, which is also known as the "Gas Tax." She said the City receives \$20 million in local funding. She asked people if they would support increasing taxes to provide for road repairs. Four people said yes, and 2 people said no. She continued that it takes the City 24 – 48 hours to repair a road. She cited an article stating that there was \$600 million dollars in deferred funding.

Secretary Martinez reported that most of the people she interviewed stated that there were too many potholes, that roads were repaired poorly, that there were many cracks on the roads, and flooding. She also stated that everyone she interviewed drove a car. Specific areas of her district that were deemed as having issues include Herndon and First.

Coordinator Espinoza recapped the reports and asked the commissioners to decide whether they wanted to select a topic to work on for their proposal or continue researching and wait until the next meeting. Sergeant of Arms Vang requested to wait until the next meeting so that her group could gather more research. Commissioner Guzman concurred with waiting until the next meeting. Chair Jauregui motioned to make parks the issue the commission would tackle. There was discussion between Sergeant of Arms Vang and Chair Jauregui as whether to wait or select parks. Coordinator Espinoza offered a compromise to have both the group for pollution and the group for parks present at the next meeting and then vote on an issue. Chair Jauregui added that components of the other topics were also related to the parks topic. Commissioner Villegas concurred. Commissioner Galvan seconded Chair Jauregui's motion.

Sergeant of Arms Vang, having no voting rights, requested that Commissioner Reyes sponsor a motion on her behalf to continue research on pollution and parks, and vote on an issue at the next meeting. Commissioner Reyes made a motion. The motion failed for lack of second.

Secretary Martinez asked for clarification about the deadline to propose to City Council. Coordinator Martinez stated that the deadline is June 30, 2019.

On motion of Chair Jauregui, seconded by Commissioner Galvan, that the Fresno Youth Commission adopt parks as the topic of proposal to present before City Council. Passed 5-0.

Ayes - 5: Galvan, Jauregui, Martinez, Reyes, Villegas

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 0: None

Commissioner Reyes clarified that she voted yes due to time constraints and felt the issue of parks would be more meaningful for the City.

Coordinator Espinoza asked for a point-person to connect with the City's PARC's Department to lead the Youth Commission efforts in gathering research data from the City. Sergeant of Arms volunteered to be the point-person. Coordinator Espinoza encouraged the remaining commissioners to also conduct research on their own. Chair Jauregui asked the commissioners to identify the worst parks in their district, and to take notes on the park amenities, the types and number of visitors. He also asked the commissioners to review the parks master plan and to come with proposals at the next meeting. He stated that he would invite various groups to present before the commission.

c. FYC T-Shirt and Card Design

This item was removed from the agenda.

8. Committee Reports

No committee reports made.

9. Calendar Items

Chair Jauregui reminded the Commission about the Youth Jobs Task Force meeting and announced the next Fresno Youth Commission meeting for 4/5/19.

10. Public Comments

Sumandeep Gill, Fresno State graduate student, addressed the commission. She spoke about her experience assisting with an assessment with the City of Del Rey. Her survey identified parks and gang violence as important issues to the residents of Del Rey. She also identified that: residents requested speed bumps in front parks, residents were concerned about wild dogs, and she was forbidden from wearing certain colors so as to avoid being targeted by gangs while conducting her research. She named the California Rural Legal Assistance foundation as a partner on the project.

11. Adjournment

On motion of Chair Jauregui, seconded by Commissioner Villegas, that the Fresno Youth Commission meeting be adjourned. Passed 5-0.

Ayes - 5: Galvan, Jauregui, Martinez, Reyes, Villegas

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 0: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.