

City of Fresno

2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721
www.fresno.gov



Meeting Minutes - Final

Thursday, January 14, 2021

5:15 PM

Regular Meeting

Zoom Video Conference

Fresno Youth Commission

Chair Evelyn Gamble (CD 2), 1st Vice Chair McKay Duran* (Mayor's Office), 2nd Vice Chair Gabriela Martinez* (CD 6), Sergeant of Arms Daniel Galvan* (CD 3), Commissioners: Jesus Lopez (Mayor's Office), J'Ryana Horne* (CD 1), Luis Guzman (CD 4), Dylan Keosakdy* (CD 7), and Janette Vergara (CD 7). Vacant: CD 4*, CD5*, CD 1 Alternate, CD 2 Alternate, CD 3 Alternate, CD 5 Alternate, and CD 6 Alternate*

Coordinators:

Jose Espinoza - Youth Leadership Institute

Marco Martinez - Office of the City Clerk

1. Call to Order

The Fresno Youth Commission met in regular session on Thursday, January 14, 2021 through video teleconference. Chair Gamble called the meeting to order at 5:33 P.M.

2. Roll Call (* indicates a Voting Seat)

Present: 6 – Chair Evelyn Gamble (CD2), 1st Vice Chair McKay Duran* (Mayor's Office), 2nd Vice Chair Gabriela Martinez* (CD 6), Sergeant of Arms Daniel Galvan* (CD 3), Commissioner Jesus Lopez (Mayor's Office), and Commissioner Janette Vergara (CD 7)*

Absent: 3 – Commissioner Luis Guzman (CD 4), Commissioner J'Ryana Horne (CD 1), and Commissioner Dylan Keosakdy* (CD 7)*

Vacancies: 7 – voting seats for CD 4 and CD 5; and alternate seats for CD 1, CD 2, CD 3, CD 5, and CD 6

If a voting member is absent, the alternate counterpart exercises motion and voting rights during that period of absence.

CD = Council District

3. Approve Agenda

Chair Gamble removed item 4. Ice Breaker / Team Builder / Capacity Building Training from the agenda.

On motion of 1st Vice Chair Duran, seconded by 2nd Vice Chair Martinez, that the agenda for January 14, 2021 be approved as amended. The motion carried by the following roll-call vote:

Ayes - 5: Duran, Galvan, Gamble, Martinez, and Vergara

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Horne and Guzman

4. Ice Breaker / Team Builder / Capacity Building Training

This item was removed from the agenda.

5. Commissioners / Staff - Reports and Comments

No reports or comments made.

6. Approve Minutes

[ID 21-146](#) Minutes for December 17, 2020

On motion of 1st Vice Chair Duran, seconded by 2nd Vice Chair Martinez, that the minutes for December 17, 2020 be approved. The motion carried by the following roll-call vote:

Ayes - 5: Duran, Galvan, Gamble, Martinez, and Vergara

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Horne and Guzman

7. Presentations / Workshops / Action Items

- [ID 21-144](#)
1. Introduction to City of Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer
 2. Presentation by Mayor Dyer regarding priorities and youth initiative
 3. Discussion and actions pertaining to Mayor Dyer's presentation

Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) Program Manager Jose Espinoza introduced City of Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer.

Mayor Dyer spoke regarding his public service background, which includes forty years in the Fresno Police Department. He touched on his experience working with the Police Chief's Advisory Board and the Youth Advisory Council; and reflected on the positive experience of youth input, which led to youth forums throughout the city.

Mayor Dyer requested the Fresno Youth Commission to host a series of youth forums to discuss topics of interest to youth and to recommend participants for the Mayor's Advisory Council. He will also create a Youth Leadership Academy composed of youth and young people to meet and interact with city and county leaders.

Mayor Dyer spoke of his vision for the City of Fresno to be one of

inclusiveness, prosperity, beautification, community pride, and government accountability. He expressed his intention to create a non-profit foundation to serve youth, disadvantaged youth, and youth-serving organizations.

Mayor Dyer outlined initiative proposals for the City of Fresno, including:

- 1. Housing the homeless. This initiative will provide housing to homeless people living along freeways and neighborhoods. The initiative will commence next week.*
- 2. Beautify Fresno. This initiative will improve and clean Fresno through neighborhood "blitzes," which includes graffiti abatement, fixing roads and sidewalks, tree trimming, and other beautification efforts.*
- 3. Downtown Pride. 3,000 people currently live in downtown Fresno. Mayor Dyer's initiative will expand the downtown population to 10,000 people. This initiative will also make downtown more walkable and expand shopping, eating and entertainment opportunities.*
- 4. Community safety. This initiative will ensure Fresno residents are safe.*
- 5. Jobs and economy. This initiative will focus on growing good paying jobs by bringing the right businesses to Fresno to lift people out of poverty. Statewide, Fresno ranks second in poverty.*

Upon the conclusion of the presentation, Chair Gamble congratulated Mayor Dyer on his election and called for comments from commissioners and staff.

1st Vice Chair Duran offered congratulations on the mayoral election, he made positive remarks regarding the presentation and expressed interest in working on the initiatives.

2nd Vice Chair Martinez offered congratulations on the mayoral election and thanked Mayor Dyer for the opportunity to work and connect with youth.

Chair Gamble called for public comment. No member of the public spoke.

In his closing remarks, Mayor Dyer introduced Assistant City Manager Francine Kanne, responsible for overseeing various departments, including PARCS, Police, and Fire; Executive Assistant Sarah Boren who will coordinate with the commission, and Deputy Mayor Mathew Grundy, who is former CEO of Habitat for Humanity.

Chair Gamble directed Mayor's Office representatives Duran and Lopez to continue to meet with Mayor Dyer's staff regarding the initiatives and provide reports to the commission.

No further action was taken on this item.

- [ID 21-143](#)
1. Introduction to Councilmember Tyler Maxwell, Council District 4
 2. Presentation by Councilmember Maxwell regarding transit policy and other priorities
 3. Discussion and actions pertaining to Councilmember Maxwell's presentation

Program Manager Espinoza introduced Councilmember Tyler Maxwell, Council District 4.

Councilmember Maxwell presented the Conserve Fresno - Zero Fare Clean Air Act policy proposal.

Councilmember Maxwell spoke regarding his background. He grew up using public assistance programs and was in the Boy Scouts. Both experiences drive him to enact the policy.

The Zero Fare Clean Air Act policy proposal eliminates City of Fresno bus fares and will stimulate the economy, reduce carbon emissions, and increase FAX bus system efficiency and safety - while promoting infill development and a more walkable city.

Councilmember Maxwell touched on the socio-economic pressures of working class families. He provided examples of cities that already institute zero fare policies, including Clovis and Visalia. He provided ridership statistics relating to age, income, destination and vehicle access. Other key points Councilmember Maxwell provided, include:

- *Majority of bus riders live in Council Districts 3, 4, 5, and 7.*
- *76% of bus riders earn less than \$20,000 per year.*
- *Bus passes bulk buyers are public entities (Fresno Unified School District (FUSD), State Center Community College District (SCCCD), Fresno State University (FSU), and Fresno County), which account for 20% to 25% of purchases.*
- *Zero fare policies lead to increase ridership and have positive economic, environmental, safety, and health impacts in the cities that have implemented those policies.*
- *FAX bus system operating budget of \$60 million per year with a net return of about \$4 million, which is not enough to negate the costs of services associated with fare collection.*
- *FAX will introduce Wi-Fi to bus system in spring 2021, which will attract discretionary bus riders.*

Upon the conclusion of the presentation, Chair Gamble congratulated Councilmember Maxwell on his election and called for comments from commissioners and staff.

Chair Gamble stated she has never taken a bus, does not see many buses in Council District 2, and asked for bus stops to be expanded to districts other than the districts previously cited. She inquired as to the uses of the \$4 million FAX collects from operation of the bus system. Councilmember Maxwell explained the differences between general fund (tax supported) and enterprise fund (self-supported) departments and stated the monies used in the FAX enterprise fund are used internally to run department services. He plans to work with bulk buyers, private enterprises, and obtain grants to fill funding gaps associated with policy implementation.

In response to further questions from Chair Gamble, he stated his desire to implement the policy city-wide as soon as possible, and for the Youth Commission to be join in advocating for the policy.

2nd Vice Chair Martinez related her experience using Bay Area transit system compared to Fresno's current system. She stated her friends worry about using public transit to get to work and the cost associated with the

service. She expressed support for the policy.

1st Vice Chair Duran expressed his experience using the Fresno bus system and support for the policy. He inquired as to grant funding contingences and fare collections. Councilmember Maxwell stated there is state contingency requiring 20% of operating cost to be covered from operating revenue, however, the contingency can be met in other ways, including funding from public/private partnerships.

1st Vice Chair Duran also inquired as to the discussions with potential partners. Councilmember Maxwell responded he has held discussions with SCCCD, FSU, and FUSD. He plans to expand discussions with hospitals, health insurers and Bitwise.

In response to a policy compatibility question from 1st Vice Chair Duran, Mayor Dyer spoke about how his policies and plans for downtown Fresno complement Councilmember Maxwell's proposed policy. Mayor Dyer envisions a trolley system from Chukchansi Park through the Tower District up to Fresno City College. The system would connect with the bus transit system at McKinley Ave. and Blackstone Ave. This will attract people to downtown Fresno while promoting mixed-use projects and walkable neighborhoods.

Chair Gamble called for public comment. No member of the public spoke.

Upon further discussion, Chair Gamble made a motion to support Councilmember Maxwell's policy and create an ad hoc committee.

On motion of Chair Gamble, seconded by 2nd Vice Chair Martinez, that the Fresno Youth Commission support the Zero Fare Clean Air Act policy proposal, and create an ad hoc committee to assist with the proposal. The motion carried by the following roll-call vote:

Ayes - 5: Duran, Galvan, Gamble, Martinez, and Vergara

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Guzman and Horne

Commissioners assigned to the ad hoc committee are: Duran, Gamble, Martinez, and Vergara.

[ID 21-147](#) Updates, discussion and actions pertaining to the Violence Youth Summit and rising community violence

Program Manager Jose Espinoza stated the organization Faith in the Valley had not yet reached out to him regarding continuing work on this item.

No further action was taken on this item.

[ID 21-148](#) Updates, discussion and actions pertaining to the COVID-19 Pandemic in relation to matters concerning youth issues, including, but not limited to back-to-school education materials, equipment, and resources

Program Manager Espinoza stated this item could be integrated with future Mayor's forums. 1st Vice Chair Duran and Commissioner Lopez will meet with the Mayor's staff to explore potential forums related to COVID-19.

1st Vice Chair Duran stated there is possible volunteer opportunities in Madera if any commissioners were interested.

No further action was taken on this item.

8. Committee Reports and Actions

[ID 21-149](#) Fresno Youth Commission boards and committees' communications, reports, assignments and/or appointments, reappointments, removals to/from Commission and non-Commission boards and committees:

1. Community Engagement Ad Hoc Committee (Duran, Gamble and Martinez)
2. Billboard Justice Ad Hoc Committee (Gamble, Guzman, and Martinez)
3. Civic Engagement Award (Rising Youth Award) Ad Hoc Committee (Duran, Gamble, Guzman, and Martinez)
4. Civic Learning Partnership Committee (Duran and Guzman)
5. Social Media Committee (Guzman and Martinez)
6. Youth Jobs Task Force (Guzman, Keosakdy, and Lopez)

7. 2021 Operation Give Back Ad Hoc Committee (Duran and Gamble)
8. Other Committee Reports

Commissioner Vergara previously expressed interest in being part of the ad hoc committee created to work on the Zero Fare Clean Air Act proposal. Chair Gamble assigned her to the ad hoc committee.

9. Calendar Items

Chair Gamble announced the next Fresno Youth Commission meeting is on January 28, 2021.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

11. Adjournment

Chair Gamble adjourned the meeting at 6:56 P.M.