

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY and SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION**

**Tuesday, January 14, 2014
6:01 p.m.**

**West Covina City Hall
MRC Room #314**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mason called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

Commissioner Lopez led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silent prayer.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Mason, Ogden, Bennett (6:04), Kaufman, Kennedy (6:07) Lewis, Lopez, Lindquist (6:55 arrived), Perryman (left 7:00 p.m.). Taylor absent.

Staff Present: Freeland, Smilowitz, Reynosa, Cresap, Sayers, Warren, Shore and Briley (Public Works).

A. CORRESPONDENCE AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- 1) Director Freeland announced that Commissioner Lewis has returned. Since he is now serving as the City's newly elected City Clerk, he is allowed to serve on dual roles per our City Attorney.
- 2) Director Freeland introduced two new Community Services Coordinators to our department. Heather Sayers and Christina Warren who each shared a little about themselves and what some of their duties will be. Heather will be working from her office here at City Hall. Christina will be working from her office located at Cameron Community Center.

B. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- 1) **Approval of the minutes of the Regular Community and Senior Services Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013.**

MOTION

Motion by *Bennett*, seconded by *Kaufman* to approve the minutes of the Regular Community and Senior Services Commission meeting held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013. Motion carried by a vote of 8-0. Lindquist and Taylor absent.

C. PRESENTATIONS

None

D. ADMINISTRATION

1) NEW BUSINESS- *Director Freeland*

a) Urban Tree Program

Director Freeland introduced Barbara Briley, Management Analyst II from Public Works. At our last Commission meeting some of the commissioners had questions regarding the various trees within the city. Analyst Briley reviewed some of the procedures and selections of the tree planting and trimming process. She went into detail regarding Arbor Day and Earth Day. Analyst Briley described some of the awards the City has received regarding their tree program.

b) Cell Towers

Director Freeland stated that the public may see workers within the next couple of months at the cell towers within parks throughout the city. They are upgrading their equipment.

c) Coming Events for 2014

Director Freeland stated that the list that is being passed out is a preliminary community events schedule for 2014 that will be held within the City. This schedule includes over 60 community events that the Community Services Department will be sponsoring or co-sponsoring. This year is going to be a big push to involve other civic groups within our community. Director Freeland stated that a few advantages by the City partnering with these groups will be they will absorb part of the cost; they have their own membership or following which will increase our attendance and that this allows our co-sponsor to showcase themselves. The City Council wants to create more of a sense of community. Director Freeland answered various questions from the commission.

2) OLD BUSINESS

a) Volunteer of the Year

Director Freeland reviewed the guidelines and criteria of the Community Service and Recreation Volunteer of the Year nominations. Luanne Arrendondo was selected for 'Recreation Volunteer of the Year. Les Leufroy was selected for 'Community Services Volunteer of the Year. These honorees will be recognized at the next City Council Meeting and in our 'Discover' newsletter. Their names will also be submitted for consideration for the 'West Covina Hometown Hero' at the L.A. County Fair. West Covina Beautiful are having discussions as to if they will also be honored at 'The City of West Covina's 91st Celebration Dinner.'

b) Transit Services

Manager Smilowitz stated that the City Council has awarded the bid to MV Transportation, who will be our new transit company, they will be taking over our Dial-a-Ride and Go West Shuttle Lines. They will be taking over for Southland Transit who has been the transit service for the last 12 years. Manger Smilowitz answered some questions regarding the advertising on the transit units.

c) Adopt-A-Park

Director Freeland announced that on January 25th the City will have an Adopt-A-Park Day. The Rotary, the Kiwanis and WC Youth Group have selected 3 parks for clean-up. In the near future, we have hopes of other Civic Groups becoming involved.

2) UPCOMING EVENTS

Ongoing Events at the Senior Center – *(attachment)*

1/20	-	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
1/20	-	MLK Luncheon – Senior Center
1/23	-	Senior Center - Live Big Band Dance
1/25	-	Adopt-A-Park Clean-Up Day
2/06	-	Senior Center - Birthday Luncheon
2/06	-	Senior Center - Live Big Band Dance
2/08	-	WC Youth Pony Baseball Opening
2/08	-	Community Health Fair
2/14	-	Valentine's Day Luncheon
2/15-16	-	Chinese Lantern Festival
2/21	-	WC American LL Opening Ceremony
2/27	-	Senior Center - Live Big Band Dance
2/28	-	WC Pacific Coast LL Opening Ceremony
3/01	-	WC Girls Softball Opening Day
3/08	-	WC National LL Opening Ceremony
3/17	-	St Patrick's Day Lunch
3/29	-	Cherry Blossom Festival

East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center
South Hill Plaza

Manager Smilowitz and Supervisor Reynosa reviewed and answered questions regarding various events.

E. AD HOC REPORTS

1) SPORTS COUNCIL (Lewis, Lindquist, Taylor)

Director Freeland announced that he received an e-mail from Colette Lewis, President of Galaxie Little League announcing that they will no longer be offering their little league program this year. They are looking to combine with the Pony League for next year.

2) CDBG (Lewis, Mason, Taylor)

None

3) CIP (Lopez, Lindquist, Kaufman, Ogden)

Director Freeland announced through a partnership with the National Parks & Recreation Association and Macy's, each store location looks for local parks to offer funding opportunities. Walmerado Park has been chosen to be a recipient. Between March 7-21 any person who makes a donation at Macy's from \$1 on up to help create a new playground at Walmerado Park, Macy's will match that amount dollar to dollar up to \$250,000. Director Freeland passed out a rendering of the playground equipment and area that we are hoping to build.

MOTION:

Motion by *Ogden*, seconded by *Perryman*, to send the playground design to City Council for approval. Motion carried by 8-1-1. Lewis opposed and Taylor absent.

4) Youth Council Update

Coordinator Sayers stated that the Youth Council & Action Food Pantry had a food drive for the holidays. During Christmas time they did caroling at the Senior Center. Coordinator Sayers reviewed other items that they will be working on throughout the year.

F. COMMISSIONER REPROTS/COMMENTS

1) Individual Reports/Comments on Activities

Chair Mason welcomed Commissioner Lewis back and congratulated him on passing the 'Bar.' Chair Mason stated that we have a lot of exciting things going on this year and that she is looking forward to them.

Commissioner Lopez wished everyone a Happy New Year. She's looking forward to the different events and activities that the City will be doing this year. If there is anything she can help out with, just let her know.

Commissioner Lindquist attended the grand opening of El Pollo Loco.

They received a meal and a tour. El Pollo Loco also presented the City with a \$10,000.00 donation check. She attended the Sports Council meeting, who reviewed their upcoming openings.

Commissioner Lewis wished everyone a Happy New Year. Commissioner Lewis was very happy to hear the Cherry Blossom will be moved to the South Hills Plaza.

Commissioner Bennett congratulated Commissioner Lewis on passing the 'Bar'. Commissioner Bennett enjoyed the grand opening of El Pollo Loco.

Commissioner Kaufman wished everyone Happy New Year and stated he attended the El Pollo Loco opening. Commissioner Kaufman reviewed various items regarding the recount of Councilman Spence.

Commissioner Kennedy was happy to see everyone and congratulated Commissioner Lewis. He also stated he attended El Pollo Loco's opening and enjoyed his free meal.

G. ITEMS TO BE AGENDIZED
None

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS – *Director Freeland*

Director Freeland asked that the Commissioners keep an eye out on their e-mails because there will be many more openings and events coming up soon.

I. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Motion by *Lewis*, seconded by *Ogden* to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.
Motion carried by a vote of 8-0. Taylor absent. Perryman left early (7:00)

***Meeting adjourned in memory of Norma Marx.**