



Cathedral City

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS 68-700 AVENIDA LALO GUERRERO CATHEDRAL CITY, CA 92234

Monday, January 25, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING 5:00 PM

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING CITY COUNCIL & PARKS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMISSION

• CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Greg Pettis called the Special Joint Meeting of the City council and Parks and Community Events Commission at 5:00 p.m.

• PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Valerie Schechter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

• ROLL CALL

Present 4 - Mayor Pro Tem Gregory S. Pettis, Council Member Shelley Kaplan, Council Member Mark Carnevale, and Council Member John Aguilar

Absent 1 - Mayor Stan Henry

Motion by Council Member Aguilar, seconded by Council Member Kaplan, carried 4-0 to excuse the absence of Mayor Stan Henry. Motion carried 4-0 (Mayor Henry was absent).

Present 7 - Diane Hines, Co-Chairman, Arianna Menon, Co-Chairman, Commissioner Karen Panico-Willis, Commissioner Paul Thompson, Commissioner Valerie Schechter, Commissioner Johnny Huynh-Simmonds, Commissioner Jerid Seeba

• STATEMENT OF PARTICIPATION BY DEPUTY CITY CLERK

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

2. CITY COUNCIL VISION FOR THE PARKS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMISSION

Council Member John Aguilar, welcomed the Commissioners. He thanked the members of the Commission for their efforts and for doing a great job. He would like the Commission to consider the following:

*Discuss updating the Parks and Open Space and Conservation Elements of the General Plan
Continue outreach to the Latino Community*

Council Member Mark Carnevale, would like to see events happen at the soccer park or at locations other than downtown. He would like to see the kids brought into the City Events and possible have joint organization events.

Council Member Shelley Kaplan, expressed his appreciation to the members of the Commission and the effort

and commitment they have made. The City is under for the amount of open space in the City. He would like to see more parks implemented into the community. He feels that there may be opportunities in the future with development but should also consider applying for grants. He would also like to see the continued expanding of involvement in the events.

Mayor Pro Tem Greg Pettis, he feels that the Commission needs to look beyond the events that the City puts on and implement other events throughout the community. Each member of the Commission lives in a different area of the City giving more opportunity to reach out to the entire community. He would like them to continue to look for youth involvement on the Commission. He would like to see community groups get involved in events through the leadership of the Commission. He would like to see more outreach to the Latino Community.

City Manager Charles McClendon, added that Parks and Community Events are a part of the Economic Development of the City. He feels that it is important to have hooks to get people to come and see Cathedral City. Having community events and great community amenities is what will tell our story and bring success to the City.

3. PARKS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMISSION COMMENTS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL

Commissioner Valerie Schechter, feels that there is a disconnect with certain areas in the City, having subcommittees may help bridge that gap. She said there is no budget to do fancy events. There are students from Cathedral City High School that want to do Shakespeare in the Park. They will be coming to give a presentation on their proposed production. There are individuals out there that want to get involved. She indicated that she would support a Pet Parade.

Co-Chairman Arianna Menon, thanked the Council for their comments. She stated that they are working on their Mission Statement. They have been talking about having someone from the Desert Recreation District to come and talk to the Commission to further investigate the type of services they can provide to the City.

Karen Panico-Willis, feels that communication is very important and any suggestions on how to better the communication to get the word out would be helpful. She feels that parks are very important to the community and would like to see them utilized more. She thanked the staff and Council for their comments and support.

Commissioner Paul Thompson, thanked the Council for the opportunity to come together. He has been on the Commission for quite some time and feels that there are several benefits that have come from changing the direction of the Commission to include events. He feels that Ocotillo Park is a huge benefit for the City. The Master Plan was created a very long time ago and he agrees that it needs to be updated.

Co-Chairman Diane Hines, thanked everyone for their participation. She feels that things are happening in the City and she is very excited. She agrees that the Master Plan needs to be updated. She questioned if there is staff that can look for grants and apply for them.

City Manager Charles McClendon, responded that staff actively works on getting grants and from time to time will contract is necessary.

Co-Chairman Diane Hines, feels that there is a need to engage the Latino community. She stated that she looks forward to talking with the Desert Recreation District to see what programs can be offered in Cathedral City. She also feels that the soccer park could be used for outside tournaments that the City could benefit from as well as other events by thinking outside of the box. She would like to see students get involved in the Commission. She is happy and proud to be on the Commission.

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Greg Pettis adjourned the Special Joint Meeting of the City Council and the Parks and Community Events Commission at 5:51 p.m.

STANLEY E. HENRY, Mayor

ATTEST:

GARY F. HOWELL, City Clerk