



FAMILY & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GUS VELASCO NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Meeting Room #1

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

5:45 p.m.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Radoumis called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Bonnie Fox, Laurie Rios, Dolores Duran, Peggy Radoumis, Kerry Ann Cobos, Francis Carbajal, Adrienne Karnofel, Elena Lopez, Christina Colón, Gaby Garcia

Members Absent: Gilbert Aguirre, Janie Aguirre

Council Liaison: None.

Staff: Ed Ramirez, Family and Human Services Manager, Executive Secretary

Agency Representative: None.

Guest: Detective Paul Garcia

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Bonnie Fox

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dolores Duran and seconded by Laurie Rios to approve the Minutes for the October 18, 2023 meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

None.

7. PRESENTATIONS

Crime Prevention Tips and Statistics – Police Services

Detective Paul Garcia of the Whittier Police Department presented on the following:

- Fraud through phone calls has been a frequent problem. The scammer will call and ask you a question where you respond with “yes” and they will use your voice for a variety of things.
- Catalytic converter thefts have decreased.
- Vehicle burglaries, car thefts, sexual assaults, and indecent exposures have increased.
- Individuals are encouraged to be aware of their surroundings when they are out shopping, especially during the holidays. If you go shopping, make sure not to leave your purchases in your vehicle and then continue shopping. Individuals are looking out for this so they may break into the vehicle and rob the individuals purchased items.
- Individuals are encouraged to not leave their bags or purses in their shopping cart.
- Gangs from surrounding cities are triggering activity to happen in the City. Otherwise, gang activity has decreased.

8. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Ramirez provided a brief recap and/or presentation of the following and encouraged the members to read through the report in the November packet for more detailed information.

- a. Annual Tree Lighting Event – Saturday, December 2, 2023 at Town Center Plaza
- b. Home Decorating Contest
- c. Letters to Santa – beginning Monday, November 13th through December 9th at the City Library

9. DIVISION PROGRAM/PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Ramirez provided a brief presentation of the following events and encouraged the members to read through the report in the November packet for more detailed information.

- a. Las Posadas – Friday, December 8, 2023 at Heritage Park
- b. Neighborly Elf Basket Program

10. OLD BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Heritage Park Hours
- b. Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center Temporary Reconfiguration

12. FUTURE AGENDA UPDATES

Executive Secretary Ramirez reminded the members they will go dark in the month of December.

Chairperson Radoumis requested a speaker to clarify recently proposed rules and laws listed on the ballot to enhance their knowledge before casting a vote. Mr. Ramirez will inquire about the possibility of securing a speaker to address this matter.

Member Cobos inquired on the mammogram screenings and when they will take place again. Staff is working on scheduling a mammogram screening for potentially the beginning of the year.

13. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Radoumis asked member Fox if there are any current needs for Gus' Kitchen Food Pantry. Member. Fox shared it's difficult to say what is needed at the moment due to the amount of donations currently being received for the holiday basket programs. Chairperson Radoumis would like to share what is needed to other committees and the Women's Club.

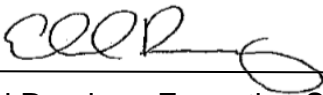
Member Cobos reminded members of the Tree Lighting Event that will take place on December 2nd.

Member Carbajal shared Sister Cities is restarting the student exchange program for high school students aged 15 -18 years old. They will spend 3 weeks in Germany and will leave July 17th.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Radoumis adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 5:45 p.m. in person at the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center, Meeting Rm #1.



Ed Ramirez, Executive Secretary



Jasmine Oregel, Administrative Assistant II