

**MINUTES OF THE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
MONTCLAIR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES COMMISSION**

**MONTCLAIR SENIOR CENTER
5111 BENITO STREET, MONTCLAIR, CALIFORNIA
5:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Escalante called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Padilla led those present in the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Richard A. Escalante, Commissioners Laurie Milhiser, Arturo Padilla, Rosa Rangel, Diane Wells and City Council Liaison Corysa Martinez (she arrived at 5:08 p.m.)

Excused: Vice-Chairperson Darlene Ferraro, Commissioner Alex Hernandez and City Council Liaison Bill Ruh

Also Present: Assistant City Manager/Director of Human Services Marcia Richter
Community Services Supervisor Jordi Ubaldo
Community Recreation Coordinator Angela Franco
Administrative Specialist Krystal Rabino

PUBLIC COMMENT

Community member Christian Nava joined the meeting to discuss creating more opportunities and access for those with disabilities in the community. Ms. Nava is a Montclair resident and works at a day program in Montclair, and she explained that her participants described that it is difficult to find volunteer and employment opportunities as there are many barriers. Ms. Nava asked how the City can involve those with disabilities into our community activities by either providing volunteering opportunities or more access and information. She mentioned that there are many members in day programs in the community, or are residents in the community, that you rarely see throughout the neighborhood, or volunteering or working at community businesses. She explained that some participants have staff to support them, and some are independent; working at various jobs and attending school. Ms. Nava believes that the community can do more for the disabled community, including emergency preparedness. Due to current federal laws, Ms. Nava reached out to the City to be of support to those with disabilities who need community support and activities to help them become more involved and have the best quality of life.

Commissioner Milhiser asked if Ms. Nava is looking for opportunities for disabled adults, teenagers or children and Ms. Nava responded that she is looking for opportunities for all age groups. Commissioner Milhiser mentioned that she sees the biggest challenge is outreach to the disabled community. She explained from her own experience that those with disabilities are sometimes shy and need encouragement. She recommended that the Human Services brochure include markers or flags with a symbol such as a wheelchair to promote opportunities for disabled individuals to participate or volunteer. Ms. Richter said that staff will look into the possibility of adding a symbol to the brochure, and gave Ms. Nava Mr. Ubaldo's business card so she could follow up with him.

Commissioner Padilla mentioned that there are three or four food banks in the community, including Our Lady of Lourdes Church, the Christian Development Center, and the City's monthly food distribution that require volunteer service. He mentioned that he is sure these organizations will welcome those with disabilities, and their help would be impactful to their own lives and the community. He added that the Police and Fire Department's offer safety equipment to the community, and mentioned that the City is currently renovating parks such as Sunset Park, which will include areas that cater to those with disabilities.

Chairperson Escalante mentioned that Anthesis and OPARC have opportunities for those with disabilities. Ms. Nava explained that she works with both agencies to try to attain volunteering and employment opportunities, as well as possibly helping develop new policies for those with disabilities. Ms. Nava also mentioned that she has contacts for all vendors from the Inland Regional Center and San Gabriel Regional Center. She expressed her goal to create an Inclusion Council where those with disabilities will be able to speak for themselves and hear how they can be involved. The Commission thanked Ms. Nava for attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Padilla made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of the Community Activities Commission on May 1, 2024. Commissioner Wells seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes.

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Richter announced that the Commission received thank you letters from four agencies who received Community Benefits Funding. Letters from the following were circulated for CAC members to review:

- CEO Shawn Prokopec from Anthesis
- Vice-President Alyssa Cotter from the Hope Though Housing Foundation
- CEO Abby Pascua from Aging Next
- President & CEO Paula Natale from VNAcare

Ms. Richter also distributed the Human Services Department Summer Concert and Movie Series flyer to the Commission. The series will begin with the movie Trolls on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, and a Vendor Fair will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024. The Splash Pad is normally open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., but will be open until 8:00 p.m. on days concert and movie showings are

held. Commissioner Milhiser asked if the Splash Pad is supervised and Ms. Richter confirmed that it is supervised. Commissioner Padilla mentioned that the flyer and series information is also on the website.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Memorial Day Program - Recap

The Memorial Day Program was held on Monday, May 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Memorial Garden adjacent to City Hall.

Chairperson Escalante mentioned that he has been attending the program for over 4 years and that the program went very well. He explained that although we are a small City, we put on a great tribute to our Veterans, and added that the decorations were outstanding and the attendance was great. He also mentioned that he spoke to visitors from Chino who have visited Montclair's program for the last 3 years which made him proud that the City creates this event to honor Veterans, and those who have lost their lives in the Armed Forces. Commissioner Padilla added that he also spoke to one family from Upland and one from Ontario who have also been attending the program because they enjoy it every year. Commissioner Milhiser thanked staff for their remarkable job on the event and Chairperson Escalante and Commissioner Padilla agreed.

Chairperson Escalante mentioned that the children loved the event and enjoyed taking photos with Commissioner Padilla in uniform. Commissioner Padilla agreed that the children were very pleased to take photos, and added that they asked him questions about the Armed Forces as they once had a Veteran in their family.

Commissioner Milhiser mentioned that she thought the Montclair High School JROTC did a great job this year. She was also pleased that the curtain on the Veterans Memorial Wall was removed correctly this year. Commissioner Padilla commented that the audience enjoyed the poem being read entirely by Commissioner Milhiser instead of the entire Commission, and Chairperson Escalante agreed. He added that the audience was amazed during City Council Liaison Ruh's introduction to learn that the author of the poem was only 14 years old. He also added that Commissioner Milhiser is a great speaker, and Commissioner Milhiser replied that she practiced the poem many times.

Commissioner Padilla mentioned that the guests enjoyed the music played by the Band of the California Battalion. Commissioner Milhiser asked Ms. Richter if the Commission decided to use a different band at next year's program. Ms. Richter answered that the choice is up to the Commissioners, but bands must be booked ahead of time. She also mentioned that the Band of the California Battalion can adjust their songs if other patriotic songs are requested, and added that the band did a great job and Commissioner Padilla agreed. Commissioner Milhiser asked if staff has a resource to find new bands, and Ms. Richter mentioned that Mr. Ubaldo and Ms. Franco attended a Concert Share earlier in the year. Mr. Ubaldo mentioned that the current band is unique as most new bands have a modern style. Commissioner Padilla stated if staff finds a band similar to or better than the current

band the Commission should consider changing, but if they can't, it should be discussed at a later meeting. Mr. Ubaldo mentioned that staff may have found a band that is also able to play patriotic music at this event, but still needs to research further.

Commissioner Milhiser mentioned that she enjoys the performance of the anthems of the military branches so those in each branch can stand, and expressed that she hopes the other band can do the same. Commissioner Padilla mentioned that in previous years, the band was more clear about which branch was connected to each anthem. Chairperson Escalante suggested that a banner for each branch be created so that it may be raised before their anthem to avoid confusion. Commissioner Milhiser commented that a Veteran attendee stood for both the Marines and Navy anthems, and Chairperson Escalante and Commissioner Padilla mentioned that some individuals switch to different branches throughout their service.

Ms. Richter mentioned that next year's program will be the 25th Anniversary of the Memorial Day Program.

B. Home Beautification Program

Home Beautification judging was completed during tonight's meeting. Chairperson Escalante, Commissioners Milhiser, Padilla, Rangel and Wells, and City Council Liaison Martinez, Ms. Richter, Ms. Franco, and Ms. Rabino boarded the Golden Express bus at approximately 5:45 p.m. for the Judging Caravan.

Sixteen addresses were on the list of homes to be judged. The bus stopped in front of each home long enough for Chairperson Escalante, Commissioners Milhiser, Padilla, Rangel and Wells, to select a score of 1-10.

The homes judged are listed below:

<u>Drought Tolerant</u>	<u>Traditional</u>
• 9998 Rose Ave.	• 5079 Canoga St.
• 10267 Poulsen Ave.	• 4307 Clair St.
• 11211 Carriage Ave.	• 4183 Orchard St.
• 10158 Galena Ave.	• 9642 Tudor Ave.
• 4164 Rudisill St.	• 4641 Highland St.
• 9553 Helena Ave.	• 5489 Yale St.
• 9074 Surrey Ave.	• 9728 Fremont Ave.
• 9587 Marion Ave.	• 9863 Geneva Ave.

When the judging caravan concluded, the Golden Express bus returned to the Senior Center.

Dinner and score tallying was held at Los Portales Mexican Grill, 10244 Central Ave., Montclair, CA 91763 – 7:00 p.m.

Chairperson Escalante, Commissioners Milhiser, Padilla, Rangel and Wells, City Council Liaison Martinez, Ms. Richter, Ms. Franco, and Ms. Rabino met at Los Portales Mexican Grill in order to tally-up the final scores for all sixteen homes. City Council Liaison Ruh also joined the tallying at Los Portales Mexican Grill. Ms. Richter and Ms. Rabino added up the final scores for all sixteen homes; the nominees with the highest score will be recommended for an award. One winning home was selected for each category, Home of the Year: Traditional and Home of the Year: Drought Tolerant. Each winner will be announced at the City Council meeting on Monday, July 15, 2024 and Vice-Chairperson Ferraro volunteered to read the presentation at a previous meeting. Winners will be presented with a certificate from the City, along with a gift card of their choice from a Montclair restaurant or business and a sign to be displayed in their front yard. The dinner and judging concluded at 9:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of the CAC Year of Activities

Ms. Richter gave a brief review of next year's Calendar of Events and welcomed the Commission to suggest any changes or additions they would recommend to the scheduled activities.

Ms. Richter listed the following anticipated calendar events: Halloween Spooktacular, Holly Jolly Holiday, Holiday Home Decoration, Community Benefits Funding, Volunteer Recognition Program, Memorial Day, Home Beautification, and the Military Banner Programs.

Ms. Richter reminded Commissioner Milhiser of the "Montclair Rocks" idea she had mentioned at a previous meeting. Commissioner Milhiser explained that the rock idea comes from a project she heard of where community members decorate rocks and hide them in different places to promote community spirit. The rocks are then collected by staff. Commissioner Wells agreed and added that residents can also place the rocks in their front yard. Commissioner Milhiser mentioned that the rocks could be displayed at a City event once collected. She explained that she believes that this could potentially be a good idea for Montclair and she hopes it would not over-burden staff. Ms. Richter mentioned that Mr. Ubaldo and Ms. Franco will research this project.

Other than the discussion of "Montclair Rocks", Commissioners did not have any suggested changes or additions at this time.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Commissioner Milhiser inquired if the new Commissioners will be attending the September meeting, and Ms. Richter informed her that they will be attending.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Escalante adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Krystal Rabino

Administrative Specialist