

**MINUTES OF THE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025
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 5:05 p.m.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Richard A. Escalante, Vice-Chairperson Rosa Rangel, Commissioners Hector Martinez (arrived at 5:09 p.m.), Darlene Ferraro, Laurie Milhiser, Arturo Padilla, Diane Wells and City Council Liaison Corysa Martinez

Excused: City Council Liaison Bill Ruh and Community Services Supervisor Jordi Ubaldo

Also Present: Assistant City Manager/Director of Human Services Marcia Richter
Community Recreation Coordinator Angela Franco
Administrative Specialist Abigail Perales

PUBLIC COMMENT

Community member and Montclair resident Jose Rojas joined the meeting and he commented he would like to be more involved with the City of Montclair. Mr. Rojas provides equipment for a variety of cities outside of Montclair through his business, Sound Stage Videoing Company. He would like to offer his services of his company to Montclair when needed. The Commission thanked Mr. Rojas for attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Martinez made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of the Community Activities Commission on May 7, 2025. Commissioner Ferraro 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 three agencies who received Community Benefits Funding. Letters from the following were circulated for CAC members to review:

- President Kelly Bocanegra from Assistance League of the Foothill Communities
- Executive Director Alyssa Cotter and Director of Philanthropy Jessica Brown from the Hope through Housing Foundation
- CEO Shawn Prokopec from Anthesis Services

OLD BUSINESS

A. Memorial Day Program - Recap

The Memorial Day Program was held on Monday, May 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Memorial Garden adjacent to City Hall.

Chairperson Escalante was happy with the program and was also appreciative of the 300th Army Band performance believing it added a special touch to the event. The 300th Army Band is a non-profit organization and did not request any compensation for their performance.

Commissioner Padilla mentioned he worked with the Army Reserves in Bandini. He explained that the name 300th Army Band is because there are over 300 Army bands throughout the world, and he has had the pleasure of working with them in several ceremonies. He added that there is a competitive audition and training process to become a member of the 300th Army Band. Commissioner Milhiser made a motion to request the 300th Army Band play at the Memorial Day Event next year. Commissioner Padilla seconded the motion and all were in favor. Ms. Richter will have Mr. Ubaldo reach out to the 300th Army Band to see if they are available to perform again at next year's program.

Chairperson Escalante also mentioned the event went smoothly even when small adjustments were needed throughout the program. He observed nothing out of the ordinary and complimented the food, tables, decorations, and the overall atmosphere, saying it was all very nice. Chairperson Escalante welcomed comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Wells suggested that the Color Guard Commander use a microphone because it was hard to hear what was happening during the presentation. Ms. Richter explained that the Color Guard members are high school students, and the Color Guard Commander might be a bit shy when calling out commands. Equipping the Commander with a microphone could be challenging, but we will consider asking the student to project louder next year. Commissioner Wells suggested the Commander could go to the podium to give the commands. Ms. Richter explained that the Commander must stay with the group. Commissioner Padilla added that the Commander must stay close to the flag because their role is to guard it. Ms. Richter mentioned she can discuss this request with the Color Guard

Supervisor. She also mentioned that a helicopter flying overhead made it harder to hear during the ceremony.

Vice-Chairperson Rangel asked whether the City's Purple Heart designation would change future programs in terms of recognizing Purple Heart recipients. Ms. Richter explained that the inclusion of the Purple Heart designation to this year's program was mainly to unveil the new signs that will be displayed throughout the community. Commissioner Padilla added that while the Purple Heart is an important recognition, it is a separate event from the Memorial Day Event. He mentioned that Memorial Day is meant to honor fallen soldiers. However, if the budget allows, he is open to discussing adding Purple Heart recognitions to the program with the Commission. Commissioner Milhiser thought the addition of the Purple Heart designation was nice since there was no poem reading this year. She liked that it made the program different from previous years.

There was further discussions about the differences between the Congressional Purple Heart (CPH) and the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH). CPH refers to congress awarding a Purple Heart medal for service members wounded or killed by enemy action. The MOPH is a congressionally chartered United States war veterans organization made up exclusively of men and women who have received the Purple Heart Award. The MOPH often recognizes JROTC leaders and one of MOPH's representatives informally recognized one of the high school's JROTC members at the dinner by giving the student a pin.

Commissioner Martinez commented that it was his first time attending the Memorial Day Event and expressed that it was so nice and he was proud to be a part of the event.

B. Home Beautification Program

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

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

<u>Drought Tolerant</u>	<u>Traditional</u>
• 9154 Ramona Ave.	• 4882 Olive St.
• 10044 Pradera Ave.	• 9919 Amherst Ave.
• 4631 Mane St.	• 5060 Saddleback St.
• 10158 Galena Ave.	• 10160 Canary Ct.
• 5528 Harvard St.	• 5666 San Jose St.

- 9738 Lindero Ave.
- 10183 Camarena Ave.
- 10000 Vernon Ave.
- 10298 Del Mar Ave.

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

Dinner and score tallying was held at Lazy Dog, 5295 N Montclair Plaza Ln., Montclair, CA 91763 – 7:00 p.m.

Chairperson Escalante, Vice-Chairperson Rangel, Commissioners Ferraro, Martinez, Padilla, and Wells, City Council Liaison Martinez, Ms. Richter, Ms. Franco, and Ms. Perales met at Lazy Dog in order to tally-up the final scores for all fourteen homes. Ms. Richter and Ms. Perales added up the final scores for all fourteen 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 21, 2025 and Vice-Chairperson Rangel volunteered to read the presentation. Winners will be presented with a certificate from the City, a sign to be displayed in their front yard, and a gift card of their choice from a Montclair restaurant or business. The winners of the program included:

Home of the Year – Traditional
10000 Vernon Avenue

Home of the Year – Drought Tolerant
9154 Ramona Avenue

NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of the CAC Year of Activities

Ms. Richter gave a brief review of last 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 calendar events that the CAC participated: 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 also made the Commissioners aware of an email received in May regarding the 2024 Halloween Spooktacular's costume contest. In the email, the individual complained that a store brought costume won over a homemade costume, which they thought was unfair. Ms. Richter let the Commission know staff will be responding to the email.

Commissioner Milhiser expressed that the 2024 Holly Jolly Event was very well executed with the addition of the snow. She also commented that the Volunteer Recognition Program has significantly improved in recent years and it has to do with the dedication of the staff and the increased number of volunteer nominations.

Commissioner Martinez asked if a Halloween home decoration contest is planned. Ms. Richter reminded the Commission that there are multiple events taking place in October and with current staffing adding this to the schedule would be a challenge. She is open to discussing this in the future when there is more staff in the Human Services Department.

Commissioners did not have any other suggested changes or additions at this time.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Escalante adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Perales
Administrative Specialist