

**MINUTES OF THE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MONTCLAIR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES COMMISSION**

**MONTCLAIR CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5111 BENITO STREET, MONTCLAIR, CALIFORNIA
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Padilla called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Vice-Chairperson Escalante led those present in the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Arturo Padilla, Vice-Chairperson Richard Escalante, Commissioners Darlene Ferraro, Edwin Hernandez, Laurie Milhiser, Diane Wells, and City Council Liaison Bill Ruh.

Excused: City Council Liaison Corysa Martinez

Also Present: Director of Human Services Marcia Richter
Administrative Specialist Renee Walker
Senior Recreation Specialist Mayra Cano

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Ferraro made the motion to approve the minutes from the Community Activities Commission meeting on May 5, 2021. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes.

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Richter announced that the Commission received letters from two Community Benefits Funding Program recipients expressing their gratitude for the Commission's support. Thank you letters were received from the following representatives and agencies: Executive Director Mitch Gariador from Anthesis and President/CEO Marsha Fox from VNA Hospice and Palliative Care of Southern California.

OLD BUSINESS

A. *Volunteer of the Year*

The 2020 Volunteer of the Year Program was held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. on the Starlite Patio adjacent to the Recreation Center. The theme of the event was “Montclair Volunteers Lift Up Our Community” and included hot air balloons as part of the decorations. Due to regulations and restrictions regarding COVID-19, the event took place outside, face coverings were required, social distancing was enforced, and attendance was limited to fifty people.

Ms. Richter stated that after postponing the event due to concerns about COVID-19, it was great to finally host the Volunteer of the Year event. She also noted that eight out of the fifteen nominees attended the ceremony. Commissioner Milhiser commented that there was a good turnout at the event considering the nominees were being honored for volunteer service they completed prior to the pandemic. Chairperson Padilla said he was impressed with how the event was arranged and praised staff members for the time they dedicated to planning a beautiful ceremony. City Council Liaison Ruh agreed that it was a marvelous event and added that the nominee from Foothill Family Shelter, Jane Smith, appeared to be crying tears of joy when she was presented with certificates and a plaque in recognition of her volunteerism.

Ms. Walker will mail the certificates, plaque, and goody bags to the nominees who were unable to attend the event.

B. *Memorial Day Program*

The Memorial Day Program was tentatively scheduled to be held on Monday, May 31, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Memorial Garden adjacent to City Hall, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as construction in the Memorial Garden that was not completed by Memorial Day, the 2021 Memorial Day Program was another virtual event.

On Tuesday, May 11, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., a recording session was scheduled for Commissioners to record their segments for the virtual Memorial Day Program. A second recording session was held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 for City Council Members. Dignitaries were invited to record a segment for the virtual Memorial Day Program on Thursday, May 13, 2021, however, due to scheduling conflicts, Senator Leyva, Congresswoman Torres, Supervisor Hagman, and Assemblymember Rodriguez opted to record a video on their own and submit the footage to be included in the virtual program. Military Banner recipient John Paul Pulido, who led the Pledge of Allegiance, also submitted a video of himself for the virtual Memorial Day Program.

Chairperson Padilla commented that the 2021 Virtual Memorial Day Program was great. City Council Liaison Ruh agreed that it was an amazing virtual event and praised everyone involved for accurately conveying the sentiment of Memorial Day. Vice-Chair Escalante also complimented the virtual program by saying it was as if a little prayer was said every time the bell tolled and the camera paused over a plaque on the Veteran’s and Memorial Walls. Commissioner Milhiser added that the creative footage slowly depicting the wreath and

scenery was a wonderful addition. Ms. Richter credited Senior Learning Coordinator Darrell Hickey for the artistic elements in the video.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Home Beautification Program

Commissioners received a judging packet that includes a large map with all nominated homes marked and numbered, a packet of pictures showing each nomination with their address and assigned number, and a judging score sheet listing each nomination by address and number.

Commissioners are asked to drive around to view each home and give it a rating between 1 and 10 (10 being the highest). Commissioners are asked to submit their judging score sheets by Monday, June 14, 2021.

Ms. Richter noted that there are only eleven houses available for judging this year because a few homes were disqualified due to code violations.

If COVID-19 restrictions permit an in-person presentation for the Home Beautification Awards, Commissioners are asked to save the date for the award presentation scheduled on Monday, July 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Commissioner Ferraro volunteered to read the script for the awards presentation.

The winners of the 2021 Home Beautification Program will receive a framed certificate, a yard sign, and a \$50 gift card to a Montclair business or restaurant of their choice.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Ms. Richter announced that the unofficial outcome of the Community Activities Commission application process is that the three Commissioners who reapplied will likely be reappointed to the Commission. She stated that four applications were received for the three available seats on the Commission, but the fourth candidate was disqualified from the process after no response was received following multiple communication attempts.

City Council Liaison Ruh encouraged everyone to get vaccinated. The Montclair Hospital is offering COVID-19 vaccines on Wednesdays and Thursdays. He stated that he has brochures for anyone who is interested in receiving an inoculation. Ms. Richter added that the Montclair Place is offering COVID-19 testing on Mondays and is offering vaccinations Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Richter stated that new polo shirts will be purchased for the Commission; she asked each Commissioner to inform her of their shirt size and to let her know if they need business cards or a new name tag.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Padilla adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Walker
Administrative Specialist