

**AGENDA
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET
NOVEMBER 5, 2019, 6:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Jose Luevano, Chair
Carlos Illingworth, Vice Chair
Loletta Barrett, Commissioner
Marisol Enriquez-Santos, Commissioner
Kathleen McDonnell, Commissioner

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public is invited to address Social Services Commission regarding any item of business, with the exception of the public hearing items, or any matter within the body's subject matter jurisdiction. Speakers must limit their comments to three minutes. Pursuant to State law, the Commission cannot take action or express a consensus of approval or disapproval on any oral communications which do not appear on the printed agenda.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 1, 2019.

5.B. WHITTIER VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Recommendation: Review and file update on the preparations for the 2019 Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program.

5.C. UPDATE ON CITY OF WHITTIER HOMELESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendation: Receive and file update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan implementation.

5.D. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION PRESENTATION

Recommendation: Receive and file update on Community Services Division's presentation focusing on Aquatics, Tennis, and Palm Park Facility programming.

6. SECRETARY COMMENTS

7. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Spanish interpreters are also available. For information or to request services, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

The agenda packet is available three days before the meeting in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at City Hall (13230 Penn Street), Whittier Central Library (7344 Washington Avenue) and the East Whittier Branch Library (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Additionally, the agenda packet can be viewed on the City's website. Materials distributed to the Commission within 72 hours of the Social Services Commission meeting are available for public inspection in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department Office.

Los servicios relacionados con la discapacidad están disponibles para permitir que las personas con discapacidad participen en esta reunión, de conformidad con la Ley Federal de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades de 1990. También hay intérpretes en español disponibles. Para obtener información o para solicitar servicios, comuníquese con el Departamento de recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad de la reunión al (562) 567-9400.

El paquete de la agenda está disponible tres días antes de la reunión el Departamento Parques Recreación y Servicio a la Comunidad en el Ayuntamiento (13230 Penn Street), Whittier Central Library (7344 Washington Avenue) y Biblioteca sucursal del este de Whittier (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Además, el paquete de la agenda se puede ver en el sitio web de la Ciudad. Los materiales distribuidos al Concejo Municipal dentro de las 72 horas de la reunión del Comisión de Servicios Sociales están disponibles para inspección pública en el Departamento de Recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. Regular and Adjourned Regular meeting agendas may be amended up to 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Dated this 1st day of November 2019.

/s/ Rosemary Serrano-Aiken

Rosemary Serrano-Aiken, Secretary



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: November 5, 2019

To: Social Services Commission

From: Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 1, 2019.

BACKGROUND

None

DISCUSSION

Staff prepared draft minutes and hereby submits the minutes for Commission's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 1, 2019

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET
OCTOBER 1, 2019 – 6:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Luevano called the regular meeting of the Social Services Commission to order at 6:33 p.m. in the Whittier City Council Chambers, 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Jose Luevano, Chair
Carlos Illingworth, Vice Chair
Loletta Barrett, Commissioner
Marisol Enriquez-Santos, Commissioner
Kathleen McDonnell, Commissioner

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Martin Browne, Community Services Manager
Virginia Santana, Community Services Manager
Erin Hamilton, Community Services Supervisor
Amanda Krause, Community Services Coordinator
Rachel Tryon, Staff Assistant
Sheryl Dugas, Administrative Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Secretary Alaniz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Constanza Pachon, Chief Executive Officer of The Whole Child, advised Commission on the positive impact the organization has had on people's lives, thanks in part to the funding received from the City of Whittier. They have assisted over 1,200 families with finding housing, including 366, who were permanently housed. Ms. Pachon requested Commission consider increasing funding, through the General Fund, from \$14,000 to \$30,000. She also noted that The Whole Child supports other local agencies.

Irene Muro, Executive Director of Whittier First Day, reported that the \$325,000 LASHA "Access Center" grant that they had received approval on, was rescinded, as

the focus of the grants was changed to address prevention of homelessness, rather than resources for those currently homeless. She also noted that Whittier First Day provides “bridge” housing and various services. Ms. Muro reported that they have access to 45 beds total, 34 of which are funded through LASHA, and they continue to provide beds for people experiencing homelessness here in Whittier while waiting to hear the results of their application to the City of Whittier for funding.

Ms. Nora Johnson thanked Commission for their hard work in the community, and with addressing homelessness concerns. She commented on the need for inclement weather housing, and accountability of agencies.

Secretary Alaniz requested a change to the order of the Agenda to move item 5.E., “Community Services Division’s Presentation” ahead of item 5.A., “Approval of Minutes”.

It was moved by Commissioner McDonnell, seconded by Vice Chair Illingworth, and carried 5 – 0, to change the order of the Agenda to move item 5.E “Community Services Division’s Presentation” ahead of item 5.A “Approval of Minutes”.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5. E Community Services Division Presentation

Secretary Alaniz introduced Community Services Supervisor, Erin Hamilton, and Community Services Coordinator, Amanda Krause, who are in charge of the Special Events, and Cultural Arts programs, and daily activities at the Parnell Park Community and Senior Center. Supervisor Hamilton and Coordinator Krause gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the events, projects, and programs accomplished by the division.

- Annual Special Events include the Eggxtravaganza, Whittier Police Department Open House and Health Fair/Kiddie K Fun Run, and the Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular.
- Summer Concerts in the Park include 12 concerts over 6 weeks. Concerts take place on Mondays at Central Park and Thursdays at Parnell Park. The largest audience to date was the Selena tribute concert at Parnell Park, which had approximately 4,000 people in attendance.
- The Division also plans and assists with various fund raising and City events. These events include, but are not limited to, Whittier Community Foundation fund raisers, the City Council sponsored annual Holiday Breakfast for City staff, the annual Boards and Commissions Recognition Reception hosted by the City Clerk’s Department, and numerous ribbon cutting, and “unveiling” events.

- The Lobby Art Program presents temporary art exhibits, by local artists in both the City Hall and Parnell Park Community Center lobbies. There are twelve-six week exhibits at each site.
- Art in Public Places is funded in part by development projects coming into the City. Developers are required to include an art piece in their project or pay ½ of 1% of the project cost into the Art in Public Places account to have the City install an art piece. There are currently 14 art pieces in place and one more is close to being completed. The City also has regular maintenance done on the pieces to keep them in good condition.
- The Street Banner Program is a partnership between the City and Los Angeles County Supervisor, Janice Hahn. This is the 17th year for the program. People wishing to participate in the program submit a small version of their proposed banner, based on the theme set for the year. Nine hundred submissions were received this year, of which 120 were selected to be recreated on the large banners for display on Whittier Boulevard and other locations throughout the City.
- This summer was the 6th year for the Emerging Arts program. It is a “hands-on” art project that takes place through the summer concert series, with concertgoers participating in the creation of the chosen artwork culminating in the final display of the completed project at the final concert. This year’s project included people making paper cutouts of their hands and decorating them with either watercolors or a tissue paper coloring technique. The final product was all of the hands attached to a large display wall with the hands all “reaching for the stars” together.
- For approximately 25 years, Whittier has taken busloads of concertgoers to the Hollywood Bowl for two concerts. The Cultural Arts Commission chooses the concerts to attend each year. Participation ranges from 50 to 300 people, depending on the concert.
- The Parnell Park Community and Senior Center is 13 years old now and heavily used. The building is busy with private rentals, meetings, classes, a church on Sundays, bingo, and various senior and therapeutic recreation programs.
- Special Event staff is also responsible for managing the department’s social media accounts. They keep Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter posts up-to-date with announcements for upcoming events, programming, and general information.

It was moved by Vice Chair Illingworth, seconded by Commissioner McDonnell, and carried 5 – 0 to receive and file the Community Services Division’s

presentation focusing on Special Events, Cultural Arts, and Parnell Park Community and Senior Center programs.

5. A Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Vice Chair Illingworth, seconded by Commissioner Enriquez-Santos, and carried 5 – 0, to approve the Minutes of the September 3, 2019 Regular meeting.

5. B 2019-2020 Social Services Funding

Secretary Alaniz requested Commission review, and reallocate, the General Fund portion of the Social Services Funding, previously recommended to City Council. This request is per the direction from the City Council. Commission discussed the need to have specific direction from Council as to their focus for future funding, and noted that applying agencies must be made aware of these restrictions when applications are sent out. Commission also voiced their concern about the need to fund programs that offer assistance with food as well as those offering housing. Community Services Manager, Martin Browne, supplied Commission with spreadsheets showing the proposed funding previously allocated to the agencies, their program focus, beds provided and cost per bed, and specifics about the services provided. Commissioner Barrett questioned Commission's previous recommendation to fully fund the Jovenes, Inc. program, when it was their first time applying for funding, and Whittier has no previous history with them. She also reported that she had reviewed the 2019-20 recommendation previously submitted by Commission, and reallocated funds to agencies whose stated programs directly supply housing and food resources, and eliminated funding to programs that do not meet these requirements.

Vice Chair Illingworth stated that he is open to reviewing Commissioner Barrett's numbers and suggested Commission "step-back" and think about redirecting Commissions' approach, reviewing what progress is being made, what strategies and being used, and to take a "test and learn" approach to what is the best use of the funds, and what is truly needed.

Chair Luevano noted that he would like to look at Commissioner Barrett's proposed numbers. Commissioner Enriquez-Santos questioned whether Whittier families are given priority by the agencies receiving funds from the City, and are there waiting lists. Representatives from both The Whole Child and First Day responded that Whittier funds are used for Whittier families. Commission reviewed the revisions as proposed by Commissioner Barrett.

Community Services Manager Browne outlined the application submitted by Jovenes, Inc. stating that their proposal was to use funds to lease a house and cover "set-up" costs such as utilities.

Commissioner Barrett voiced her concern about whether funding would be available to fund this organization in the future.

Commissioner McDonnell questioned whether the proposed reduction in funding would cripple Jovenes' program. It was proposed that Jovenes would be recommended for \$10,500 in funding which would cover the "voucher" portion of their program. The additional revisions to the funding recommendation would result in "reserve funds" of \$22,750, to be used at City Council's discretion. Commissioner McDonnell reiterated her concerns about keeping people in their homes, otherwise the homeless "count" goes up.

It was moved by Commissioner McDonnell, seconded by Commissioner Enriquez-Santos, and carried 5 – 0, to approve the revised distribution of Fiscal Year 2019/20 Social Services funds, and submit the proposed revised allocations to the City Council for consideration.

5. C Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program

Secretary Alaniz presented the six nominations received for the 2019 Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program. He noted that the nomination of Delia Morales by the Assistance League of Whittier may be a concern since Ms. Morales is one of the sitting Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commissioners, and the nomination form states that Commissioners are not eligible for nomination. Secretary Alaniz noted that Ms. Morales volunteers her time and energy to many groups and agencies in Whittier.

Chair Luevano stated that due to Ms. Morales' involvement with so many different groups he is comfortable with accepting this nomination from the Assistance League of Whittier. The other Commissioners agreed. Commission reviewed the remaining nominations and concluded that all nominees are worthy of recognition.

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner McDonnell, and carried 5 – 0 to approve all six nominees for the Volunteer Recognition program.

5. D Update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan Implementation

Community Services Manager, Martin Browne, reported on the ongoing implementation of the City of Whittier Homeless Plan. Following are the items covered:

- On October 2, 2019, Secretary Alaniz, Assistant City Manager, Shannon DeLong, the City Council's ad hoc committee on homelessness, and Community Services Manager, Browne, will be going to Pomona to tour their new 240-bed shelter. The project took six years and \$10 mil. to complete, and costs \$6 million per year to run.

- The consulting firm, Kimley-Horn, was hired to complete Stage 1 of the environmental study on the Esperanza lot, in preparation for possible development of a shelter location.
- A Request for Information (RFI) has been sent out for a proposal to establish a “mobile” storage program for persons camping out in public places during the night, to store their belongings during the day and have them returned in the evening. Commissioner McDonnell questioned if there are other cities that offer this type of service. Community Services Manager, Browne, replied that the cities of Berkeley and San Diego have examples of a storage program, but not a mobile service.
- A Request for Proposal (RFP) is being drafted to fill two part-time, 18-month positions, to assist staff with homelessness concerns.
- \$47,000 has been granted to address Veterans’ homelessness issues.
- City Council is considering a declaration of a “State of Emergency”, which will streamline the administrative aspects of dealing with issues of homelessness, such as making zoning changes easier, etc. It will not affect funding.
- The agreement for funding from Los Angeles County is still pending. Cities are permitted to spend 25% of the funds prior to receipt and full execution of the agreements.
- The annual joint meeting between the City and the Whittier Consortium on Homelessness will be held on October 19, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the Parnell Park Community Center.

It was moved by Enriquez-Santos, seconded by Commissioner McDonnell, and carried 5 – 0 to receive and file the update on the City of Whittier Homeless Plan implementation.

6. SECRETARY COMMENTS

Secretary Alaniz announced the following upcoming events:

- The Firefighter Tribute unveiling ceremony will take place on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at Los Angeles County Fire Department, Station 28, 7733 Greenleaf Ave. The Whittier Community Foundation donated the art piece and is hosting the event.
- There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Greenway Trail Oak Station parking lot, on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. The parking lot is located on Mills Avenue at Lambert Road.

- The annual Spooktacular 5K will be run on Saturday, October 26, 2019 with registration opening at 6:30 a.m. and the first race begins at 7:30 a.m. and the 5K at 8:00 a.m. This is a Whittier Community Foundation sponsored event.
- The City Clerk's Department is hosting their annual Boards, Commissions, and Committees Reception on Wednesday, October 30, 2019 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The event will take place at the Parnell Park Community Center.
- Veterans Day will be commemorated on Monday, November 11, 2019, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at City Hall.

7. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner McDonnell reported that she would be running in the Spooktacular 5K for the 10th year.

Vice Chair Illingworth commended staff on their presentations and acknowledged that they are quite a bit of work, and enjoyable.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Luevano adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Approved and adopted by the Social Services Commission on _____.

GREG ALANIZ, Secretary



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: November 5, 2019

To: Social Services Commission

From: Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program

RECOMMENDATION

Review and file update on the preparations for the 2019 Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program.

BACKGROUND

At their October 1, 2019 meeting, Commission reviewed volunteer nominations received from six Whittier based non-profit organizations. Commission determined all nominees would be recognized at the November 12, 2019 Volunteer Recognition Program.

DISCUSSION

Following the selection of all nominees, staff proceeded with preparations for the 2019 Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

None



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: November 5, 2019

To: Social Services Commission

From: Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan Implementation

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file update on City of Whittier Homeless Plan implementation.

BACKGROUND

At the July 24, 2018 City Council Meeting, Council adopted the City of Whittier Homeless Plan.

The homeless plan provides a framework, and establishes four goals with supporting action items, for preventing and combatting homelessness over the next three years. The plan includes key supporting actions the City has undertaken to improve existing services and programs, increase service access, identify and strengthen local and regional partnerships, and provide outreach and information to the community regarding homelessness. The plan includes ideas from the two consultants who worked on the plan, Whittier Police Department, Whittier First Day, Social Services Commissioners, and comments from the community meetings, community surveys, and stakeholder interviews. The plan recognizes the need for additional resources to address the homeless issues in the City, and to provide information to the community on the work being done. Metrics for each goal have been set, as appropriate, in coordination with the County and homeless prevention experts over the course of the life of the plan.

DISCUSSION

Staff will update Commission on City of Whittier Homeless Plan implementation.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

None



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: November 5, 2019

To: Social Services Commission

From: Greg Alaniz, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Community Services Division Presentation

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file update on Community Services Division's presentation focusing on Aquatics, Tennis, and Palm Park Facility programming.

BACKGROUND

The Community Services Division's Palm Park Facility offers an Aquatics Program, Tennis Program, and Facility Rentals.

DISCUSSION

Staff has prepared a presentation focusing on Aquatics, Tennis, and Palm Park Facility programming.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

None