



# COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MINUTES

608 Heber Ave. Calexico, CA 92231

**THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON THE 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2024 AT 5:30PM AT THE FERNANDO "NENE" TORRES COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 608 HEBER AVENUE, CALEXICO, CALIFORNIA. THE DATE, HOUR AND PLACE DULY ESTABLISHED FOR THE HOLD OF SAID MEETING PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20.**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Community Services Commission was called to order on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 5:32 p.m. by Chairperson, Patricia Ureña.

## **ROLL CALL**

### *Commissioners Present:*

Patricia Ureña  
Antonio Garcia  
Roxsanna Pacheco  
Alberto Martinez  
Jose Jesus Iñiguez  
Christina Rojas.

### *Commissioners Absent:*

Oswaldo Baeza.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairperson Ureña led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Iniguez made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jesse Garcia, 600 block of Lincoln Street. Mr. Garcia spoke in regard to Rodriguez Park Baseball field. Mr. Garcia handed out a form with a list of requests for the city to fix/repair the park for the kids to play baseball. The requests are as follows:

1. Fix the bathrooms and the concession stand where they sell snacks and beverages. Fix the roof and paint the walls.
2. Install a new fence and fix the backstop.
3. Shade for the benches/bleachers.
4. Score board.

5. Baseball press box to announce the games.
6. Containers to place equipment.
7. Fix / Repair visitors' dugout.
8. Make concrete sidewalk for handicap individuals with wheelchairs.

Mr. Jesse Garcia also commented that Rodriguez Park is the only park that does not have lights.

Roberto Garcia, 866 E. Ross, El Centro. Mr. Garcia spoke briefly about his family's history as pioneers in the City of Calexico and his relatives who served in the military. He would like the City of Calexico to recognize veterans for their service.

Adan Diaz, Pool Manager. Mr. Diaz spoke in support of Agenda item #6 American License Training Provider Agreement for Summer Swim Program.

Carmen Estrada. Ms. Estrada came before the Commission to let them know her league does not have a park where to play. She mentioned Nosotros Park is not an option because it is dangerous.

### **RECREATION MANAGER REPORT**

Norma Gerardo, Recreation Manager, reported that the Arts Center held its annual Black and White Art Exhibit Opening Night on February 6, 2024. Ms. Gerardo invited the commissioners to attend the Chinese New Year celebration event on February 16<sup>th</sup> at the Arts Center. An invitation was also extended to the Commission to attend the following upcoming events: Tiny Tots Olympics on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at Crummett Park, Mardi Gras Dance on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center and the Women's Day Art Exhibition on March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Arts Center.

### **PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER REPORT**

Guillermo Sillas, Public Works Director/City Engineer reported that on February 13<sup>th</sup>, three sets of goals were delivered and installed at Gutierrez, Estrada, and Cordova parks respectively. Chairperson Ureña commented she would like the Commission to be notified in advance when events like this take place.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORTS OF MEETINGS/EVENTS ATTENDED REPORT**

Commissioner Iniguez invited the Commission to the soccer tournament organized by Carmen Estrada. The tournament is to take place on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at Gutierrez and Estrada parks. Mr. Iniguez commented that Carmen Estrada field has no fence and no bumpers, making it a hazard for children playing. He said he has mentioned this to the City Council in the past.

Commissioner Martinez reported attending the Black and White Art Exhibit Opening Night and wants to congratulate Ms. Gerardo, Recreation Manager, and staff for their

work. Commissioner Martinez also mentioned he has noticed Calexico Recreation Department more active in social media.

Commissioner Rojas thanked Chairperson Ureña for inviting her to attend the Zoom meeting with Red Cross.

Chairperson Ureña reported having attended the Zoom meeting with the American Red Cross to talk about the License Training Provider Agreement. Chairperson Ureña mentioned she would like to see a survey for city residents asking what activities they would like offered.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. Approval of Community Services Minutes for Regular Meeting of November 8, 2023.**

Vice-chair Garcia made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Martinez. Motion passed unanimously.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **2. Utility Box Art Project Status.**

Ms. Gerardo, Recreation Manager, reported that on December 20, 2023, City Council approved the art selection as recommended by this Commission. On January 23, 2024, all Artist Agreements were executed, and artists' first stipends were processed. The Recreation Department is waiting to obtain a purchase order to hire the services of the printing company that will install the vinyl wraps.

### **3. Heber Park Expansion Status.**

Guillermo Sillas, Public Works Director reported that back in 2020 the firm Jeff Katz Architecture was selected to provide architectural services for the expansion of Heber Park. Plans were completed in 2023. The estimated amount to complete Heber Park is \$13,000,000. The city has applied for other grants to obtain the difference from the grant received from the State of California Department of Park and Recreation in the amount of \$8,500,000. As of today, there has been no movement in the expansion project due to the lack of resources. Mr. Sillas said it is time the City hires a grant writer. Chairperson Ureña mentioned every single park in Calexico is incomplete. Chairperson commended Mr. Sillas for coming to the City of Calexico.

#### **4. Adrian Cordova Park Status.**

Mr. Sillas mentioned that Commencement of Adrian Cordova Park Project Phase #1 will be announced at the next Council Meeting scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Martinez mentioned that kids jump the fence and get into the park which is dangerous. Commissioner Iniguez commented about the need for netting around the park because of the houses around it. Chairperson Ureña would like to know if the plans can be redesigned and remove the splash pad and ask the Area Pollution Board to help with the parking lot. Mr. Sillas commented that the possible redesign of the park would have to go before City Council because they are the ones who make the decisions.

#### **5. MOU Between City of Calexico and Vincent Memorial High School for Use of City Parks.**

Ms. Gerardo reported that on February 7, 2024, Parks and Recreation staff met to brainstorm on possible items to be included in a MOU with Vincent Memorial High School for the use of city parks. Commissioner Iniguez said Vincent Memorial should pay to use city parks.

### **DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS**

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

#### **6. American Red Cross License Training Provider Agreement for Summer Swim Program.**

#### **7. Commission, Board, and Community Agenda Policy.**

Informational Item for new Commissioners.

#### **8. Vendor Authorization Agreement Packet.**

Informational item for new Commissioners.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM by Chairperson Ureña.

*Patricia G. Ureña*  
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Patricia Ureña, Chairperson

Attest: *AH*

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Ariana Hernandez, Administrative Assistant