



Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 13, 2020 7:00 pm

Virginia Avenue Park • 2200 Virginia Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90404

1) **Call to Order** Chair Cruz called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

2) **Welcome and Roll Call**

Present: Barbi Appelquist (Vice Chair), Liz Cruz (Chair), Shirley Compton(7:08pm), Cristina Delgadillo and Janeen Jackson (left at 7:30pm)

Absent: Mario Alarcón Garcia and Gloria Garcia

City Staff: Carla Fantozzi (Principal Community Services Supervisor), Stacy McClendon (Staff Assistant), Silvia Cisneros (Pico Branch Library Manager), Monica Banach (Community Services Program Coordinator) and Michael Jackson (Community Services Program Coordinator)

3) **Review of Agenda and Meeting Format for January 13, 2020**

The Committee reviewed the agenda and meeting format and requested no changes.

4) **Approval of Minutes from December 9, 2019 Special Meeting**

A motion was made by Member Jackson, seconded by Member Delgadillo to approve the December 9th meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote, with Members Alarcon Garcia and Garcia absent.

5) **Public Input**

No public input was given.

6) **Reports**

A. Santa Monica Police Department Beat 3 Crime Report

Stacy McClendon will follow up with the SMPD for a December report and send it to the Board.

B. Pico Branch Library Report

Pico Branch Library Manager, Silvia Cisneros highlighted the following events from the January calendar:

- Buried in Paper? Dig your Way Out and Get Organized in 2020! was held on January 6th and very successful with over 50 participants. Participants have asked the library to hold this event again.
- A Pop-Up library started today at the Teen Center. Mondays will be for Middle School and Tuesdays will be for Teens. Participants can check out books and apply for library cards.
- A Meditation program will be held on January 13th.
- A UCLA intern will be working with the Pico Branch library until June.
- The branch received their 1st new desk in over 5 years
- Library staff are enforcing the library's Rules of Conduct. The Public Service Officers go through the library enforcing and handing out the Rules of Conduct to patrons. New large Rules of Conduct signs will be posted outside the library shortly.

C. VAP Program and Operation Highlights

Staff Liaison Fantozzi, highlighted VAP and Teen Center activities in December, went over the monthly report and shared the following upcoming programs/events:

- Snowfall 2020! Took place on January 11th and was extremely successful, with over 1500 people in attendance.
- Virginia Park will be a voting center between February 29th - March 3rd.
- Santa Monica Farmers Market is currently accepting applications for musical entertainment and education activities.
- The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting will be held at Virginia Avenue Park on February 20th.
- The JoAnne de Jesus dedication and plaque unveiling will be held on February 7th.

Community Services Program Coordinator, Monica Banach shared the following:

- The Elementary program is short staffed due to Cindy Garcia being on leave. Teen Center staff and volunteers are covering for Cindy's absence. The children also take advantage of the Library's L.E.A.R.N. program on Tuesdays and Thursday.
- The current Artist & Residence program ended on December 13th. A few of the projects made were - Coupon books to give to the family, Shrinky dinks, fuse beads, cool art projects and Tinkering and Paper airplane projects.
- 70 participants attended the Annual VAP Holiday party on December 19th.
- 25-30 children attended Winter break daily. Activities/trips included - Just Dance games, California Science Center, Downtown Santa Monica ice skating and Escape Room Trip for Middle/Teen participants.
- The Middle school program has grown as participants are bringing friends. Staff is currently looking for more volunteers to handle the growth and working with Staff Cruz to get more volunteers from UCLA.
- Vice Chair Appelquist would like for staff to reach out to the Santa Monica College honors students and the Pico Partnership Program to receive more tutors for our program participants.
- The Annual Parent Appreciation Dinner will take place on Saturday, February 8th.

D. Parent Group Liaison Reports

a. Familias Latinas Unidas (FLU)

Chair Cruz shared past and future activities:

- Members attended and assisted at LA Posada on December 20th.
- Members were off for two weeks, due to the holidays, and just had their 1st meeting of the year last week.

b. Parent Connection Group (PCG)

Board Member Compton shared the following highlights:

- Members were off for two weeks, due to the holiday, and just has their 1st meeting of the year last week.

7) Discussion and Action Items

A. Discussion and Possible Action to Plan VAPAB presentation for Recreation and Parks Commission meeting on February 20th at Virginia Avenue Park

Vice Chair Appelquist read the draft letter that will be submitted to Recreation and Parks Commission Board, at their next meeting on February 20th, once finalized. Chair Cruz would like a few Board Members to attend. The meeting begins at 7:30pm. However, Staff Liaison Fantozzi will find out where the Board is agenzized, and let members know. Staff Fantozzi also suggested that members prepare a power point with pictures from last year's programs and events to share with the Commission.

B. Discussion and Possible Action to Plan the Annual Parent Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, February 8, 2019

Staff Liaison Fantozzi just attended a leadership meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair to finalize the theme, giveaway and details of this event. A campfire theme was agreed upon with smores, a, candle with message for giveaway and an entertainer that can perform in English/Spanish.

C. Discussion and Possible Action of Board Ad Hoc Committee Reports

- Education Ad Hoc Committee (Shirley Compton, Cristina Delgadillo and Gloria Garcia)

Board Members haven't met yet and have nothing to report. Rescheduling for this month, as Member Garcia is sick.

- Pico Wellbeing Project Ad Hoc Committee (Barbie Appelquist, Liz Cruz and Janeen Jackson)

Board Members haven't met yet and have nothing to report. Members will meet at the end of this month. Wellbeing Microgrant currently has a January 15th deadline. Ad Hoc Committee members are going to ask Wellbeing staff if the deadline can be pushed to March 1st, to allow more time for people to turn in applications. This committee meets the last Friday of every month from 4:15-5:30pm.

- Parent/Family Programs Support Ad Hoc Committee (Mario Alarcon Garcia and Gloria Garcia)

Board Members haven't met yet and have nothing to report.

D. Discussion and Possible Action to Plan Upcoming Meeting Agenda

- a. February 2020 - Setareh Yavari, Human Services Division Manager
- b. March 2020 - Erika Akulfi, Santa Monica Police Department Sergeant - Homeless Liaison Program (H.L.P.) Program Update
- c. April 2020 - Shannon Daut, Cultural Affairs Manager- Cultural Affairs Belmar Project Update or Ana Jara, Juvenile Diversion Program
- d. May 2020 – Sylvia Ghazarian, COSW, Santa Monica United States Census

8. Correspondence and Announcements

- US Census meetings and workgroups have started. Cecilia Tovar, Principal Librarian did a Public Service Announcement and is working with the Census. Households will begin to receive Census information in the mail starting March 12 – 20th. The Santa Monica Library will take a major role in promoting this starting at the end of this month and February.

Staff Fantozzi will ask staff Sylvia Ghazarian to speak at a future meeting.

- The Annual Homeless Count will be held on January 22nd. They are seeking volunteers.

9. Adjournment

Joanne Leavitt passed away on December 22nd and was a Member of this Board for over 20 years. On order of Chair Cruz, the meeting is adjourned at 8:08pm in Joanne's honor, with Members Alarcon Garcia and Garcia absent.



Stacy McClendon
Staff Assistant III



Liz Cruz
Chair