



## **Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 3, 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 7:10pm.

### **2) Welcome and Roll Call**

**Present:** Barbi Appelquist (Vice Chair), Liz Cruz (Chair), Cristina Delgadillo, Mario Alarcón Garcia (7.33pm) and Gloria Garcia

**Absent:** Shirley Compton and Janeen Jackson

**City Staff:** Carla Fantozzi (Principal Community Services Supervisor), Stacy McClendon (Staff Assistant), Silvia Cisneros (Pico Branch Library Manager) and Setareh Yavari (Human Services Division Manager)

### **3) Review of Agenda and Meeting Format for February 3, 2020**

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

### **4) Approval of Minutes from January 13, 2020 Special Meeting**

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Appelquist, seconded by Member Delgadillo to approve the February 3rd meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote, with Members Alarcon Garcia, Compton and Jackson absent.**

### **5) Public Input**

No public input was given.

### **6) Reports**

#### **A. Santa Monica Police Department Beat 3 Crime Report**

Halima Baretto shared the report from the last two months, which included – 1 Bike Theft, 3 aggravated assaults, 3 simple assaults, and 2 vehicle break-ins. Since officers have been patrolling the park more often, there have been a lot less homeless sleeping, parking and camping in parks.

#### **B. Pico Branch Library Report**

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

- There were 11,228 visitors at the library in January.
- 103 students attended the L.E.A.R.N. program.
- The library will be assisting Parent Connection Group with the Greens Festival by bringing an author and buying books to give away to attendees.
- Citizenship classes will be held on Monday's from noon to 2:30pm.
- Preventing Child Sexual Abuse will be held on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.
- Always in Season Screening will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup>.
- VITA Tax Assistance is offering FREE tax preparation in English/Spanish at multiple branches during February/March.
- A Kobe Bryant Memorial has been erected in both the Pico & Main library branches posting books that Kobe wrote and recommended to read in his interviews.

- The library has 'Blind date with a book' in celebration of Valentine's Day.
- The Teen Librarian position is on hold.
- The painting class is held every 3 months.
- The Pop-up library at the Teen Center still takes place weekly.

Member Alarcon Garcia arrived at 7:30pm

### **C. VAP Program and Operation Highlights**

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

- The SAT Prep Workshop series will take place until February 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The Scholarship Workshop series will take place from March 4<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Snowfall 2020! was very successful with over 1,000 in attendance.
- A celebration of JoAnne de Jesus's Life, Birthday, Plaque and Tree installation will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup>. The Dedication & Plaque Unveiling will take place at 1pm and a Craft Making Activity for the participants in our programs will take place at 4pm.
- Joanne Leavitt's Memorial Picnic will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Joanne's birthday is on February 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The Parent Appreciation Dinner will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Chair Cruz invited members to attend and assist if possible.
- The State of the City is taking place on February 12<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-7:30pm at the Soka Gakkai International. Tickets are FREE for residents.
- The Greens Festival Event will take place on February 29<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm. The theme is Kings & Queens of Africa, and posters will be on display in the Black History Museum highlighting various Kings & Queens.

### **D. Parent Group Liaison Reports**

#### **a. Familias Latinas Unidas (FLU)**

Member Garcia shared past and future activities:

- FLU had a presentation by Carlos Morales on the Stewart St. & Pennsylvania Project and shared suggestions/concerns.
- Members attended a presentation by Dr. Drati on January 24<sup>th</sup>. This presentation was cut short, as the Mayor was also presenting in the park that evening.
- Mayor McKeown attended a recent FLU meeting where he addressed concerns from the community regarding zoning. Members shared their issues/concerns at this meeting.

#### **b. Parent Connection Group (PCG)**

Member Hajar Muqtasid St. Claire shared the following highlights:

- Members attended a presentation by Dr. Drati on January 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Members are preparing for the Greens Festival that is taking place on February 29<sup>th</sup>.

## 7) Discussion and Action Items

### A. Presentation and Discussion on Human Services Division

Setareh Yavari, Human Services Division Manager gave an overview of the Human Services Division. Human Services handles the following:

- Manage grants to social service agencies
- Direct service programs
- Staffs Multiple Boards & Commissions – Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board, Social Services Commission, Commission on the Status of Woman, Senior Services Commission, Disabilities Commission, Cradle to Career and the Early Childhood Task Force.

Setareh encourage Board Members to apply when spots open up, so their voices can be heard/contributed.

Human Services Division request for proposal process will open in the Fall of 2021.

Member Cruz inquired about Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, which is currently funded by the City, but doesn't cover families who are undocumented. This is an underserved population in the community that needs resources and assistance. Chair Cruz would like for Members and HSD to research other agencies that can offer resources to serve this population.

Setareh will commit to researching this issue further and attending a future meeting to update the Board in a few months. She also encouraged members to let her know if they locate any additional agencies, so they can be invited to participate in the request for proposal process.

In addition, the main library is holding a Law library event on Friday, February 14, 1:30-5pm, which will offer free legal assistance. Sylvia Cisneros will reach out to library staff to find out the types of legal assistance offered and will send an update to the Board on her findings.

### B. Discussion and Possible Action to review and discuss VAPAB presentation for Recreation and Park Commission meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup> at Virginia Avenue Park

Chair Cruz invited members to attend the meeting. Chair Cruz invited any board members planning to attend the RPC meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm to come to a pre-meeting an hour before the RPC meeting to plan their remarks. Members Alarcon Garcia and Garcia will check their schedule and let Chair Cruz know. Chair Cruz will reach out to Member Compton to see if she can attend.

Vice Chair Appelquist left at 8:32pm

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

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

Member Delgadillo shared that the college trip to Azusa Pacific will be held in March or April and will let us know once more details are finalized. Board Members will be rescheduling their monthly meeting this month, as Member Garcia was sick.

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

The group met last Friday. No response has been received yet, regarding the Microgrants extension. This Ad Hoc will meet this month to determine new goals.

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

#### **8. Correspondence and Announcements**

- State of the City will be held on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.
- League of Women Voters is hosting a Memorial Picnic in Joanne Leavitt's honor on this Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 from 1-3pm at Virginia Avenue Park. To register:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07egvzx06x116af32f&oseq=&c=7cc8dc50-44ad-11ea-97b8-d4ae526edd6c&ch=7cd87f02-44ad-11ea-97b8-d4ae526edd6c>

#### **9. Adjournment**

**On order of Chair Cruz, the meeting is adjourned at 8:36pm, with Vice Chair Appelquist and Members Compton and Jackson absent.**



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**Stacy McClendon**  
Staff Assistant III



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**Liz Cruz**  
Chair