



FAMILY & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
GUS VELASCO NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
Wednesday, November 18, 2015
5:45 p.m.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Radoumis called the meeting to order at 5:51 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Manuel Zevallos

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Gilbert Aguirre, Janie Aguirre, Margaret Bustos, Gloria Duran, Bonnie Fox, Arcelia Miranda, Annette Rodriguez, Dolores Romero, Dr. Linda Vallejo, Martha Villanueva, Hilda Zamora, and Manuel Zevallos

Members Excused: Debbie Belmontes

Members Absent: Lydia Gonzales and Martha Villanueva

Council Liaison: Mayor Laurie Rios

Staff: Ed Ramirez, Executive Secretary
Maritza Sosa-Nieves, Management Assistant
Teresa Camacho, Child Care and Development Supervisor
Edwin Vargas, Community Services Program Leader II
Teresa Clift, Administrative Clerk II

Guest: Alex Guevara, Boys and Girls Club of Whittier

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by and seconded by to approve the Minutes of October 21, 2015. The motion was carried unanimously.

5. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Mayor Laurie Rios congratulated Mr. Radoumis on his naming as Citizen of the Year.

In addition, the CIP Committee approved several projects including, the installation of synthetic turf at Heritage Park, replacement of windows and doors at the Clarke Estate, electronic reader boards at the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center (G.V.N.C.), installation of a traffic signal at Florence Avenue and Ringwood Avenue, and establishing a historical archive at Clarke Estate.

Mayor Rios announced that the official results of the municipal election will be available on November 23, 2015. Also, members were advised to report any intimidating issues encountered with homeless individuals who are congregating at the Promenade Shopping Center to the Police Services Department.

Mayor Rios also reported on the following events and programs.

- Santa's Post Office – December 1 – 15, 2015 at the City Library
- First Friday, Featuring The Alleycats – December 4, 2015 at the City Library
- Christmas Home Decorating Contest– Application Deadline Friday, December 4 and Judging on December 16, 2015
- Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony – Saturday, Dec 5, 2015 at Town Center Green
- Las Posadas – December 11, 2015 at Heritage Park
- Santa's Home Visits - December 12 and 19, 2015
- City Hall and Facilities Holiday Closures – December 24 and 25, 2015

6. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Ramirez introduced Alex Guevara of the Boys and Girls Club.

- a. ***The Whole Child Family Housing Services Grant Recipient*** – The Whole Child Family Housing Division recently held its ribbon cutting ceremony and announced that they received a \$1 million dollar grant to assist with additional services to the community and offer more opportunities in finding housing for displaced families in the SPA 7 area. The G.V.N.C staff has plans to work with the Planning Department to research available housing in the city and further collaborate with The Whole Child Family Housing Division to meet the needs of the community.
- b. ***Farmers Market Update/New Programming*** – Maritza Sosa-Nieves reported that effective December 17, 2015, the market will end and she will be working with another company in bringing in a seasonal market - Spring to early fall, possibly April – October. She will keep members apprised.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. ***Committee By-Laws Review*** – Members were requested to review the Committee By-Laws and direct any suggestions to the attention of Ed Ramirez who will compile the information and review with members at the January

meeting. It is anticipated to bring final recommendations to City Council in February for their consideration and approval.

- b. **Holiday Event Volunteer Opportunities** – The G.V.N.C. will host the Thankful Neighbor Program held on November 24, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Volunteer opportunities will be held on Friday, November 20, Monday, November 23 and Wednesday, November 24. The Center is now offering program to older adults who qualify under the program guidelines.

The Neighborly Elf Program will be held on Saturday, December 19 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Volunteer opportunities will be held the week of December 15 – 19. Individuals interested in volunteering for either program may sign up at the G.V.N.C. front office.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES SECTION

- 1) **Refrigerator Replacement Program** – Currently, the G.V.N.C. is collaborating with Breitburn Energy Group who is offering a replacement refrigerator program for Santa Fe Springs' residents. Caseworkers will assess clients to sign up for the program.
- 2) **T.E.E.N.S. Programming Update** – Edwin Vargas reported that members of the T.E.E.N.S. are volunteering with the holiday programs at the Center. Upcoming events include Teen Karaoke Party on December 9, 2016 and a UCLA Summit on Saturday where students will engaged in workshops, interactive activities, and Life Hacks on January 27, 2016 at the G.V.N.C. Staff has planned the 2016 T.E.E.N.S. calendar, which include planned events for educational growth, workshops, and excursions. In addition, the Pio Pico Room is now open to high school students from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. where participants can receive tutoring assistance and enjoy games and activities. Also, staff will be making a presentation to one of the clubs at Santa Fe High School to promote the program.

Mr. Ramirez reported that the G.V.N.C. is also in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club College Bound Program. Staff is working on building the participation of the TEENS and College Bound Program.

Ms. Guevara gave an overview of the College Bound Program which is a specialized program to help students ages 14 to 18 meet their requirements to graduate from high school by conducting one-on-one case management and assisting with the college application process and providing resources for aspiring college students.

Mr. Ramirez also indicated that staff is in the process in forming a community-wide task force for a Teens Summit. In addition, to bringing a Creative Sports

component to the program. Plans for a grand opening of the T.E.E.N.S. at the G.V.N.C. is being planned for the New Year.

- 3) **Gus' Kitchen/Community Closet** – Mr. Ramirez reported that clients visit the pantry and closet on a consistent basis. The goal is to create a self-supporting system in which clients can feel free to select items as needed. Staff is working on developing a logo to place on shopping bags. Staff is also looking into building the volunteer base to assist with the various tasks in organizing the pantry and closet. Advisory committee members were asked to promote donations during the year.
- 4) **Legal Services Program** – The G.V.N.C. currently offers free legal consultations by pro-bono attorney's; however, the Center has lost one of its attorney's and is down to two attorneys posing a challenge to service the high volume of clients. Staff is working on recruiting additional attorneys to meet the needs of the community. Referrals may be directed to Mr. Ramirez.
- 5) **Special Olympics** – Aimee Espinoza, Program Specialist, is collaborating with Special Olympics by attending monthly meetings and working on bringing more resources to the City. There currently are four participants who are benefitting from the program and are practicing with the Whittier Special Olympics group in the area of track and field. The G.V.N.C. will be hosting a training in January 2016 for volunteers as well as staff to learn how to better work with individuals with special needs. Marketing efforts are being made to reach out to the community.

b. CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT SECTION – JUDI MANALISAY

- 1) **Child Care Update** - Terry Camacho, Supervisor for the City's Preschool Program, presented members with a video presentation on Child Care and Adult Food Program Challenge. The program raises awareness to ensure that children are eating fresh and healthy foods in efforts to prevent child obesity and highlight ongoing endeavors by the Child Care Center in promoting health and wellness to pre-school and school-age children.

Also, staff attended training to develop curriculum and assist in child development. And, parent conferences will be conducted December 7 -14, 2015. In addition, the children will be performing at the Tree Lighting Ceremony of December 5, 2015. In January 2016, the Child Care Center will host Grandparent's Day.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Orange County Food Distribution - December 16, 2015
- Healthy Tip Handout

10. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Breakfast with the Boys - December 8, 2015 at Town Center Hall

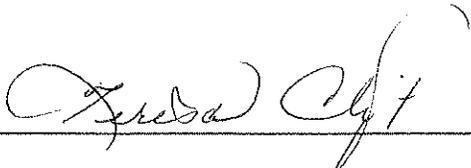
11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – ED RAMIREZ

- Youth Leadership Presentation Options

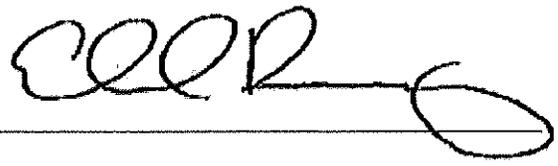
12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Radoumis adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

The next meeting of the Family and Human Services Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016, at 5:45 p.m. at the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center, Meeting Room No. 1, 9255 Pioneer Boulevard, Santa Fe Springs, CA.



Prepared By: Teresa Clift,
Administrative Clerk, II



Ed Ramirez, Executive Secretary