



MINUTES
25 October 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Community Services Commission Meeting was called to order at 5:05 P.M. and was held via hybrid meeting format (Zoom Teleconference and in person-Pinole City Council Chambers).

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Darin Clarke, Laurelle Martin, Debbie Ojeda, Irma Ruport, and Nickolas Teller

Commissioners Absent: Bob Kopp

Staff Present: Leticia Andreas, Public Works Management Analyst, Sanjay Mishra, Public Works Director, Maria Picazo, Recreation Manager

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: Motion by Commissioner Ojeda to approve the minutes of September 27, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Clarke. All in favor. Motion passed.

4. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Stacey JoJola, head of Pinole Valley High School baseball booster committee introduced two of the varsity baseball players (Jai Benedito and Jacob JoJola) who would share information about the baseball team's community events and fundraising efforts.

Jai Benedito is a senior at Pinole Valley High School and plays on the varsity baseball team. Jai has been on the baseball team for four years and currently serves as the varsity team captain. The team has been raising funds to buy necessary equipment to complete the team's training goals. The team needs field screens, a pitching machine, and baseballs. The team has partnered with local restaurants to host fundraisers. The team will host two larger community events, a crab feed in February 2024 and a golf tournament in the spring. The team will also host a youth baseball camp during the winter break.

Jacob JoJola is a senior at Pinole Valley High School and plays on the varsity baseball team. Jacob has been on the baseball team for four years. His team is looking for sponsorship of their team and their community events. He gave examples of how the community can support the team.

Commissioner Martin thanked the speakers for their comments and asked where they could find the team's information and community events. Stacey JoJola referred her to the team's Facebook page.



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Commissioner Ruport thanked the speakers for attending the meeting. She asked them to email her the event information and encouraged them to attend the Pinole Farmers Market.

Irma Ruport, resident of Pinole, informed the Commission that she has lived in Pinole for over 40 years. She has served on the Ad Hoc Committee, Economic Development, Affordable Housing Committee, Public Safety Committee, neighborhood watch captain, Senior Center Food Bank Volunteer and Ad Hoc Committee-Project Labor Agreement. She was appointed to the Community Services Commission on March 21, 2023 by the City Council. Since being appointed to the Commission she has attended Community Service Day, Coastal Cleanup, and Dumpster Day. She stated that her experience has been less than favorable, and she has been approached by some Commissioners with their own personal agenda. She did not want to detail the experiences but asked them to stop. On September 21, 2023 Staff Picazo sent an email to all Commissioners which included the City's Code of Ethics and Conduct, Community Services Commission Bylaws, and the City's Municipal Code. Staff asked the Commissioners to review the documents. Irma stated that she is not sure how many Commissioners have reviewed the documents. Irma specifically wanted to point out Chapter 2.62 and 2.62.030 in the Code of Ethics and Conduct. She wanted to remind the Commission of the importance of who they are serving. She spoke on behalf of herself and not as a member of the Community Services Commission.

Commissioner Martin commented that she has been on the Commission since its start and there has never been anything negative. The Commission has always been a positive entity. The Commissioners have served the community and that is the reason why they serve on the Commission.

Commissioner Ojeda commented that it has never been about serving themselves. The Commission serves the community that they love.

Commissioner Ruport commented that everyone needs to start serving the community, stop approaching on a personal basis, and keep thoughts to themselves.

Commissioner Martin commented that if there are any other issues, the Commissioners should speak with staff in a different forum.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Coastal Cleanup

Staff Andreas provided the Commissioners with a summary on Coastal Cleanup which was held on September 16, 2023. A total of 256 volunteers took part in the



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event which included 151 adults and 105 children. The volunteers collected 1,030 pounds of trash and cleaned a total of 5 miles. Staff Andreas said the event was a success. She noted that less trash was collected this year, but she credits the Friends of the Pinole Creek Watershed as they have been organizing monthly cleanups.

B. Dumpster Day

Public Works Director Mishra provided the Commissioners with an update on the dumpster day event. He said the event was less than ideal as there were a few issues. City staff coordinated this event with a staff member from Republic Services who left the organization a week before the dumpster day event. City staff were not sure how much information was shared with the new Republic Services staff member. On the day of the event, the dumpsters were delivered to the wrong location. Republic Services worked to resolve the issue and stayed on site until 1:30pm to accommodate as many residents as possible. Additionally, they provided an extra dumpster. This event had the largest turnout in years, a total of thirteen dumpsters were filled. Previous events filled about eight dumpsters. Per the franchise agreement, twelve dumpsters are allocated annually. Director Mishra said they hope to do better next time. Director Mishra answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Ojeda thanked the City for hosting this free event for the community. She said there were some miscommunication issues. During the event, she provided updates and apologized to the residents who were waiting in line. She said they appreciated the updates and were understanding.

Commissioner Martin commented that there was a late start, but eventually they got going. She said the number of cars this year was significant and there were large amounts of items to dispose. Unloading the items is time consuming.

Commissioner Clarke commented that he missed the event. He said the large turnout proves there is a demand for events like this and suggested adding a second event in the future to alleviate the lines. He also noted that the guidelines should be updated to limit one bulky item per resident.

Commissioner Ruport commented that it took about an hour for everything to start. She said that more and more cars arrived as the event started and traffic was building up throughout the streets. Staff was informed and they tried to resolve the issue. She said she received many complaints from the participants regarding the backup. She clarified that she did not call the police to help with traffic control. The residents who were waiting in their cars called the police. She also noted that residents who lived in the area were walking their items in without waiting in line.



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She said that many people were upset and frustrated with the long wait lines. She said the residents of Pinole deserve an apology and the City has to do better.

Commissioner Martin commented that this was Staff Andreas first time leading the event and she did an excellent job. The issues that occurred were beyond her control. Improvements for next year have been discussed with staff.

Commissioner Teller commented that the event went better than he thought it would go. It was not a five-star day, but it was not a disaster. A lesson learned for next time.

Commissioner Ruport commented that she received many complaints on the side of the street where she was. She also noted that residents should unload their own items as noted on the flyer.

Public Works Director Mishra commented that to his understanding the dumpster day event is led by the Community Services Commission and Public Works staff supports. After this event, there has been discussion for Public Works staff to take the lead. This event will be further discussed with the City Manager and Council.

Commissioner Ojeda commented that the best way to serve the community is to focus on some positive changes for future events.

Public Comment

Rafael Menis, resident of Pinole, commented that there were some mix-ups. From his perspective as a volunteer and dropping off trash, the event went relatively well. He suggested setting up a metric for how many dumpsters should be available. Additionally, he suggested having clear lines of communication with all those involved in the event to prevent any mix-ups.

C. Sister City Policy

Staff informed the Commissioners that Director Rogers presented the Sister City draft policy to Council. At this meeting Council directed staff Rogers to host a community meeting to obtain feedback, contact the reporter who published the article on Pinole's Sister relationship, meet with Rotary Club and Pinole Valley High School.

D. Park Master Plan

Staff reminded the commissioners that the second Park Master Plan workshop will take place at the Youth Center on Friday, November 17 from 6pm-8pm. Staff



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invited them all to attend and to share the meeting details through their communication channels.

E. Community Outreach/Engagement

Commissioner Ojeda shared that the Pinole Community Players annual cabaret dinner show will be held on April 27, 2024 at St. Joseph. The annual Rotary Club crab feed will be on February 10, 2024 at the Pinole Senior Center.

Commissioner Ruport shared that she is connecting with community youth groups and reminding them to attend the meetings to share information about their programs. Additionally, she will connect with the local PTA groups and invite them to attend the monthly meetings with the students so they can share what they are doing and what the needs are. She encouraged the community to reach out to the youth.

Commissioner Martin shared that she is part of the Pinole Youth Foundation and scholarships are available for current students or previous students who are interested in trade or technical schools. The scholarships cover a wide range of careers. Additionally, Commissioner Martin said she will start working on a student speaking scholarship with Pinole Valley High School.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fall and Winter Events

Staff informed the Commissioners that the Halloween movie event was a success. The event drew in one of the largest crowds of the year. Additionally, the City will host a variety of fall and winter events over the next few weeks. The City will host the United We Heal event at the Pinole Senior Center on Wednesday, November 15th and Sunday, November 19th. More details on the event can be found on the City's website and registration is available online. The Pinole Senior Center will host the holiday craft fair on Saturday, November 18 from 10am-3pm. More information on the event can be found on the Senior Center website. The last event of the year will be the annual tree lighting event scheduled for Saturday, December 2 from 3pm-5:pm at Fernandez Park. The tree lighting ceremony will start at 5:00pm at the community corner. More information will be available on the website soon. Staff encouraged the Commissioners to share these events through their communication channels.

B. 2023 Meeting Schedule

Staff informed the Commissioners that historically, the Commission goes dark from November through December due to the holidays. Staff asked the Commissioners if they would follow the same schedule this year. The Commission agreed to reconvene on January 24, 2024.



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8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 P.M. to the next Community Services Commission meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2024|5:43 P.M.

Submitted by:

Maria Picazo
Recreation Manager

Approved by the Commissioners on January 24, 2024