

***These REVISED Meetings Minutes are not official until
approved by the Fiesta La Ballona Committee***

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
FIESTA LA BALLONA COMMITTEE
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

July 25, 2022
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Guzzetta called the special meeting of the Fiesta La Ballona Committee to order at 7:03 P.M. in the Garden Room at the Culver City Veterans Memorial Building.

Present: Greg Guzzetta, Chair
Lisa Marie Parker Desai, Vice Chair
Lila Swenson, Member
Nancy Trujillo, Member
Bob Wayne, Member

Absent: Roshni Mejia, Member
Colleen Jones, Member

Staff: Dani Cullens, Recreation and Community Services
Manager
Patricia Mooney, PRCS Senior Management Analyst
Adam Ferguson, PRCS Associate Analyst

o0o

Pledge of Allegiance

The Fiesta La Ballona Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

o0o

Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Adam Ferguson, Associate Analyst, reported that no public comment had been received.

o0o

Receipt of Correspondence

Adam Ferguson, Associate Analyst, reported that correspondence had been distributed to Committee Members.

THE FIESTA LA BALLONA COMMITTEE PASSED A MOTION TO RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE (ABSENT MEMBERS JONES AND MEJIA).

o0o

Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

o0o

Action Items

Item A-1

FLBC - (1) Consideration and Discussion of the Reallocation of Event Space at Fiesta La Ballona to Include Additional Family-Friendly Activities and Limit and/or Eliminate Commercial and Informational Booths; and (2) If Desired, Making a Recommendation to the City Council

Dani Cullens, Recreation and Community Services Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Chair Guzzetta invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

Keith Cascio, provided background on himself; indicated that he was running as a Republican for California's 55th Assembly District; expressed appreciation to the Committee; reported that he had applied for a booth; discussed family-friendly events; collaboration; and he indicated wanting to participate in Fiesta La Ballona.

Rod Shingio, representing the National Rifle Association, reported having a booth at Fiesta La Ballona for 27 years;

noted questions triggered by the email from the City; and he asked about criteria for participation.

Sara Fields, Temple Akiba, expressed support for ensuring that the event is family-friendly.

Rosalind LaBriola, Culver City Coalition, questioned the intent of the changes; expressed concern with limiting the event; and asked why the Committee would make a change four weeks prior to the event.

Marta Valdez, Culver City Coalition, indicated that their booth was intended to be used for family-friendly activities for kids; expressed confusion regarding the proposed changes; and, responding to inquiry, she clarified that the Culver City Coalition is a Political Action Committee (PAC) and 2022 would be their first year to participate in Fiesta La Ballona.

Jane Leonard provided background on herself; expressed concern with creating a significant change in attendee demographics by replacing the informational booths; discussed the wide range of participants; those who attend Fiesta La Ballona to network and share information at the booths; the importance of family friendly activities; and creation of a carnival atmosphere.

Jeff Schwartz, Culver City Democratic Club, provided background on himself; discussed their participation in Fiesta; the value of providing a physical presence; polarization; isolation; changing demographics of the community; commercial booths; the balance of the carnival; discrimination; guaranteed booth staffing; and booth activities.

Anette Oroa Tossoukitan provided background on herself; discussed an anti-Trump booth in 2018; the NRA (National Rifle Association); anti-Russian comments; promoting hate; she felt it was inappropriate to limit participation; and noted past participants that promoted hate and division.

Chair Guzzetta proposed a motion to eliminate commercial and informational booths.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding clarification that Committee Members are volunteers appointed by the City to provide guidance; time and

consideration put into the process; surveys conducted indicating that informational booths are not popular; younger-skewed events; evaluating effects of the changes; the impetus for making the changes; the NRA; alternative ways to achieve objectives; processes used by similar events such as the Sawdust Festival; restricting participation to the community; clarification that the changes have been under consideration for a long time; and the purpose of the proposed changes to ensure a more family friendly event.

Member Wayne commented that he was not totally in favor of the widespread elimination; mentioned the elephant in the room being the National Rifle Association as the reason for the meeting; wondered if this was the correct way for the festival and if the City Council would even pass this recommendation; wished that the festival's booths would only be for community members; wanted the festival to have more arts and crafts instead of political booths.

Moved by Vice Chair Parker Desai and seconded by Member Swenson to eliminate all commercial and informational booths at Fiesta La Ballona.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding honoring sponsorships; government related groups; and direction to the City Council.

Further discussion ensued between a member of the public and Committee Members regarding timing of the next City Council meeting and logistics.

Chair Guzzetta proposed an amendment to the motion to carve out sponsorships with existing contracts and governmental agencies.

Vice Chair Parker Desai and Member Swenson accepted the proposed amendment.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR PARKER DESAI AND SECONDED BY MEMBER SWENSON THAT THE FIESTA LA BALLONA COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ELIMINATE ALL COMMERCIAL AND INFORMATIONAL BOOTHS AND REPLACE THEM WITH FAMILY FRIENDLY ACITVITIES WITH A CARVE OUT FOR SPONSORSHIPS WITH EXISTING CONTRACTS AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES FOR FIESTA LA BALLONA 2022.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: GUZZETTA, PARKER DESAI, SWENSON, TRUJILLO,
NOES: WAYNE
ABSENT: JONES, MEJIA

o0o

Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

None.

o0o

Items from Members/Staff

None.

o0o

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:43 P.M., the Fiesta La Ballona Committee adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on August 3, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

o0o

Adam Ferguson

SECRETARY of the Fiesta La Ballona Committee

APPROVED _____

GREG GUZZETTA

CHAIR of the Culver City Fiesta La Ballona Committee
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK

Date