

***These Meeting Minutes are not official until approved by
the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission.***

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS, RECREATION
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

May 2, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Heineman called the regular meeting of the Parks,
Recreation and Community Services Commission to order at 7:03
P.M. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Chair Kay Heineman
Vice Chair Laura Stuart
Commissioner Scott Garland
Commissioner William Rickards
Commissioner Scott Zeidman*

*Commissioner Zeidman left the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jimmel Ebanks, Culver
City High School.

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**Community Announcements by City Council Members/
Information Items from Staff**

None.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Heineman invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the
Commission:

Vicki Daly Redholtz, Chair of the Friends of the Culver City
Dog Park (FCCDP), and Rich Kissel, FCCDP Secretary,
introduced three new FCCDP Board Members who each spoke about

their hopes for the future of the Dog Park; and announced that Parks Manager Patrick Reynolds would be participating in their board meeting on May 23, exchanging ideas on improving the Dog Park.

Dr. Janet Hoult distributed bookmarks publicizing the "Word Painting with Poetry" poetry contest as part of the Culver City Centennial Celebration noting that the next event in September 2017 at the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum would focus on Culver City's history.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

None.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Community Conversations Topic #7 - "Growing Up Intercultural in Culver City: A Student-Based Conversation on Race and Culture"

Commissioner Garland and Commissioner Rickards provided background on the topic, and gave the opening remarks to begin the Community Conversation.

Commissioner Garland introduced some of the distinguished members of the audience including Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) Superintendent Dr. Joshua Arnold, Assistant Superintendent Mike Reynolds, Assistant Superintendent Tracy Pumilia and CCUSD Board of Education Members Dr. Kelly Kent Marin and Summer McBride.

Commissioner Zeidman exited the meeting.

Carlos Valverde, Ed.D, Culver City High School, provided background on himself; discussed inter-culturalism; the creation of his class: Multicultural Literature; and he provided questions to the student panel.

Student Panelists Fatima Malik, Joshua Bhumsuko, Quinn Guy, Suhail Abbas, Arely Hernandez, Jimmel Ebanks, Maria Sernas and Taylor Perkins introduced themselves; discussed their cultural backgrounds; their first realization of being part of a cultural or ethnic group; what it is like to grow up in Culver City; privilege; lack of inclusiveness; disconnectedness from culture; the number of students of color in Advanced Placement classes; the Muslim community in the City; the Mosque; inter-culturalism; disadvantage; an observation that those with a higher socio-economic status have more resources and advantages as well as access to healthy food; diversity reflected in the Centennial posters; redevelopment and change in the City; the advantage of having Sony in the City; the Visual Arts program at the High School; internships; access to creative organizations in the City; student discounts; gentrification; pushing low income minorities out of the area; creating a large divide; decreasing diversity; homelessness; limited diversity in teaching staff at the high school; stereotypes; reducing stereotypes by increasing intercultural interactions; the importance of recognizing your part in stereotypes; gravitating toward your own culture; making the Intercultural Literature class a requirement; clarification that Black Student Union is a nationwide organization found on many college campuses; breaking stereotypes; not fitting into a box people are trying to force you in; empathy; the disproportionate Asian population UCLA and Berkeley; and cultural appreciation vs. appropriation.

Commissioner Rickards introduced Reverend Carolyn Wilkins with Agape and Culver City Interfaith Alliance, and Shafqat Malik of King Fahad Mosque.

Reverend Carolyn Wilkins, Agape and Culver City Interfaith Alliance, discussed understanding and acknowledging privilege; instructing black children on how to interact with the police; an observation that diversity is not reflected in the businesses in the City; lack of understanding between generations; her radio show; a

recent benefit concert put on by Culver High School students; empathy; the 25th anniversary of the riots; the Culver City Interfaith Alliance; and the importance of conversation to take advantage of being diverse citizens.

Shafqat Malik, King Fahad Mosque, discussed his experiences growing up and living in Culver City; the Culver City Outreach Program used in the Mosque and around the country; diversity in the City; and concern with increasing rents.

The Commission invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission and panel:

Michelle Weiner asked for suggestions regarding affordable housing.

Discussion ensued between panelists regarding affordable housing; student discounts; providing opportunities for students; offering classes at Culver City High School to teach students how to be successful financially; stimulating the economy; students coming out of school with huge debt; the lack of employment for students coming out of school; deeper issues than the housing market; rent control; hands-on government, helping the community; and the difficulty of getting out of loan debt.

Daniel Lee discussed the lack of social avenues for teenagers in the City; mentorship programs in the City; and he asked what the students felt was still lacking in the City.

Additional discussion ensued between meeting participants and panelists regarding resources in the City; respect from adults to students; increased interaction between adults in important positions and students; the lack of activities in the City other than eating at restaurants; the closure of the ice rink; the curfew; and student discounts offered at Howard Hughes.

Paula discussed segregated activities; bringing diversity into recreation activities; and the curfew.

Further discussion ensued between panelists regarding workshops at the Santa Monica library and a suggestion to have workshops at the Julian Dixon library; preconceived ideas of who does which extra-curricular activities; encouraging better outreach; clarification that there is no profiling with regard to clubs; access to the clubs for students who commute; intra-culturalism vs. multi-culturalism; a suggestion to have activities to bring different cultures together; the importance of outreach; the Muslim Student Association; Latinos Unidos; outreach and coordination between organizations; openness of organizations to everyone; schoolwide support of sports; high school cliques; the large time commitment required for many activities; a suggestion to involve students without such a large commitment; the hijab; and what is taught at school vs. what is taught at home.

Terrance Brown, Culver City Middle School Counselor, discussed National Direct Student Loans; the forgiveness clause; and financial literacy.

Dr. Joshua Arnold, CCUSD Superintendent, thanked the students for their efforts; discussed diversity taught by Sesame Street; and next steps.

Discussion ensued between panelists regarding civil action projects; finding a career that contributes to the community; the importance of voting; the talk given to black children regarding how to interact with the police; the disproportionate number of times black people are pulled over; and working to make changes to the system.

Shafqat Malik, King Fahad Mosque, suggested positive ways to interact with police officers when pulled over, and working to become the change they want to see.

Judith Martin-Straw discussed self-segregation and feminism.

Further discussion ensued between panelists regarding using social media as a movement; systematic racism; body ideals; skin tone ideals; the focus on STEM; and the importance of maintaining the focus on humanity.

Presentations

Item P-1

Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to Community Conversation Topic #7 Panel Discussion Participants

Commissioner Rickards noted that this was the beginning of the conversation and the Commission would look for additional opportunities to continue the discussion; he thanked the students, the school Dr. Valverde and all meeting participants; and he presented Certificates of Appreciation to the panel discussion participants.

Fatima expressed appreciation for Caucasians and noted that minorities often learn to oppose the majority.

Chair Heineman thanked the students for their input, and discussed changes to the City and the benefits of increased diversity.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Heineman invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

None.

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Items from Staff

None.

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Items from Commissioners and Council Members

Chair Heineman announced that the June 6, 2017 PRCSC meeting would be held in the Patacchia Room at City Hall.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding upcoming meeting dates with consensus that the July PRCSC meeting would be held on Monday, July 17, 2017 in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:05 P.M., the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

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Patricia A. Mooney
ATTENDING SECRETARY of the Parks, Recreation and
Community Services Commission

APPROVED _____

Kay Heineman
CHAIR of the PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMISSION
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 Green
CITY CLERK

Date