

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

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

November 13, 2018
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Vice Chair Mohammed called the special meeting of the Parks,
Recreation and Community Services Commission to order at 7:00
P.M. in the Rotunda Room at Veterans Memorial Building.

Present: Vice Chair Palvi Mohammed
Commissioner Kay Heineman
Commissioner William Rickards

Absent: Chair Scott Zeidman
Commissioner Paula Amezola

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Pledge of Allegiance

Ann Mitz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Vice Chair Mohammed invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Community Conversation

Item A-1

PRCSC - The Culver City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission and the Culver City Area Interfaith Alliance, in Collaboration with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, are Hosting "The Power of Community - What We Can Do to Stop Bullying," a Community Conversation to Discuss Bullying Prevention and Ways to Make a Positive Difference for Youth in Our Community

Vice Chair Mohammed introduced the item.

Commissioner Heineman provided background on Reverend Carolyn Wilkins and indicated that she would share comments received with her from several people who could not be present but were supportive of the meeting.

Reverend Carolyn Wilkins thanked everyone for their support; provided an overview of the program; discussed the partnership between the Culver City Interfaith Alliance and the City; the origination of the organization and the program; underlying beliefs of different religions; coming together as a community; bringing healing and support to the community; addressing bullying; increases to intolerance and polarization; community dialogue; resources available; and she introduced speakers and students.

Noah, Culver City High School student, discussed his experience with bullying because of race when he lived in a different community; counselors at the High School; Intercultural Literature; sharing ideas about social injustices and racial inequality; he felt that bullying started with a lack of knowledge about other people's identities; and he thanked friends, parents and counselors who had helped him.

Leslie, Culver City High School student, recounted incidences of bullying that she had experienced; she noted that people are often afraid and need to be encouraged to speak up; she discussed stress experienced in High School; watching for signs of bullying; healthy relationships; instruction on how to get out of harmful relationships; and she felt it was important for teachers and counselors

to reach out to students who may feel they do not want to bother adults with their troubles.

Reverend Carolyn Wilkins noted the importance of hearing from students whose lives are affected by bullying; she indicated that she had been bullied as a child noting that she had not talked about it at the time either; and she introduced Julie Markussen, the Assistant Principal at Culver City Middle School.

Julie Markussen provided background on herself; spoke on behalf of principal Villafranca; discussed a chart provided to meeting attendees illustrating different types of conflict that school staff addresses on a daily basis; true bullying situations vs. mean things; cyber bullying; incidents where counselors can mediate; different types of conflict at school; intentional meanness; intentional targeting; restrictions in the California Education Code; providing other means of correction rather than suspension; consequences; confidentiality issues; first offenses; conferences; procedures; detention; deterrents; creating a behavior contract; incentives; positive reinforcement; restoration to make up for infractions; the struggle to keep kids safe at school; and communication and collaboration.

Reverend Carolyn Wilkins thanked Ms. Markussen and introduced Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Corey Lakin and Commissioner Rickards.

Commissioner Rickards discussed resources; working together to deal with issues; harassment and bullying; different City departments; services provided; quality of life; Parks, Recreation and Community Services programs; green and open spaces; opportunities for learning and social engagement; and the way people behave in public spaces.

Corey Lakin, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, thanked everyone for their attendance and efforts; discussed the focus on safety; playing fairly; bullying and harassment across all ages; the anti-bullying policy adopted by the City Council; he noted that all staff are mandated reporters; discussed training; coordination with other departments in the City and the

county; and providing a safe environment for everyone in the community.

Reverend Carolyn Wilkins introduced Dr. Inderpreet Kaur.

Dr. Inderpreet Kaur, Sikh Coalition, provided background on the organization; discussed hate crimes and bullying; work in the field; education as the best approach to eradicate bullying; diversity training in classrooms; training for teachers; how to address reports of bullying; recent migrants; resources to assist Sikh families; and she indicated she had cards and resources available for addressing faith-based bullying.

Reverend Carolyn Wilkins introduced Carissa and Jennifer, interns at the Sandy Segal Youth Health Center.

Sandy and Carissa discussed services provided at the Sandy Segal Youth Health Center; collaboration with parents and teachers; work with those being bullied and those doing the bullying; self-referrals; confidentiality; and they indicated that people were welcome to walk in at any time for assistance with no need for parent consent for anyone 12 and older.

Dr. Reverend Carolyn Wilkins introduced facilitators and scribes; discussed ground rules; the process; and she encouraged people to move around to balance out the size of each group.

The meeting recessed to small group discussions from 7:53 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

Reverend Carolyn Wilkins invited meeting attendees to report out and she discussed handouts provided.

Vice Chair Mohammed discussed critical factors for youth to feel like they are treated with respect; willingness to listen without judgement; when parents do not make time to talk to their children; available resources; other parents in the community to help; restrictions that the schools work under; the need for more conversations with children about what is going on; making parents aware of available resources at Culver City Unified School District; and signs of bullying outlined in the pamphlet.

Heather Arld, Youth and Family Programs Director at the Palms Family YMCA, discussed being pushed to the brink; parent education; bullying at any age; continued experiences; learned behavior; perpetuating behavior and stereotypes; continuing the dialogue; and including the entire community.

Megan Baumgartener indicated that she was covering the meeting for a class she is taking at USC; discussed younger kids becoming involved with negative behaviors in their efforts to be perceived as cool by older kids; the need for younger kids to break down barriers; stereotypes disseminated in the media; concerns that bullying can become more malicious and targeted as kids get older; ways to implement bullying prevention in school; having high school kids come into middle schools to discuss what to expect in high school; and she expressed support for the event and for the open discussion of a difficult subject.

Judi Sherman provided background on herself; discussed the motivation of bullies; understanding causes; restrictions placed on the way schools can address bullying; restorative justice; increased hate crimes; underreporting; starting early to break patterns; role modeling; and the potential for a Community Relations Committee in Culver City.

Commissioner Rickards discussed individual cases; situations where parents found out about their children being targeted by others; understanding the dynamics of situations; intervention strategies; teacher responsiveness; constraints faced by schools; the Sandy Segal Youth Health Center; available resources; situations where children are being teased but teachers do not know; how to intervene; and the importance of having adults speak up for others.

Reverend Carolyn Wilkins thanked everyone for their participation in the process and she indicated that she would create a Google document that would summarize comments and potential action items.

Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Vice Chair Mohammed invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

None.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:56 P.M., the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 4:00 P.M.

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

APPROVED _____

Scott Zeidman
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