



Wednesday, January 31, 2024

A Regular Meeting of the Sister City Commission was held in the Council Chambers, 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, California.

CALL TO ORDER

Director Betancourt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Director Betancourt stated the Sister City Commission reorganization will be continued until the next meeting. Commissioners introduced themselves.

PRESENT: Arellano, Perez, Ascencio

ABSENT: Lopez, Tirado

STAFF PRESENT: Alvarado Betancourt, Director of Community & Economic Development
Julia Gonzalez, Deputy Director of Community & Economic Development

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Perez.

PUBLIC HEARING(S): None

NON-AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT CALENDAR: None

SISTER CITY COMMISSION REPORTS:

1. Director Report

- a. City Attorney Lam presented a Sister City Commissioner training which included the Brown Act, Robert's Rules of Order, Sister City Commissioners roles and Conflicts of Interest.
- b. Deputy Director Gonzalez provided a presentation on what a Sister City Commission is and does.

Commissioner Ascencio asked if the City would become a sister City with Chapala, Mexico.

Deputy Director Gonzalez responded that the commission could make a motion to recommend to the City Council to designate Chapala, Mexico as a sister city.

Commissioner Ascencio stated that an informal request had been made.

Deputy Director Gonzalez asked Commissioner Ascencio whom she had been talking to and would follow up with appropriate staff.

Director Betancourt stated that staff would inquire with the City Council if they have taken any independent action.

Commissioner Perez asked if the commission could get clarification on a future agenda as there is a lot of miscommunications.

Commissioner Perez made motion to hear a report regarding the status of Chapala as Sister City at the next meeting.

Commissioner Ascencio seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Deputy Director Gonzalez provided logistical information.

Commissioner Arellano asked if the commission could reschedule the meetings if they were unable to attend City Council meeting.

Deputy Director Gonzalez responded yes.

2. Commissioners Reports:

Director Betancourt stated the next scheduled meeting is April 3, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Director Betancourt adjourned the Sister City Commission meeting at 6:45 p.m. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Bob Perez, Chairperson

ATTEST:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct report of the proceedings of the Sister City Commission Regular Meeting on January 31, 2024, and approved by the Sister City Commission on November 13, 2024.

Alvaro Betancourt, Director
Community & Economic Development Department



Wednesday, April 10, 2024

A Regular Meeting of the Sister City Commission was held in the Council Chambers, 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, California.

CALL TO ORDER

Director Betancourt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Arellano, Perez, Tirado

ABSENT: Lopez, Ascencio

STAFF PRESENT: Alvaro Betancourt, Director of Community & Economic Development
Julia Gonzalez, Deputy Director of Community & Economic Development

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chairperson Perez.

Director Betancourt led the reorganization and asked for nominations for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Commissioner Arellano motioned to nominate Commissioner Perez for Chairperson and Commissioner Tirado for Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING(S): None

NON-AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT CALENDAR: None

SISTER CITY COMMISSION REPORTS:

1. Director Report

- a. Councilmember Camacho provided an overview on current sister city relationships which included San Luis Potosi, Mazatlán, Tlajomulco, Mexico. The City is currently in the process of securing a relationship with Chapala, Mexico. A visit is scheduled for June 27, 2024, with Chapala, Mexico. Councilmember Camacho also stated the Commission could explore other cities outside of Mexico or strengthen existing relationships.

Councilmember Camacho stated that the City entered into a Friendship City with an Armenian city. A Sister City can start with a Friendship City.

b. Commissioner Roles and Expectations:

Deputy Director Gonzalez provided a presentation on the Commissioner Roles and Expectations.

c. Fundraising opportunities to host and travel:

Commissioner Arellano asked to create a partnership with the local Association for fundraising opportunities.

Commissioner Tirado stated that she is helping the Sister City Association with a fundraiser on Saturday, April 13 from 2-5 p.m. at Pico Park.

2. Commissioners Reports:

Deputy Director Gonzalez stated the next scheduled meeting is June 12, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairperson Perez adjourned the Sister City Commission meeting at 6:55 p.m. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Bob Perez, Chairperson

ATTEST:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct report of the proceedings of the Sister City Commission Regular Meeting on April 10, 2024, and approved by the Sister City Commission on November 13, 2024.

Alvaro Betancourt, Director
Community & Economic Development Department



Wednesday, June 12, 2024

A Regular Meeting of the Sister City Commission was held in the Council Chambers, 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, California.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Perez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Lopez, Perez, Tirado, Ascencio

ABSENT: Arellano

STAFF PRESENT: Alvaro Betancourt, Director of Community & Economic Development
Julia Gonzalez, Deputy Director of Community & Economic Development

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chairperson Perez.

PUBLIC HEARING(S): None

NON-AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT CALENDAR: None

SISTER CITY COMMISSION REPORTS:

1. Commissioners Reports:

Chairperson Perez provided an update on his attendance to the Sister City International Summit in San Antonio, Texas. He advised that the visit was at his own expense. He informed the commission that he attended various sessions and met several dignitaries. He stated that Pico Rivera is not a member of Sister Cities International and hopes that in the future the City will consider joining.

2. Director Reports:

- a. Director Betancourt provided update on the upcoming visit from Sister City Chapala, Mexico on June 27, 2024.
- b. Director Betancourt informed the Commissioners that the city will order and purchase business cards for the commission. The city is working on a policy statement on how the business cards should be used and will distribute to Commissioners as soon as it is available.

- c. Director Betancourt provided an overview of the Pico Rivera Sister Cities and dates of inception.

Chairperson Perez asked what the responsibility as a Commission is.

Director Betancourt responded that the City has established relationships however since the Sister City Commission has just been reformed, how and when the Commission interacts with these groups is to be determined. City staff does not organize interactions with Sister Cities and it would at the discretion of the Commission to move forward with fundraising efforts, travel, or engagements that may occur.

Commissioner Tirado asked if the Commission had any stipulations regarding fundraising.

Director Betancourt responded that the city does not directly fund the Sister City Commission, it facilitates the meetings. The fundraising would fall entirely upon members of the Commission in order to have those discretionary funds to travel and participate in events.

Commissioner Ascencio stated that in the past the Sister City Commission was under a nonprofit organization and asked if the Commission is a nonprofit organization or if it is now nonexistent.

Director Betancourt responded that staff would have to investigate the nonprofit status.

Chairperson Perez asked Commissioner Ascencio if she has had contact with anyone prior that might have that information.

Commissioner Ascencio responded that Sandra Pena worked with Raymond Chavez.

Commissioner Tirado asked if the Commissioners could fundraise and who would control the funds.

Director Betancourt responded yes and would investigate if the Commission could fundraise without nonprofit status.

Deputy Director Gonzalez provided an overview regarding meeting absences from the Municipal Code under Sister City.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Ascencion asked if there is any other commission that has a budget.

Director Betancourt responded that there is no budget for the Planning Commission. They act on discretionary applications which the city processes.

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairperson Perez adjourned the Sister City Commission meeting at 6:27 p.m. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Bob Perez, Chairperson

ATTEST:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct report of the proceedings of the Sister City Commission Regular Meeting on June 12, 2024, and approved by the Sister City Commission on November 13, 2024.

Alvaro Betancourt, Director
Community & Economic Development Department