

City of Pomona

505 S. Garey Ave
Pomona, CA 91766

Regular Meeting Minutes

YOUTH COMMISSION

*Chair Marilyn Camacho
Vice Chair Joseph Santhosh
Commissioner Natalie Alvarado
Commissioner Orlando Arias-Pulido
Commissioner Jared Jordan
Commissioner Mario Portillo
Commissioner Carimel Valenzuela*



VISION STATEMENT

Pomona will be recognized as a vibrant, safe, beautiful community that is a fun and exciting destination and the home of arts and artists, students and scholars, business and industry.

Thursday, May 4, 2023

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Camacho called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Camacho led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Marilyn Camacho
Commissioner Orlando Arias-Pulido
Commissioner Jared Jordan
Commissioner Mario Portillo
Commissioner Carimel Valenzuela
Vice Chair Joseph Santhosh (arrived at 6:11 p.m.)

Absent: Commissioner Natalie Alvarado

Staff present: Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director
Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Adrian Valdez, Recreation Supervisor
Monica Belloso, Management Analyst

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Evan Larq, a high school senior spoke about the importance of schools offering computer science courses and asked the Commission to help inform the City Council on what youth

desire in education.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Arias-Pulido asked to place a discussion item for a Heart of the Foothills recap. He said the LA County Fair opens tomorrow and one can buy a ticket for \$5 before midnight tonight. Next Thursday is Pomona Day and the entrance is \$1.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ARIAS-PULIDO, SECOND BY CHAIR CAMACHO, CARRIED 6-0 TO DISCUSS A HEART OF THE FOOTHILLS.

Chair Camacho said she attended the Heart of the Foothills event and thought it was very successful. For the Commissioners that helped plan the event, many of the activities they suggested were there.

Commissioner Portillo shared that his robotics team went to Texas to participate at an international competition. The Mayor helped to fund a part of the trip's expenses. It was a lot of fun. They were able to meet teams from Spain, Norway, and China and it was a good experience.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

It was recommended that the Youth Commission approve the meeting minutes of March 2, 2023.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VALENZUELA, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER JORDAN, CARRIED 6-0 TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2023.

VII. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

1. Presentation of God's Pantry

Outreach Director Brandon Moorehead of God's Pantry was invited by Vice Chair Santhosh, to speak about the resources and services that God's Pantry offers. Mr. Moorehead spoke about the organization's vision and provided a 'glance of 2022'.

- 100,000 families fed
- 2.5M groceries rescued
- 23,500 home delivered meals to seniors and families
- 2,390 volunteers
- 7,000 hours of volunteered time
- 51,000 hours worked by 108 youth trainees
- \$822,000 earned by gainful employment
- 36 clients who remained in the housing program
- 3,300 nights off the street due to the housing program
- 482 hours of counseling sessions provided
- 770 case management appointments booked
- 453 classes hosted

- 76 unique individuals doing community service
- 10,000 volunteer hours for community services

Mr. Moorehead provided an overview and description of the various programs and services offered to youth, which includes working in the food insecurity program, culinary program, and electric bike program. Services include housing, tutoring, mentorship, and substance abuse counseling.

Public Comment

Mr. Santhosh spoke about his experience in working with some of the groups at God's Pantry and said that the assistance in education, tutoring, job placement, and counseling that God's Pantry does is important for youth.

This was a presentation and no vote was taken.

2. Bloomberg Harvard Innovation Team Report

Neighborhood Services Director Benita DeFrank presented an overview of a project that the City participated in February 2022 through February 2023. The purpose of the project was to bring together teams in different cities throughout the world to concentrate on issues within their city. In collaboration with the Bloomberg Harvard Center for Public Innovation, a team of 13 members made up of City staff and local stakeholders worked together to identify an issue, understand the issue, generate ideas to resolve the issue, and then deliver an innovative project. The team identified youth programming for ages 0-5 as the issue. Ms. DeFrank provided a description of the team's efforts in each step with the goal of preparing Pomona youth socially, emotionally, physically, and academically to achieve their full potential.

This was a presentation and no vote was taken.

3. Discuss Youth Mentoring Program

Management Analyst Monica Belloso led the discussion of a proposed youth mentoring program designed to match a Youth Commissioner with a City staff. The intent of the program is to provide Youth Commissioners information of City functions and processes, guidance on educational goals, and knowledge of career pathways. Mentors have been recruited from various City Departments and will be required to complete the Child Abuse Prevention Training. Ms. Belloso provided the program timeline, beginning with a kick off during the August 3, 2023 Youth Commission meeting. Mentors and mentees will meet once a month for 30-60 minutes either in person or via teleconference from September 2023 through March 2024. There will be a culminating meeting during the April 4, 2024 Youth Commission meeting.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JORDAN, SECOND BY CHAIR CAMACHO, TO APPROVE THE YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM, CARRIED 6-0.

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

- Staff proposed to add The Village as a location for Outdoor and Active.

- The lifeguard certification class is happening this weekend at Ganesha Pool for youth ages 15.5+.
- A family camping trip is taking place May 19-21, 2023.
- Model United Nations classes have been taking place at Kennedy Park targeting middle school students and providing opportunities to attend delegate trainings and conferences.
- Outdoor and Active took youth to a Lakers vs. Clippers game and a LA Galaxy game.
- The Egg Hunts were successful and were held at four locations with large turnouts at all the locations.
- Spring camp took place during the school break at Philadelphia Park and field trips took teens to Griffith Park Observatory, a USC campus tour, and the Aquarium of the Pacific.
- The music program is ongoing. There will be a performance in June, along with the youth orchestra potentially being ready to perform during Holiday at the Plaza.
- Teen Game Nights are taking place at Kennedy Park and it's been successful in providing a space for teens to socialize, eat, and play games together.
- A grant proposal submitted to the San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center was awarded to fund a project that would provide inclusion and diversity training to City staff, staff of youth serving organizations, and parents/guardians. The project will also fund inclusion aides to support youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities so they can participate in recreational programming.
- A grant proposal submitted to Tri-City Mental Health Services was selected to move on the next step in the competitive process. Staff will meet with the grant evaluators next week to discuss the project, which is a series of tolerance workshops, a field trip, and a human library event.
- During the week of April 3, City staff attended the California Parks and Recreation Society Conference and Expo where staff attended a variety of workshops and sessions. At the Expo, staff worked together to purchase a ninja warrior style playground set to be installed at Ralph Welch Park. Staff also visited a few parks and a play area at San Diego Zoo to look at different park amenities to help bring new ideas to Pomona's parks.
- The Heart of the Foothills was a success and many ideas that the Youth Commission provided were incorporated into the event.
- An agreement with Just Us 4 Youth to utilize Renacimiento Community Center to conduct programming was approved by City Council and they will begin next week.
- Summer concert planning is underway and will kick off with a June concert featuring a few local bands, as well as monthly concerts in June, July, August, and September.
- Movie Nights will feature six movies nights and end with a dive-in movie at Ganesha Pool.
- The City Pools will open June 3, 2023. Swim lessons will be held at Ganesha and Washington.
- Congresswoman Torres allocated \$4M to renovate the La Casita teen center.
- Two skateboard instructors have been hired and will run skate programming, classes, and camps.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Camacho adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Thursday,

June 1, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Mike Osoff
Community Services Manager

Marilyn Camacho
Chair of the Youth Commission