

City of Pomona

505 S. Garey Ave
Pomona, CA 91766

Regular Meeting Minutes

YOUTH COMMISSION

Chair Vincent M. Jones
Vice Chair Angel D. Aguilar-Andrade
Commissioner Ruby Dias
Commissioner Kimberly Velazquez-Garcia
Commissioner Gladis Cabrera
Commissioner Sasha Jimenez
Commissioner Shayla Diaz



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, March 6, 2025

6:00 PM

Pomona Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Vincent Marcel Jones
Vice Chair Angel D. Aguilar-Andrade
Commissioner Ruby Dias
Commissioner Kimberly Velazquez-Garcia
Commissioner Shayla Diaz
Commissioner Gladis Cabrera
Commissioner Sasha Jimenez

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Adrian Valdez, Recreation Coordinator
Monica Belloso, Management Analyst

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Jimenez shared she attended a community meeting at Ganesha Park Community Center hosted by the Water Department and learned about a new underwater filtering system.

Commissioner Ruby Dias said she met with her mentor, who gave her a tour of City Hall. She met many staff and thought it was very interesting.

Vice Chair Aguilar-Andrade said he met with his mentor, who gave him a tour of the reservoir and of the office buildings.

Commissioner Cabrera said she met with her mentor; she was able to speak to Shar about her school project and get some helpful feedback.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

It was recommended that the Youth Commission approve the meeting minutes of January 23, 2025 and February 6, 2025. **Motion by Commissioner Jimenez, second made by Commissioner Dias to approve the minutes, and carried 7-0.**

VII. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

1. Presentation on the Social Host Ordinance

Joseph McLellan of Prototypes and a facilitator of Elevated Minds Youth Committee and of Pomona Youth Prevention Council. Mr. McLellan shared that Prototypes has been in the community for over 38 years and provides outpatient services, mental health, vocational training, and family support. Mr. McLellan provided national data involving drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. Mr. McLellan provided materials about the social host ordinance and explained that it holds individuals responsible for hosting gatherings where underage drinking or drug use occurs. It aims to reduce underage substance abuse by imposing penalties on those who provide the location for such activities. A proposed update to the ordinance includes expanding its scope to not just alcohol, but also drugs, marijuana, and other illicit substances. Updating the ordinance is important to protect Pomona's youth from the dangers of all types of substance abuse. Youth committee members described a simulation of a typical teen party using teen actors, highlighting the effects of why drugs can be fatal. Mr. McLellan advised how the youth commission can become involved in awareness and prevention and encouraged them to fill out a survey to share their thoughts on the current policy and help advocate for a safer, healthier Pomona.

Hope 4 Home Presentation

Donyielle Holley, the Housing Stabilization Division Manager presented PowerPoint slideshow about the City's homeless shelter, Hope 4 Home. She provided an overview of the mission, spoke about collaborative efforts with Pomona Police, Neighborhood Services, and homeless service providers. Ms. Holley spoke about housing services, which include coordinated entry/intake, outreach services, employment services, housing assistance, and case management. The Shelter also provides basic primary care, behavioral healthcare, and

substance disorder care. Since its opening, the shelter has served 1,052 people, secured permanent housing for 125, and 25 have been reunited with family outside the area (HEART). Ms. Holley described the different housing programs, including the Pomona Family Sanctuary Interim Housing Program and displayed photos of the shelter. She asked if the Commissioners would be interested in touring the facility and they said yes. Staff will coordinate dates/times for a tour.

2. Discussion of Youth Commission Goals and Youth Mentoring Program

Chair Jones led a presentation about creating a variety of opportunities for the Youth Commission to support issues and address challenges facing Pomona youth and ways to enhance the mentoring program. His suggestions were to seek ways to expand, enrich, and increase/improve through the following:

- Councilmember meet & greet, presentations, department walkthroughs, and a councilmember seminar day.
- Requirements attendance minimum, commission event booth, district area Q&A sessions, councilmember/mayoral public shadow
- Participate in workshops, seminar engagements, 1–2 week advance notice, mock session with public comment

Chair Jones also recommended virtual access to youth commission sessions, provide an accurate account of session dialogues, and give commissioner business cards. To enhance the youth mentoring program, he said sharing out the effectiveness of the mentoring meetings in public session and provide information about how the commission may utilize a department to advance its mission.

Staff responded to some of the suggestions that Chair Jones recommended. Staff stated that some of the events, such as meet & greets could potentially be a Brown Act violation due to having 4 or more commissioners meet. The mentoring program was originally designed to pair a youth commissioner with a staff member and another city commissioner, and in speaking with former youth commissioners, they stated that they were asked to do too much and pulled into many events. Eventually the youth commission was dismantled because youth felt burnt out. Staff encourage youth commissioners to attend council meetings, other city commission meetings, and city events, but opted to not make it a requirement. Staff stated that virtual access could be brought forward to the City Clerk and IT Department for direction. However, if one commission is operating differently or has business cards, then other commissions may request the same things. There are bylaws that keep the commissions to operate similarly. This includes the preparation of minutes, where the direction of the City Clerk is to prepare action minutes, and not write them verbatim. The term is for two years and it takes time for commissioners to feel comfortable and become knowledgeable in processes.

Commissioners provided input and stated that they can begin by volunteering together or by attending a city event together.

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

- A proposal for O&A, a youth sports program was submitted to PUSD to continue

programming for a fifth year.

- Staff is preparing two grant applications for Tri-City’s Community Wellbeing Program. One will be to enhance Heartful Hands, a service-learning project for teens. The other will be to enhance Pomona Pathfinders, the outdoor, nature-based part of O&A.
- Staff is preparing five applications to the Office of Norma Torres for various park projects.
- The Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 12, 2025 and will be at Kennedy, Westmont, Washington, and Palomares, including a teen egg hunt at Kennedy Park in the evening.
- In January, there was a generational game night with teens and seniors at Washington Park Community Center, hosted by the Teen Program.
- O&A’s Pomona Pathfinders collaborated with the Library for Rec n/ Read, combining recreation with reading for youth 0-5.
- During spring break, there will be two full day camps at Philadelphia Park and Jaycee Park.
- The After School Recreation Program and LA County Bookmobile collaborated to offer a youth a reptile show at Philadelphia Park.
- In February, the Teen Program has been doing outreach at high schools and presenting information on the variety of teen activities and programs offered.
- A summer kick-off event is being planned to highlight the city’s recreational offerings to encourage youth and families to participate in programs and activities.
- On March 17th, the City Council will have an item that, if approved, will allow 12 sport courts to be redone throughout the city.
- Summer events will include a Concert in the Park and then Movies in the Park. On July 5, Sonic 3 at Willie White, July 12 Nacho Libre at Country Crossing, July 19 Selena at Garfield, July 26 The Grinch at Philadelphia, August 2 Soul at MLK, and August 9 Moana 2 at Ganesha Pool.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m. to the next meeting on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Pomona Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Monica Belloso
Management Analyst

Chair/Vice Chair of the Youth Commission