

Draft
CITY OF POMONA
Community Life Commission

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 25, 2017
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER BOARD ROOM
505 SOUTH GAREY AVENUE

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers Board Room with Commissioner Camacho presiding and the following Commissioners present:

ROLL CALL: Present:

Alfredo Camacho-Gonzalez, District 2
Vince Carpio, Jr., District 1
Arturo Jimenez, Commissioner, District 3
Adriana Pinedo, Mayor Appointed
Rebecca Alvarez, Commissioner District 4

Absent:

Judith St. John, Commissioner, District 6
Saul Roque, Commissioner, District 5

STAFF PRESENT:

Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director
Tracy Byl, City Liaison
Elizabeth Leon, City Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm by Chair Camacho.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Staff. Members present are noted above.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Alvarez led Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PRESENTATIONS

City Engineer, Rene Guerrero, City Engineer, Jerry Perez Public Services Street Manager, and Meg Mcwade Public Works Director.

Meg- Within public works we have Fleet Maintenance, Parks and Facility Maintenance, Public Services.

Fleet Maintenance- includes internal service, Maintains City fleet (safety and reliability); 665 pieces of equipment, chain saws to trash trucks to police vehicles and AQMB CHP compliance.

Parks and Facilities- we have 26 parks community centers and playgrounds. We maintenance greens cape and hardscape, program and activities are Benita's part of it.

Measure A is property tax that will generate money for Pomona and in part two will maintain our facilities, so we are looking to do facilities assessment for general maintenance including roof repairs and replacement and what are the needs for the city. We will then bring back to council to consider with all the facts in front of them.

Medians- some medians are not looking so good in part that is do to a state law that passed resulting from the drought that occurred where you can no longer watering grass in the medians; So, we are looking for funding and figure out a plan to address that, we have over 180 thousand square feet in median. We are looking to do some mulch and planting, we are going to start with a small piece over on Mission to see what the mulch looks like and will be better than what exits now and move forward with funding.

Street Trees- currently we are working on street trees master plan, we have over 40 thousand street trees in the city which twenty four thousand are along out street; so we are looking at developing a plan that does the right tree in the right place. You may see that in Pomona that the trees that we thought were the best 30 to 40 years ago are not the best and we are planning on something that works for our parkway and fairly drought tolerant with minimal maintenance needs. With that said I will turn over to Gerry who is with streets, public service.

Jerry- Good evening commissioner's, our street sweeping is responsible of the removal of dirt. All streets are swept twice a month 708 curb miles, within a month were are sweeping 1456 curb miles. Do to congested areas there are some parts where the street sweeper cannot get through.

Restricted Parking Signage- so there are posting for multi-family and commercial areas and some residential streets, posted Monday thru Thursday 8-12.

Street Maintenance- Staff is responsible for maintenance of Potholes and asphalt repairs city wide. Sidewalks are grind or temporary ramped for safety purposes replaced with asphalt until a permanent sidewalk replacement is instructed. Staff maintains 400 miles of street.

Markings and Signage- Staff is responsible for and is in accordance with state and federal.

Solid Waste- The solid waste division preforms citywide collection service of approximately 25,000 pounds. I also manage the oversight of commercial franchise haulers Athens, Burrtec, waste management and Valley Vista for non-exclusive and exclusive solid waste agreement.

Homeless- As part of the homeless encampment action response team our role is collection and storage of abandon personal property and removal of trash and debris. This is joint collaboration with Public Works, Community Development and Police Department.

Bulky Items- 6 requests per household per year, each limited to 1 per month billing cycle provided no charge, so that is once every two months.

Illegal Dumping- 32 hot spots in the city, staff averages two thousand seventy seven items per month, from 258 locations for a total of 63 tons of illegal dumping.

Shopping Cart removal Abatement – Abandon in alleys, streets and others staff averages 400 shopping carts a month.

Graffiti Abatement- Removal of graffiti from private to public structures throughout the city. The 24 hour graffiti line was established for residents to report. Staff has averaged 100 thousand square feet of graffiti removal and 24 thousand square feet of graffiti removal from parks.

Rene Guerrero City Engineer- Thank you commissioner for giving us the opportunity to be here, I manage the Engineer department.

Capital Improvement Program- is really what we call our city projects, and we have a five year program current and future projects all depending on funding. All if not most of the funding for projects is relied on grants from outside sources. The gas tax decreases year to year, one of the reasons is hybrid and electric vehicles, so less money and we use the gas tax to repair streets. We rely on Grants and state propositions to fund our projects.

Our projects include street Improvements, north Garey Avenue was the most recent project.

Traffic related signals, are hard to come by these days, we might do modifications and video detection.

Parks & Facilities projects are managed as well, we are in the middle of a six park project. One of the projects is the Angela Chancellor area, amongst four other projects that we are managing. We take the project from design, request for proposals for construction and recommend to council who to award the contract to get the project done.

Commissioner Carpio- you say you have 6 parks under current design or in process, does that include the one in the plaza?

Rene- That is a separate project, what we are doing here is that we are removing the existing planter benches due to liability issue due to the separation between the benches and being off level.

Meg- In the design of the benches there was no supporting wall behind them and may fall over to the lower level of City Hall so if they were to collapse they can potentially fall over to that ramp beneath, so that is another reason why.

Commissioner Carpio- What are they going to look like? Are they going back to the original or different design?

Rene- What we are doing here is that we are removing the benches and replacing with planter wall sort of wrought iron decoration on top of that wall, it will look like the walls we see at City Hall with kind of the taupe color and finish to match City Hall's walls.

Commissioner Carpio- Will you be replacing the tiles? Rene- The replacement of tiles is not part of that project, we will not be replacing the tiles.

Commissioner Carpio- At this point the broken tiles are a liability. What about the graphic presentation?

Rene- Tiles will be a matter of additional funding; we do not have that as a project at this time. When we get the funding for the tiles we will certainly bring up with for community input and are well aware of the concerns.

Commissioner Carpio- What about the graphic presentation for the planter project?

Rene- In May 2016 we receive the approval from council to go ahead with the planter project.

Vice Chair Pinedo- Will you be doing the other planters on the other side?

Rene- No only on the side they are already working on.

Vice Chair Pinedo- You mentioned the gas tax and how we have lost a lot of revenue due to the hybrids and so forth, how much have we lost?

Meg- The gas tax loss is a combination of the hybrids and the way the state has allocated the gas tax, 2 years ago we lost about 1 million dollars. With SP1 coming up we are hopeful that that will bring us revenue and offset that loss.

Rene- There is the new state bill 1 that is the 14cent tax, but will also say that people are trying to appeal that.

Commissioner Carpio- If there is no project to replace the tiles, are they going to a lease wash or spray wash the tiles?

Meg- we have on a regular basis to wash them, and we will ensure that it is on Jerry's list. We have asked facility to address the larger patches of tiles that are in need of repair. We do have other priorities right now like Westmont's main water is no longer in service, so they get pulled away on other things, but that is on their agenda to ensure to repair the tiles due to tripping hazard.

Commissioner Jimenez- Can I make a recommendation? I think it is time to meet with cultural arts commission, where we get to keep the 1 percent art money, there happens to be a couple of thousand dollars in there. I suggest you come up with a proposal and I would ask my fellow commissioners to support you on this to have a partnership between you and AMOCA the ceramic museum and we could find a way to come up with some tiles. We would only need a couple of hundred tiles here and there. So AMOCA can make the tiles for us with the specifications of the existing tiles. So, the tile would be considered an art piece.

Meg- I like that idea a lot, thank you for the suggestion.

Commissioner Carpio- I got a question for Public Works. I got a complaint on Ganesha regarding high crime, so one of the things that was done, is that they trimmed the trees because they were overgrowing the street lights, but didn't really do anything. The lights are so dated that they really don't illuminate much of anything. My question is what can I do to get that reviewed and maybe upgraded?

Rene- We recently completed a large street light conversion street lights from high pressure sodium to induction type lighting now a days LED which is more efficient and brighter and uses less energy. The program was by Southern California Edison. I will confirm to see if Ganesha neighborhood was included in that, if it wasn't then we will take a look at it.

Commissioner Carpio- I can't remember the name of the street right now, but I will give you the specific address.

Rene- I do not know if there is another program like the Southern California Edison program. If not it really just comes down to funding and there are a lot of needs for the City, we get calls from people who do not even have street lights, so we have that on our radar as well.

Commissioner Carpio- The location I am mentioning is probably a total of 4 lights, I am not asking for the whole neighborhood, just 3 or 4 lights upgrade. Again, very high crime, by the time police get there, they just disappear.

Meg- we have close to 10 thousand street lights, but several thousand of street lights that do not belong to the city, they belong to Edison, and essentially rent them from them, if that is the case we do not have control over change those lights.

Rene- We would have to place a request to Edison, which we have done and you may not see prompt action, but we certainly can put that request in for you.

Vice Chair Pinedo- What is the protocol, for a resident that wants to have their street light put in. so I can let resident know to email Mr. Guerrero?

Rene- let public works know where those locations are at and we can certainly look into that. Yes, I will give you my email address.

Commissioner Pinedo- so for clarification we rent the light poles from Edison and pay Edison.

Meg- Yes, Also, when you email us, let residents know to have patience. There is an assessment that takes place, which determines if they do need to add light fixtures. I would encourage patience.

Commissioner Jimenez- I have another suggestion, to utilize this commission to educate and engage the community, so any resources you may have will be appreciated.

Commissioner Carpio- Weeds on the medians of Mills avenue, San Antonio and reservoir, these are medians that outside visitors see and it is a first impression, so I thank you for the work that has been done.

Meg- regarding your concern on the medians, we do have a contractor of which we are placing pressure on them in regards to the weeds, there should not be weeds in the median.

We do have frequently called numbers for you and if your commission can help us communicate bulky item, because a lot of people have the misconception that if you put an item out in front that we will come out and get it. Residents have to call and schedule pick-up once every billing cycle. If you are a commercial customer, your landlord is contracting with a commercial hauler and they need to call for you.

Commissioner Alvarez- Getting back to the trees, as I mentioned before there are many trees that are dead and are fire hazard if you are familiar with James and cog well in Pomona, there are some liquid ambers that were destroyed by tree trimmers that are huge and dead as door nails and are really going to be a liability to the city. Also, weed abatement between Lavern and Vassar on San Antonio, the weeds are taller than me. Just an FYI.

Meg- we currently have a contract with west arborist are in a five year cycle for street trees. What we are doing liquid amber unfortunately suffered a disease and they are dying and will continue to die. We did an assessment two years and removed 75% and above dying. We are now asking them to go out and revisit, because at first when liquid amber looked like they were going to come back to life, so we did some trimming we did not have the money to remove all of the liquid amber. We will go out and hopefully have the funding to do another 50%. We were able to get a 400 thousand dollar tree planting grant one for the north side and one for the south side of the city. We are looking to have planting of those trees in the parks. Also, adopt a tree program for residents and business where those who are interest will adopt, water and care for the planted tree. We would take care of the trimming.

Commissioner Jimenez- Again going into the Conservation Corp, has kids where they receive the proper training and get them to help with the tree program and be a low cost way. I wanted to make a statement in terms of dumping; we have absentee landlords that just dump. How can we manage illegal dumping by landlords?

Meg- unfortunately, they are part of our community, so how do we reach them?

Vice Chair Pinedo- is it just easy to get people to go out and clean? I doubt it.

Meg- if you are talking about medians there are all sort of traffic control issues, safety issues. In my opinion the clean-up has to occur by the contractor that we pay every month to perform a service. If we were to do a joint planting we would have to plan in advance, with safety vests, proper safety gear and traffic control under Jerry's watchful eye.

Commissioner Carpio- That was what I wanted to say, how can we contribute and make it a joint effort?

Vice Chair Pinedo- Also, we mentioned bulky items, is it included in our water bill? I know to call community services, but is there a message on the bill?

Meg- it is on the back of the water bill, it is basically calling the 620-2241 number, let them know your address and what you want to leave at your front.

Commissioner Jimenez- I would like to move that we extend the meeting, so that we can carry our business today.

Commissioner Carpio- Second

Chair Camacho- All of those in favor

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

Rene- next topic Traffic/Transportation, we maintain our traffic signals and street lights, we address biggest concern from our community speeding. Speeding is very subjective, we can place bubble wrap, cushions and every speed hump and address this and place on every street and there will still be that one driver that is not going to care, and something could happen. We as a city are required to abide by California manual on uniform traffic Control. Requires that we evaluate request for stop signs and conduct a warrant analysis or to see if a stop sign is warranted. If a stop sign is not warranted and we put a stop sign anyway it might be more of a liability if one was not put there and that is way we have these guidelines.

There are pro's and con's with speed humps, but in any regard, we do not have funding for the speed humps. Drivers will go to the next street where there are no speed humps and then you have a new problem where we are chasing our tail. Speed humps tend to slow down emergency response time it might be 1 or 2 seconds, but that could make a difference. When we do find the potential for a speed hump, we will put out our mobile tracking device only one week at a time, because there will be another street we will need to track. Another thing we will ask our police to increase enforcement that too is a temporary bandage.

Vice Chair Pinedo- we have an intersection of main and grand by Tony Cerda park, that cross walk has been in question. We have asked what is the solution to that? maybe it is painting?

Rene- An uncontrolled crossing, we can take a look at it, there a few options and see what is available. We do have to look on outside funding, maybe a council member might have discretionary funds that we can use. The flashing beacons are 10 to 15 thousand dollars, not even including construction.

Vice Chair Pinedo- The arts district has painted cross walks, can we at least re-paint to brighten the cross walk or art project using public arts funding? We have a connection at Disney that is willing to give high quality paint. I don't know who to give it to and don't want to get a ticket for painting the street.

Rene- That is probably one of the easier things to do, we could put some lateral style stripes. The art work at the crosswalk, we might have to cut the pavement to get access to some utility line and it would be difficult to get someone back in to get the artwork back, which is kind of like a general issue that we deal with. What would be easier would be to restructure that cross walk for us.

Vice Chair Pinedo- on just that one side right?

Rene- right.

Vice Chair Pinedo- what about the other three?

Rene- well, then instead of the one issue we have two issues with crosswalks, so now it's like compounding the issue. People are going to cross where they want to cross. To provide an additional stripe cross walk, it would be something that would be frowned upon. I will look into this, I will not promise anything.

Commissioner Jimenez- The issue there is what happened in Garfield. The little guys and the flags are not costly.

Rene- We certainly liked what we did there at Garfield a median island refuge, and we have gotten nothing but positive comments; It was costly, but certainly something we will consider to use in future and this maybe one of those occasions.

Commissioner Jimenez- I have heard many concerns on that place for many years especially the teachers. I think that if we start throwing up our hands with the concerns in the City. This city does have an optimistic view of the world, maybe it is our youth. We have 27 year olds as our average age. I wanted to remind you that we are a charter city we don't follow under the general code in terms of the state. We can come up with our own warrants, not all of them and what is a warrant, when something happens then that warrants. A warrant is nothing more than what is needed and we need the community to decide that. I know that the state of California law supersedes ours, but we do have a lot of lead way. One of our strengths is that we are a charter community and we have a lead way in terms of what a warrant is, so I would like to challenge you on that. How can we as a community look at warrants within the structure of the state but

within our structure of our charter and come up with our own warrants? We are a gateway to Inland Valley and San Gabriel valley.

Rene- I certainly respect your comments commissioner and I promise I will look into, it is a huge endeavor to generate our own warrants, that can stand up to lawsuits and things of that sort. I am not trying to counter what everyone is saying here, it is a big endeavor that would not only involve me as a city engineer. I will gladly look at Pasadena and what they do as a charter city.

Certainly, on your larger streets like Towne, Garey, Mission and Holt are streets that see drivers from outside people. 95 percent of the complaints on speeding are on residential streets.

When new development is proposed to the city we are given the opportunity to review and we will provide our condition as part of its approval to do a list of different improvements.

The newer medians involve drought free plants and providing improvements that capture rain water, so these are the things that we look at so we don't have to deal with weeds and water restrictions.

The picture on the right is new park in the Angela Chancellor area, it will have a half-court basketball and can also be used as a volley ball court, it will have a small playground area, benches, patio cover. That will improve the lot that has been vacant for a number of years and was a burden on the city to maintain the weeds and that sort of thing.

Lastly, the logos on the left Foothill Gold line, phase II will be coming through our city. We are working in conjunction with the Gold line and will go to the north station the work will be starting in October, but will be exploratory work. We expect the work to be done in late 2025 early 2026.

We work with Metro a lot we get prop A prop C money and their grant programs. Caltrans and metro working with the widening of the route 71, with the passing of Measure M back in November they are collecting the tax and distribution to the cities. The 71 widening projects is one of their priority projects. Metro is now working with Caltrans and we do work with them on a consistence basis.

Meg- These are our Frequently called numbers were provided and we will be glad to print out or send electronically for you.

Commissioner Jimenez- I wanted to thank Mr. Guerrero for the work that has been done. The greatest thing we have in this community is our heritage. I would challenge you with the metro station, there is a large water tower by your metro station and the beautiful art work, it took me 12 years to get that done. There are a lot of things that we can do as a community.

Rene- I will encourage you if any of you have not yet attended community meetings and we had one here I Pomona last week. Gold line selected an artist for each of the stations and there is already a theme selected for that station, but with your comments, I will see what can be done to try to tie in the concept to see how we may tie in with the tower.

Commissioner Jimenez- If they are going to give us the bridge they will are going to give us a nice station.

Rene- That bridge was settled upon because the city did sue Gold line and that bridge was the answer. We will also get a bridge over Garey Avenue. I see your point that if we get a bridge over town we should be able to get something for something more at the station, it might be a hard fight because Gold line can say you city sued us so why are you asking us to do more.

Commissioner Jimenez- The reason we sued them is because they didn't want to give us anything so at least that. We can push back and say we deserve better than what we are getting. The staff of Gold line is kind of talking down a little bit. Pomona has the greatest amount of vocal residents, and I know you found that out already. We can talk to Solis, if you need us all you have to do is say we need some help here.

Chair Camacho- Mr. Guerrero and Mr. Jimenez, maybe you guys can speak later, so that we can move things along, it seems like this is a conversation that we should not have during the meeting.

Vice Chair Pinedo- My apologies I have to step out. I attended the open house at Palomares park last Tuesday, and the theme is the power of Pomona people, so I am sure they would like to have us all over there. Thank you folks my apologies.

Commissioner Carpio- Are you also in charge of Code Enforcement?

Meg- we can reach out to Mark Lazzarretto.

Commissioner Carpio- I was surprised that the budget for Code Enforcement is minimal and I had asked for what are the policy and procedures on Code Enforcement and I saw that one does not exist. I will be honest with you, you got to be kidding me and um so the other question was on the violations what is procedure and how do you follow up on violations? and we have violations and are those violations being collected? I mean how many do we have out there? And depending on how many violations do we have that nothing has been done to shut them down and um because again the recycle the oil contamination of water that was an issue two years ago just faded away and then we reduce the code enforcement budget, so it is almost like we need you as a cop, but we are not going to give you a gun but we will give you a badge so thank you.

Staff- We will be having Code Enforcement present in September.

Chair Camacho- Thank you Ms. Mcward, Mr. Guerrero and Rene for being here and answering all of our questions. Our commissioners are really passionate as you can see and we take all of this back with the people that we work with, so that was the reason for all of those questions, it was not to give you the 3rd degree. Thank you for being awesome sports.

Meg- Thank you.

Rene- Thank you.

Chair Camacho- so we are going to go ahead and move on to commissioner communications.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Chair Camacho- Will start with Commissioner Carpio.

Commissioner Carpio- I defer.

Commissioner Jimenez- I have a question, we don't have anything on the agenda for the committee that we are working on? We called it keeping Pomona beautiful for the City working together with the school district for the anti-trash campaign. Can you just drop that in the agenda just as information, because we have not met yet necessarily, well I meet with Adriana briefly because well with everything that is going on I guess we are going dark next month?

Staff- yes

Commissioner Jimenez- Ok so something in September so that we can go forward or just get information, so that we have something to present.

Commissioner Alvarez- I am good.

Chair Camacho- Day One at my place of employment where I work we are having a week long event starts August 1, so I have a flyer for all of you. The first one is an anniversary it is a 3 to 4 miles running to engage residents, we talk about safety starts at 7:30pm we run till about 8:45

today we meet at Ganesha Park so they been doing it for one year at one point we have had Mayor Sandoval come out Council Robledo has come out, they come out and they run with us and they see the streets and see all of the things that we have to go through instead of telling them we are showing them what the streets look like and these are some of the dangers that residents face so its one year anniversary the first, Wednesday we are going to have Mariachi, yoga, nutrition classes at Tony Cerda Park, that is our home park we are right next to it, we are doing tamborazo y tacos. Friday on the 4th having folklorico dancers, having a banda, tacos, raspados in Pomona trying to speak to our culture, last and final movies in the park, its going to be at JC Park we are showing inside out so Disney through the decades 2010 and before that we are doing a water balloon fight, so I encourage you to take a picture of this post on Facebook, Instagram, everywhere and let residents know. We have funding, we are working with the dogs. We want the residents to engage so I encourage you to come out. We are going to be making a really awesome announcement on the 1st, we are going to be announcing our 5k, we will be releasing the pre-registration with the web site and the date. Thank you.

At this time we are going to go on with public participation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chair Camacho- At this time, the general public is invited to address the Community Life Commission concerning any items that are not listed on the agenda, you are limited to three (3) minutes in accordance with City policy, I do not have any speaker cards. Where there any members of the public that wish to speak?

Chair Camacho- Is there anyone in the audience that wishes to speak that did not fill out the speaker card? Alright we are going to go ahead and move on.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Camacho- As a reminder, this is the final time our staff will be printing this for us so if you are not able to go to I legislate speak with city staff, I believe you sent out an email with a number to City Clerk's office, if you are still having trouble I can help.

Go ahead and review the minutes. When you go ahead and take a look at them I will entertain a motion to approve.

Commissioner Jimenez- I move to approve.

Commissioner Alvarez- Second

Commissioner Carpio- Second.

Chair Camacho- Alright, so motion passes thank you.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

Chair Camacho- I do see we have Arts Market. I believe we discussed that last meeting.

Staff- have you had a chance to read the weekly letter? So you have an update on last meeting of what has taken place. I understand the inspector went out there last week and vegetation was cleared out. The two tone color should be one color, pretty soon.

The last attachment is the police log from 2007 -2017 you can see the total calls per year. To the left is the description of the calls, so you have all of that information.

Commissioner Carpio- ok it's an 11 year cycle in total looks like 3-4 calls per year which gives an impression that there is no issue. However, if you take the total for the last 4 years through 2014 -2017 you have a total of approximately 24 calls or an average from the 38 which means that over the last 3-4 years 82% of the calls happened in that time frame, so that tells me that there is a problem there.

Which again, reinforces what the community is saying this location is not conducive to a good family neighborhood environment, they have quantified that there is a problem there and they can take back to the ABC board.

Commissioner Jimenez- Do we have public participation?

Chair Camacho- I did not see any, but we do have residents here and I am assuming they want to speak about this discussion for this item.

Commissioner Jimenez- I would like to go back to public participation. We can open public participation within the item.

Chair Camacho- we will go back to public participation.

Raymond Mendoza- Good evening commissioners, I actually live right next to Arts Market. I looked at the weekly report and says that Code Enforcement was appraise of the situation. Where it says the owner is complying with the notice to date. I would like to know what that means? The signs were taken down and I see the vegetation was cut, but the fence is still there. I know it takes a while, but I would like to know what exactly does that mean.

Staff- As far as the fence, I know the owner came in last week and obtained an application and was instructed and has to go through the planning process. I am not sure how long that will be, but I can check as far as the fence is concerned.

Raymond Mendoza- I just wanted to ensure that something was being done.

Staff- Yes sir he did come in, as soon as he was notified by code to apply for the fence permit.

Chair Camacho- Do we have any other members of the audience that would like to speak.

Commissioner Jimenez- As you can see Mr. Mendoza, this is a new process for the commission and we would like to see how we can shed light on an issue; and as you saw just asking questions through our staff, things started rolling pretty fast. I would like to encourage, I think that it is important that the community stay abreast of this, because if we do not have the community come out and ask questions this committee is going to move forward with other issues. There is a lot of things going on in Pomona, I would like to encourage you to get people out who care about this issue.

Raymond Mendoza- This is why I have encouraged my neighbors to come with me, so they could see the process.

Commissioner Jimenez- Then they should speak up.

Miguel Chavez- Good evening. I live just across the alley from Ray Mendoza. Do to the cheap alcohol being sold there are many foul things going on in that alley, so we have requested more and more patrols and we have not seen a lot more patrols. I took pictures just today of more dumping that is going on, for a while it went away, but now that we have a redone alley. I was wondering if there is any way you could help us with that?

Commissioner Jimenez- One of the things that you can do is bring us pictures. Keep coming and you may also have to go to city council meetings and so on, because that is the only way to know what is happening, is to have the community that is engaged, so by engaging us, we stay abreast and we say “oh my gosh there is an issue there”. I think that you should give us those pictures and keep speaking at the podium and we will continue to work on the issues.

Miguel Chavez-I will bring those in September. So hopefully the commission can help us out with encouraging law enforcement and doing more sweeps there. Mostly overnight is when there is activity. I have had to kick people out of the alley, because when we do call it in it takes a while.

Commissioner Jimenez- what type of activity?

Miguel Chavez- Anywhere from prostitution, drug use, graffiti and illegal dumping.

Commissioner Jimenez- is that alley lit up?

Miguel Chavez- That alley is lit up more than most. What we need more than anything is more patrols. So that people trying to make their business, when they do see that it can make it kinda hard for them.

Commissioner Jimenez- What have you been doing in terms of putting together a neighborhood watch program?

Miguel Chavez- Not much we have old signs, we will work on putting some new signs, maybe some recording signs to discourage them to come out.

Commissioner Jimenez- I encourage you to put together a neighborhood watch program, institute it and have neighbors have a meeting. Police cannot take care of these things alone. There has to be a community that is organized, that is willing to say take this somewhere else not here. We have a whole neighborhood here that is organized, we care about our neighborhood and we need you to understand that we are watching. I know that there are other neighborhoods here in Pomona that are thinking among the same lines.

Miguel Chavez- I think the issue with that is that, we can form those programs or groups and be more vigilant, but with the response time we are not going to get anywhere. The only thing we are going to get is a few signs, if we have sweeps then that is the only thing that will speak to the vandals. We have a few of the neighborhood signs up granted they are old. Maybe that is one thing that we can do is get new signs, but if we do get that together, the response time is not there.

Commissioner Jimenez- If you had a neighborhood watch program you can get together with your council member that that is the issue that you are having. They are more powerful than we are, we can only do so much. So I would encourage you to take everyone's name down and start having meetings. I think that it is not only Arts Market, it is outside of Arts Market that is the issue too.

Miguel Chavez- It all kind of leaks down from Holt, but what attracts them is the cheap alcohol.

Commissioner Jimenez- ...and the pantry from the church across the street too.

Miguel Chavez- ...and they tend to linger, I am all for community service and giving but its really bad.

Chair Camacho- Maybe we can have commissioner Alvarez speak to council woman and we can come up with some solutions, there are some limitations to so much we can do, but thank you for bringing that to us, we will go ahead and bring that to our respective people.

Are there any other comments by the commission from Arts Market?

Is there any other community members that would like to speak? No.

Commissioner Jimenez- I would like to move to close public hearing.

Chair Camacho- closing public hearing.

Commissioner Carpio- One thing I forgot to ask is to also examine the lighting over here at the parking, because when we go home at night it is really dismal. We want more participation, but we want security and want people to feel safe. I have had to walk people out to their cars, if more lighting can be addressed.

Staff- I will address it.

Chair Camacho moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:49pm

Commissioner Jimenez- before we move forward Arts Market, can we move forward with this item and keep it on the agenda? Just for information wise in terms of what we are doing and what is happening. I have been speaking with planning and they have a long term project, in terms to get the business owner to comply with the city rules. I think we should just keep it on in terms of support.

Staff- ok.

Commissioner Jimenez- Thank you so much for the call that you did, really mobilized a lot, and people were not expecting that to happen. It felt like government in action. Thank you.

Staff- your are welcome.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Camacho moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm

The City of Pomona Community Life Commission is hereby adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting of September 26, 2017 starting at 6:00p.m. at Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Leon
Community Life Commission Liaison

Chair Camacho-Gonzalez
Chair for Community Life commission