

**CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE**

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS COMMISSION  
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023 – 6:00 PM**

Ariana De La Cruz, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

**1. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner(s): Montejano, Ramirez, Retamoza, Rubio, and Sanchez

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ariana De La Cruz, Recreation Supervisor, Nancy Rodriguez, Recreation Specialist, and Noelia Saucedo, Senior Recreation Leader.

Zoom was provided for the Public to participate during public comment via teleconference.

**2. PLEAD OF ALLEGIANCE –** Commissioner Divina Montejano led the Pledge of Alliance.

**3. PRESENTATIONS –** None.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Retamoza, seconded by Commissioner Rubio to approve the agenda. Motion passed 5-0, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Commissioner(s): Montejano, Ramirez, Retamoza, Rubio, and Sanchez

**NAYS:** Commissioner(s): None

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ariana De La Cruz, Secretary, opened public comment.

1. Mayor Olmos welcomed commissioners.
2. Councilmember Bojorquez welcomed commissioners.
3. Mr. Larry Rodriguez welcomed the commissioners. He stated that he hopes that Advancement Women and Girls Commission collaborates with Valle School District specifically with the girls in the district.
4. City Manager, Rene Salas welcomed commissioners.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (CONTINUED)**

5. City Clerk, Donna Schwartz welcomed the commissioners and made herself available for any questions and offered assistance with forms 700s, agenda questions, or any personalized training via zoom or in person that they may be interested in partaking. City Clerk also shared the Deputy City Clerk, Paola Lara contact information.

There being no further comment, Ms. De La Cruz closed public comment.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

A motion was made by Commissioner Retamoza, seconded by Commissioner Rubio to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5-0, by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioner(s): Montejano, Ramirez, Retamoza, Rubio, and Sanchez  
NAYS: Commissioner(s): None

**7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7a. SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

A motion was made by Commissioner Sanchez, second by Commissioner Rubio to nominate commissioner Retamoza as Chair. Motion passed 5-0, by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioner(s): Montejano, Ramirez, Retamoza, Rubio, and Sanchez  
NAYES: Commissioner(s): None

A motion was made by Chair Retamoza, second by Commissioner Rubio to nominate commissioner Mirna Ivette Sanchez as Vice Chair. Motion passed 5-0, by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioner(s): Montejano, Ramirez, Retamoza, Rubio, and Sanchez  
NAYES: Commissioner(s): None

**7b. ASSESSMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY**

The Advancement of Women and Girls Commission acts in an Advisory capacity to the City Council on all matters pertaining to the advancement of women and girls. Prior to the creation of the commission, a committee formed of City employees worked collaboratively in efforts to assess the needs of women and girls in this community.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

### **7.b. Continued**

Ariana De La Cruz, Secretary, provided background information and an overview regarding the grant the city received in the amount of \$25,000 from the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls Women's Recovery Response for the establishment of a women and girls commission.

The grant funds were utilized to hold several community events with the focus being gathering information from women in the community about how COVID-19 impacted them and what resources they needed to recover and thrive. Surveys were distributed at the community events and posting them on our website and our goal was to reach a broad range of demographics including working women, stay at home moms, and college students.

Chair Retamoza asked if the results of these surveys can be shared with the commission.

City Clerk Donna Schwartz stated that the results of the survey can be emailed to the commission.

## **8. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS, INCLUDING AB1234 REPORTS**

Commissioner Rubio asked if there a possibility of the commission attending conferences in Sacramento or locally for domestic violence or any other that would help the women and girls of this community. Mrs. De La Cruz stated that city does have funds allocated for commissioners to attend conference and or meeting outside of the city.

Mrs. De La Cruz reminded commissioners that the commission serves as an advisory board to the City Council.

## **9. COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA**

### **9a. COMMISSIONER GRACIE RETAMOZA**

#### **1. Consideration of hosting a leadership event.**

Chair Retamoza asked if the survey results conducted at the women event workshops could be shared with Commissioners to know what specific topics, they can focus on for a potential leadership event.

City Clerk, Donna Schwartz informed the commission that they can direct staff to bring back the survey results at the next meeting.

Chair Retamoza directed staff to provide the results via email prior to the next commission meeting.

## **COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA (CONTINUED)**

### **9.a. Continued**

#### **2. Discussion on commissions goals.**

Chair Retamoza stated that Ms. De La Cruz provided literature on goals and objectives for the commission.

### **9b. COMMISSIONER JACQUELINE RUBIO**

#### **1. Consideration to publish a notice of the Advancement of Women and Girls Commission meetings on the city's newsletter to inform residents the commission has officially begun.**

Ariana De La Cruz, Secretary, stated that staff will coordinate with the communications coordinator to add a notice on the city newsletter announcing the Advancement of Women and Girls Commission has officially begun.

#### **2. Consideration to create committee to bring domestic violence awareness.**

Commissioner Rubio would like to form a domestic violence committee to bring domestic violence awareness to the community. This committee could possibly attend conferences in Sacramento and bring back resources for women and girls. She understands that they committee may not be able to be formed this fiscal year, but perhaps in the future.

Ariana De La Cruz, Secretary, reminded the Commission that any creation of any committee would have to come before the City Council for their approval.

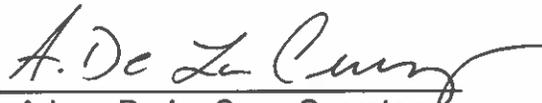
#### **3. Discussion on roles, responsibilities, and expectations. Networking with our community and community around us.**

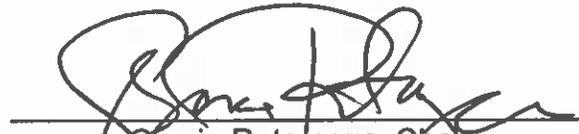
Commissioner stated that this item was discussed earlier in the meeting and literature was given to the commission.

City Clerk, Donna Schwartz asked if she could add a comment. She reminded the commissioners to be mindful as they are representing the City when attending events or asked to do something or offered any gifts or anything to contact her to discuss any conflict of interests.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business coming before this body, at 6:28 p.m. Mrs. De La Cruz adjourned the meeting to Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

  
Ariana De La Cruz, Secretary

  
Gracie Retamoza, Chair