

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
NORWALK COMMUNITY PROMOTION COMMISSION
June 12, 2017**

Chair David Ang called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in the U.S. Constitution Room #4 of City Hall. Responding to roll call were Commissioner Forsythe, Commissioner Garamoni, and Commissioner Sanchez. Also present were Commission Liaison Vickie Yoshikawa and Commission Secretary Margie Reyes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Sanchez moved and Commissioner Garamoni seconded to approve the minutes of May 8, 2017. **There being no objection, the motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS

Home and Business Beautification Contest

Liaison Yoshikawa opened the selection for the 2017 Home and Business Beautification Contest by introducing photographs taken of each submitted property. Commissioners were given the option to select winners based upon the photographs presented, undertake site visits based upon addresses provided, or a combination of the two. The Commission agreed to judge based upon photos provided. Staff informed the commission that a total of 13 entries were received for the "Home Beautiful" category, with five of these being self-nominations and eight commissioner-nominated. Ms. Yoshikawa explained that three of the nominated homes may not be in compliance with the city's drought tolerant landscape ordinance; However, these three happened to be nominations made by the commission rather than the residents themselves, so these entries were removed from the running. The commission viewed the 10 remaining entries, selecting first, second and third place winners. Three entries were received for the "Home Improvement" category, however, one of the applicants had not submitted "before" and "after" photos as required. The commission disqualified this entry. First and second place winners were chosen for the "Home Improvement" Category. Only one entry was received under the "Multi-Family Dwelling" category, and this entry was selected as a winner. One entry was received for special recognition in the "Business Appeal" category, and the Commission designate it as the winner.

Appreciation Luncheon

Liaison Yoshikawa shared several Mardi Gras decoration and centerpiece ideas. Commissioners requested tables be decorating using themed colors of purple, green, and gold. Chair Ang suggested having a photo booth with Mardi Gras props. Liaison Yoshikawa will bring back centerpiece samples to the next meeting for commission review.

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NEW BUSINESS

Commission Budget

Liaison Yoshikawa informed the commission that City Council requested input recently during the budget proposal process. The commission discussed programs and costs, agreeing to include all costs for three programs: Home and Business Beautification Contest, Appreciation Luncheon and Holiday Home Décor Contest.

“City Song”

Chair Ang discussed reviving “Norwalk is our City” as the city’s official theme song, requesting that it be professionally recorded in audio and video format with both instrumental and vocal recordings so that the community could use the quality recording as a reference and familiarize themselves with the theme song. Chair Ang gave a brief history of the song, written in 1979 by professional musician and community leader Arturo Sanchez, Sr. and eventually being adopted by the City as the official City song. Chair Ang asked that all schools in the City with music programs be joined together for the recording, possibly at Excelsior Auditorium. Chair Ang agreed to contact Mr. Hinojuz, the band director to see what their schedule looks like and Commissioner Sanchez agreed to contact Norwalk High School music program. Ms. Yoshikawa will look into logistics, cost and equipment.

STAFF COMMENTS

Liaison Yoshikawa invited the commission to attend:

- The Neighborhood Watch Association meeting on June 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Hermosillo Park.
- The Night Out in the Park event on June 23 taking place at Hermosillo Park.
- Independence Day Pageant and Locks of Love taking place at the Civic Center Lawn on July 3, at 6 p.m., with the fireworks display at 9:00 p.m. and Locks of Love beginning at 1:00 p.m.

She also informed the commission that next community forum would be taking place on August 22 at 6:00 p.m. at Sanchez Elementary School.

Ms. Reyes gave Chair Ang his updated Commission Badge and reminded commissioners to report to Room 9 at City Hall to obtain their updated badges.

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS

Commissioner Sanchez reported that he attended the Memorial Day and Freedom Memorial Unveiling event and pleased with the event. He invited the commission to

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participate in the Sanchez Halloween Parade Foundation fireworks booth, which will be located at Studebaker/ Imperial Highway from July 1 to July 4th.

Commissioner Forsythe inquired about the City hosting “Free Market Fridays,” an information workshop to help entrepreneurs obtain tips and suggestions on how to start new businesses, including how to obtain the appropriate City permits. He suggested adding the Neighborhood App to the city’s social media, and to help Norwalk residents connect with their neighbors by hosting an event at local parks that would include a barbecue and activities. Commissioner Forsythe also recommended establishing a community garden in the city.

Chair Ang reported on his experience with the City’s cable staff, whom he shadowed to learn more about the video production process. He informed the commission that he was very pleased with the information that staff shared with him and would like to shadow again possibly when they edit an upcoming segment of “Now You Know.”

Chair Ang also commented on the city’s responsiveness to the commission’s tip on using hashtags on the Instagram page. He also requested that the liaison provide a monthly analytics report on social media to the commission.

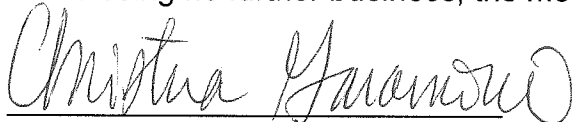
Commissioners inquired about the Commission shirts and business cards order. Ms. Yoshikawa reported that new business cards for all commissioners had been ordered, and that she would bring these, along with polo shirts for commission re-review at the next meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Ayala commented on reports of illegal fireworks in the southern area of Norwalk, stating the seriousness of the city’s need to provide messaging to residents about how to report incidents and the importance of responsiveness to reports. He encouraged commissioners to relay contact information in their neighborhoods.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Christina Garamoni, Commissioner
Community Promotion Commission