

Minutes of a Meeting of the La Mesa Community Relations and Veterans Commission  
Wednesday, April 28, 2021

This meeting was conducted utilizing teleconferencing and electronic means consistent with State of California Executive Order N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

CALLED TO ORDER: Chairperson Kappel called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM  
Commissioners Present: Commissioners Kappel, Loorya, Gann, Sharp, Long, Pittman, and Britland. Absent: Commissioner Perrin. Staff Present: Megan Howell, Recreation Supervisor; Susan Richardson, Director of Community Services

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Loorya motioned, Commissioner Britland seconded approval of the March 24, 2021 regular meeting minutes. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

STAFF REPORTS Community Services Director Richardson provided update on the Community Garden which will have the grand opening Saturday, May 1.. The story trail has been moved from Brier Crest Park to Vista La Mesa Park for the month of May. Programming is returning to the Community Services Department with limits of 25 people indoors and 50 outdoors.

Recreation Supervisor Megan Howell reported that City Council has requested that the City help promote vaccine equity and help raise vaccination rates in La Mesa.

GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARDS: Commissioner Pittman reported that a nomination for Junk Medics is to be reviewed prior to May meeting.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

- Commissioner Long asked for an update on how the City Council vacancy will be filled.
- Commissioner Pittman reported that LMSVSD is back to 4 days a week and has extended ESS into the summer.
- Commissioner Sharp reported that Helix High School will be back to 2 days per week and plans for a socially distanced graduation are being made.
- Chairperson Kappel attended the County of San Diego Military and Veterans section meeting, as well as an appreciation luncheon at Helix High School where students enrolling in the military were recognized by this Commission with a certificate.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: CITY COMMUNICATIONS:

Assistant City Manager, Carlo Tomaino, presented the City's "Community Engagement Plan" and sought input from the community on ways to improve outreach to hard-to-reach populations.

Public Comment submitted prior to the meeting on the topic from Janet Castanos – "Would it be possible to have monthly Town Hall meetings that present info from the various commissions and boards? It can eventually be live and media streamed."

ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Kappel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 PM, second by Commissioner Sharp, to the regular scheduled meeting on May 26, 2021, at 5:30 PM. All in favor.



Megan Howell  
Recreation Supervisor