

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City of Huntington Park  
Health and Education Commission  
held on September 25, 2012**

---

Chairperson Herrera called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. Present: Commissioners Samuel Flores, Victor Dominguez, Martha Walker, and Chair Victoria Herrera; Absent: Commissioner Leticia Martinez. Senior Planner Albert Fontanez, Housing and Community Development Manager Manuel Acosta, and Recording Secretary Genny Ochoa.

***PUBLIC APPEARANCES:***

None.

***NEW BUSINESS:***

None.

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS, DISCUSSION ITEMS, OR GENERAL COMMENTS, PRESENTED BY COMMISSIONERS AND/OR COMMISSION LIAISON:***

***A. Discussion and/or action regarding goals and objectives for the Health and Education Commission in 2012:***

Senior Planner Fontanez reported that the “Walk to School Day” event would be held on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Fontanez stated that participants would meet at the IHOP on Santa Fe Avenue at 7:00 a.m. and walk to Middleton Elementary School. Mr. Fontanez added that the event promotes physical activity and safe walking for a healthier and safer community. Mr. Fontanez stated that the event would conclude with a presentation by the Police Department on safe walking skills. Mr. Fontanez encouraged the Commissioners to participate in the upcoming event.

A discussion was held regarding the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health “Rethink Your Drink” initiative. Public Health Nurse Heidi Lopez came forward and stated that she would provide campaign posters for distribution to community members and schools. The Commissioners and staff concurred to form an ad hoc committee to develop a City program, to include local schools, promoting the initiative as well as strategies to promote community awareness of the program. Commissioners Dominguez and Walker volunteered for the ad hoc committee. Senior Planner stated that the matter could be brought back at the next Commission meeting for continued discussion to develop a recommendation to the City Council for presentation at a future City Council meeting.

***B. Discussion and/or action regarding the Senior Health:***

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of holding a “general” health fair in lieu of a senior health fair, including joining with the Walnut Park health fair and/or holding a “mini

fair” at the Huntington Park downtown spring carnival. The Commissioners concurred to contact the Chamber of Commerce regarding a booth at the street fair.

Further discussion was held regarding coordinating Flu Shot events with the Los Angeles County Department of Public. The Commissioners agreed that it was important to be proactive in its commitment to the community by offering events promoting health and safety issues, as well as providing educational information and including job fairs during the health fairs. Housing and Community Development Manager Acosta stated that he would contact the City’s Neighborhood Improvement Coordinator regarding disseminating information to community members at community meetings. Mr. Acosta added that he would contact the City’s Administration team regarding a possible job fair and report back to the Commissioner.

*(Commissioner Leticia Martinez arrived and took her seat at 6:08 p.m.)*

Following a discussion, Commissioner Martinez stated that the Chamber of Commerce would provide a booth for the Commission at the upcoming “Sabor de Mexico Lindo” Downtown Street Festival scheduled for the weekend of October 5-7, 2012. In addition to general health information, the Commissioners could provide information on tobacco and no smoking awareness, as well as the American Cancer Society “Relay for Life” event. The Commissioners agreed to provide booth coverage.

***SUBJECTS PRESENTED BY STAFF:***

***A. Discussion and/or action regarding the Fifth Annual Healthy Walk scheduled for September 29, 2012:***

Senior Planner Albert Fontanez distributed flyers for the Fifth Annual Healthy Walk to Reduce Obesity and stated that the Walk begins at 8:00 a.m. in front of City Hall and will end at Salt Lake Park.

***Other subjects discussed:***

1. Ms. Heidi Lopez distributed handouts regarding a flu shot clinic for children and seniors at St. Matthias Church on November 3, 2013. Ms. Heidi stated that handouts had been sent to the Church for distribution and requested that staff share the information with the community.

2. Mr. Fontanez reported that the City had received from Los Angeles County “Smoking Prohibited” metal frame signs referencing the newly adopted smoke-free multi-unit housing ordinance, which would be distributed to multi-unit complexes for posting. Ms. Leticia Martinez offered her assistance in the distribution of the frames. A discussion followed on ways to inform the community of the new smoking regulations which included using social media and issuing a press release, and inviting the community to a City Hall celebration of the City’s success in adopting the anti-smoking ordinances. Mr. Fontanez stated that he would include an item at the next Commission meeting to consider the formation of an ad hoc committee to develop a plan to publicize the newly adopted ordinances.

***SUBJECTS PRESENTED BY COMMISSIONERS:***

Commissioner Walker thanked Ms. Heidi Lopez for sharing information on the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health “Weight of the Nation” program which offers films on different topics promoting obesity awareness. Continued discussion on the goals of the Commission was held. The Commissioners concurred that their goals and objectives were to promote healthy choices, including the reduction of obesity in the community and anti-smoking awareness, facilitate health information through health/senior fairs and to identify partnerships and resources to educate the community about pertinent health issues. Commissioner Flores requested that staff include in the next Commission agenda discussion of bringing outside resources to the City.

***CLOSED SESSION:***

None.

***ADJOURNMENT:***

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. to Tuesday, November 27, 2012, at 5:30 p.m.

---

Chairperson – Victoria Herrera

---

Secretary