

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JOHN WIRFS
PRESIDENT

ZELENNE CARDENAS
FABIAN GARCIA
SUZANNE MANRIQUEZ
LILIANA PEREZ
LORI QUON
AARON THOMAS

EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES HISTORICAL MONUMENT

ARTURO CHAVEZ
General Manager

125 PASEO DE LA PLAZA, SUITE 300
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

TEL: (213) 485-6855

COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, May 11, 2023

2:00 p.m.

**Members of the public who wish to speak to the Commission during the meeting must submit a "Request to Speak" form to the Board Secretary prior to the commencement of the public comments for each agenda item of interest. Comments by the public on matters not identified on the agenda, but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission will be heard during the item designated as "Public Comments Period." The length of public speaking time is two minutes, unless the presiding officer grants some other amount of time.*

**As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.*

Sign Language Interpreters, Communication Access Real-Time Transcription (CART), Assistive Listening Devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language Interpreters, five or more business days notice is strongly recommended. For additional information, please contact: Property Management, (213) 485-9777 – voice and TTY.

The Meeting called to order at: 2:10 PM by President **Wirfs**. Commissioners present: **Cardenas, Garcia, Núñez, Perez, Quon**. Also present: General Manager Arturo Chavez, Assistant General Manager Edgar Garcia, El Pueblo Staff Emily Wooten, and Deputy City Attorney Joshua Temple. Commissioners Manriquez and Thomas were absent.

A quorum was established.

Commissioner Wirfs welcomed those in attendance in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Women's Health Week, and Public Service Recognition Week. New Commissioner Perez introduced herself to the Commission and the public, sharing her experience as the Director of Cultural Affairs for the Los Angeles Chargers and thanked everyone for welcoming her.

Edward Flores, Greg Berber, Valerie Hanley provided General Public Comment.

Adriana Velasquez of City Council District 14 shared that the Council District would be meeting with the Department to discuss street vending and related code enforcement.

There was no update from the Neighborhood Council.

Item 1: General Manager's Report

Mr. Chavez presented the General Manager's Report. He noted that the Department is in the process of drafting a letter the Absolute International Security regarding continued issues with the company. He continued to touch on the previous discussion regarding El Pueblo's status as a no-vending zone, but shared that there is active litigation regarding Senate Bill 946 and legality of no-vending zones. Ms. Velasquez suggested fencing of the El Pueblo area. Commissioner Cardenas inquired about the illegal vending of alcohol on-site and shared her previous experience working with Alcohol Beverage Control. Commissioner Perez shared she did not approve of any notion of fencing in the El Pueblo area and



asked the City Attorney for more information regarding the enforcing bodies would be for illegal vending issues. Ms. Velasquez underlined the importance of consistency within enforcement and the need to give street vendors a safe place to vend. Mr. Garcia shared that the Department had met with the Mayor's Office to discuss the possibility of a pilot program to help local street vendors become Olvera Street Merchants. Commissioner Quon asked about the Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA) involvement to which Mr. Chavez shared the Department has paid overtime for StreetsLA employees to be present during events that attract a high level of street vending. Mr. Chavez continued to share that El Pueblo's museums had over 25,000 visitors in April. He noted that the City Council had passed the motion to approve a rent repayment plan for Olvera Street Merchants and shared that a rent report would be available soon. Mr. Chavez explained that the Department was currently in the process of Budget hearings before City Council. He shared that the Department requested a Curator, but that this was removed by the Mayor's team. City Council requested a City Attorney report on the potential that it was found that the cost from the General Fund would be more than the potential staff member's salary. Commissioner Perez stated that El Pueblo needs staff dedicated to social media and suggested the Department look into grants to help fund this role. Commissioner Núñez suggested that the Department reach out to local Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA) and Chicano Studies programs for student assistance. Mr. Garcia shared that the Department had recently selected a Getty Marrow Intern. Commissioner Quon followed up on the meeting held between Absolute International Security and the Merchants and requested clarification on Parking Lot #2 hours. Mr. Chavez noted that GSD Parking has limited staffing that has impacted operations. He shared that usually the parking lots would stay open later during festivities. In order to have more effective operations, Mr. Chavez emphasized the need for more parking. In response to Commissioner Perez's inquiry, it was confirmed that Parking along with filming and Merchant Rent are the only revenue sources for the Department.

Edward Flores and Valerie Hanley provided Public Comment on Item 1.

Item 2: Commission Committee Reports

There was no update from the Branding and Marketing Committee.

Commissioner Wirfs stated that he is the only remaining Commissioner on the Merchant Committee.

Commissioner Núñez provided an update for the Mexican-American/ Latino Historical Monument Ad Hoc Committee. She shared that she would be resigning from the El Pueblo Commission effective Friday, May 12, 2023. She shared her passion for the Mexican-American/Latino Historical Monument. Ms. Wooten shared previous Commission documentation and recordings regarding the research of Professor Ken Gonzales-Day on the lynching of Mexican-American and Latino individuals in Los Angeles. Commissioner Núñez shared that the 1871 Memorial was an inspiration for her seeking recognition of these events. She shared a news report written by Victoria Valenzuela about this effort. Commissioner Núñez highlighted the story of Francisco Cota, a 15-year-old Latino boy accused of murder, who was lynched at the heart of El Pueblo. She hopes that this monument would address these events and help the City and Nation heal. She included letters of support from Former-Mayor Garcetti and Council Member Kevin DeLeon. Commissioner Núñez encouraged her fellow Commissioners to take up the mantel. She noted the intent to meet with the El Pueblo Park Association (EPPA) and shared a list of potential supporters. The Ad Hoc Committee had previously discussed installing a temporary display of Mr. Gonzalez-Day's work. Commissioner Núñez shared her affection for her fellow Commissioners and staff and her gratitude for Former-Mayor Garcetti and Mayor Bass. Mr. Garcia shared he would remain the staff point of contact for the project and presented Commissioner Núñez with a small gift.

Edward Flores and Valarie Hanley provided Public Comment for Item 2.

Item 3.1: Approval of the Minutes of 04-13-23

Commissioner Núñez moved to approve the Minutes of 04-13-23.

Vote on Item 3.1: Cardenas, Y; Garcia, Y; Núñez, Y; Perez, Y; Quon, Y; Wirfs, Y. The motion carried.

Item 3.2: 1871 Memorial Update

Mr. Garcia shared that on May 4, 2023 the Department of Cultural Affairs made a selection for the finalist team for the 1871 Memorial. Artist Sze Tsung Nicolás Leong and writer Judy Chui-Hua Chung were the selected team submission. Mr. Garcia noted that the Department's main involvement was to try to delineate the placement of the monument. Commissioner Quon shared that she was particularly excited for this submission. She explained that the design is based around the concept of a wishing tree with concentric circles outlining the history leading up to the massacre with roots creating seating areas to allow the public to sit and reflect. There will be eighteen trunks representing the lives lost during the massacre. Mr. Garcia shared that there will be additional portions of the memorial that will be outside of El Pueblo's space. Commissioner Wirfs shared that from his experience the design team selection phase tends to be the easiest portion of these projects. Commissioner Quon hoped that this design would share some of the allure and interest of the "Urban Light" installation at LACMA. Commissioner Núñez praised the work and Mr. Garcia shared that this project would inform any future work on the Mexican American/Latino Historical Monument.

Item 3.3 Vice President Election.

Commissioner Wirfs shared that Former-Commissioner Marez was the Commission Vice President and shared that there is no Vice President at this time. Commissioner Wirfs encouraged his fellow Commissioners to think about that role moving into the next meeting. He noted that the Commission is experiencing many changes with the departure of Commissioners Alarcon and Marez, the addition of Commissioners Manriquez and Perez and the resignation of Commissioners Ibarra and Núñez.

Item 3.4 Committee Discussion.

Commissioner Wirfs noted that similarly to the previous item, the Commissioners should think about Committee membership as these groups have been used to further the work of the Commission. This would entail a vote by the Commission to nominate members and an appointment by the Commission President to establish Chairs. Commissioner Wirfs stated that the Commission would be briefed on the types of Committees and rules at the next meeting. He invited Commissioners to think about the existing committees they may want to serve on or any additional committees they may want to create.

Item 4: Commission Business

Commissioner Núñez concluded that she would share news of her resignation with Professor Ken Gonzales-Day. She shared her heritage and historic connections with California's history, Los Angeles, and El Pueblo.

Commissioner Quon inquired about the Mexican Cultural Institute and Commissioner Wirfs requested any updates as needed.

President Wirfs adjourned the meeting at 3:26 PM.