

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2019

Meeting location: 301 E. 13th, Street, Merced, CA 95341

Commission Members Present:

- Lee Lor Eva de Long Iantha Thompson Shirley Brown Scott Pettygrove
- County Health Officer - Vacant Aaron Lequia Marjorie Terranova Yvonna Brown

Staff Present: James Fincher, Martha Herмосillo, Marie Pickney, Rebecca Nanyonjo-Kemp and Adam Acevedo.

Guests: Jenna Nunes, Mayya Tokman, Monica Adrian, Tom Tanaoka

Call to Order: Chair Lee Lor called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Commissioner Shirley Brown

Attendance results noted above; a quorum was present.

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

Public Opportunity to Speak on Any Matter within the Commission's

Jurisdiction

Members of the public were invited to come forward to speak. No public comment provided.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

First 5 Executive Director Martha Herмосillo stated there is a change to the attachment for agenda item #2, an updated attachment copy was provided to each commissioner and available for the public.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 1. Approval of Minutes for the January 14, 2019 Commission Meeting**

(Action).

Commissioner Eva de Long stated she was not at the January 14, 2019 meeting and to have the minutes corrected to reflect that she was not in attendance.

Commission Chair Lor stated corrections needed to be made to the minutes listed below:

1. After the pledge of allegiance, the closed session agenda item #7 to be moved to item #11.
2. Agenda item #6 and #7 will need to have revisions as there are several grammatical errors.
3. Agenda item #8 regarding the copy of a PowerPoint presentation, only a handout was provided a copy was not sent provided to the commissioners.

Commissioner Yvonnia Brown moved to approve Item #1 on the consent calendar with the modification recommendations from Commission Chair Lor.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner de Long. The motion was unanimously passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

REGULAR CALENDAR:

COMMISSION ACTION:

2. Discussion regarding Grants Responsive to Our Work, emerging community needs funding opportunity (Information and possible action).

First 5 Executive Director Martha Hermosillo stated First 5 has a line item in the proposed fiscal year 2019-20 budget for "Emerging Community Needs" which currently is not accessible to the community. Hermosillo presented a draft application for funding for the public to fill out and submit to First 5 for review.

Commission Chair Lor asked if First 5 has been able to provide the last two fiscal years breakdown of the funds used out of the "Emerging Community Needs" line item from the budget.

Hermosillo stated the expenditures for that line is \$32,797 over the last two fiscal years.

Commission Chair Lor asked if Hermosillo would provide a summary of the events that were funded.

Hermosillo stated swim lessons from the City of Merced, the lactation rooms for several of the district high schools, the City of Livingston's sweet potato festival were all funded from the "Emerging Community Needs" item in the First 5 budget.

Hermosillo stated the largest funding occurred with "Week of the Young Child" day at the park which is typically around \$10,000.

Commissioner Pettygrove asked if the funds were bound by a match.

Hermosillo stated not currently and that would be a decision for the Commission to determine if this funding mechanism is approved.

Commissioner Pettygrove stated with the large amount of unspent funds it would be a time for the commission to review the strategic plan with a comprehensive look at the best way to use the funds.

Commissioner Yvonna Brown stated she agreed with Commissioner Pettygrove.

Commissioner de Long stated the commission could consider the funds to be used for the purchase of a building for First 5 Merced County.

Commission Chair Lor stated at this time the commission will hold off on any action for this item, review the First 5 strategic plan to discuss in detail where the funding can be best utilized for the community.

Commission Chair Lor asked if there were questions from the public, there were none.

3. Informational presentation from Kids Discovery Station (Information and possible action).

Lor recused herself from agenda item #3 Kids Discovery Station, presented by guest Mayya Tokman.

Guest Mayya Tokman, professor at UC Merced, provided a presentation (attachment) for the "Kids Discovery Station," a program that First 5 provided funding for over the summer of 2018. Tokman thanked First 5 for funding to assist with bringing the "Kids Discovery Station" to life. Tokman stated with the success of the program she has been able to partner with Merced County Office of Education to secure a permanent location in Merced. Tokman stated the location is across from Merced College at 350 W. Yosemite Ave, Merced.

Commissioner Pettygrove asked what type of demographics and from what locations the kids are expected to come from.

Tokman stated during the summer months of 2018 when the "Kids Discovery Station" was open, children from various demographics and locations in Merced, and other surrounding cities visited the station. Tokman stated the building she has secured is located across the street from Merced College and there is a bus stop nearby.

Commissioner Thompson asked if there would be a charge for visitors.

Tokman stated based on conservative estimates there would be a small fee for visitors, in the range of \$5.00 per person. Tokman stated even with this conservative estimate, it would allow the Kids Discovery Station to be sustainable.

Commissioner Thompson asked if Tokman is operating as a 501.C.3 (Non-Profit organization).

Tokman stated that she will be operating as a non-profit organization.

Tokman stated at this time she is proposing that First 5 sponsors "Little Explorers Planet" for a term of two years. Tokman stated based on the percentage of funding that comes from First 5 would allow First 5 to have attribution on the exhibit as well as on the list of founding partners. Tokman stated the current estimate for funding of the "Little Explorers Planet" exhibit is \$100,000.

Commissioner Pettygrove asked if Tokman reviewed any data or did any research regarding the Challenger Learning Center that was previously operating at the old Castle Air Force Base, in Atwater, Ca. and why it was not able to continue to operate.

Tokman stated she actually did research this extensively and worked with former employees and community members to gain an understanding of why it failed. Tokman stated she could discuss this with anyone who has further questions, but not in a public setting due to respecting the privacy of individuals who worked with her.

Commissioner Y. Brown asked if there are plans to eventually have a location in the Los Banos (West side of Merced County).

Tokman stated she would love to be able to have an affiliate in that area, but at this time, she is focused on establishing the location in Merced.

Commissioner Thompson asked what age range the station would allow.

Tokman stated if the Kids Discovery Station would be open and appropriate for children ages 0-12. Tokman stated there are multiple buildings at the location and her plans would include a separate location for children ages 0-5, then another location for the remaining ages.

Tokman stated an amount of \$250,000 is needed to make this program happen, and the current plan would be to move into the location in September, and opening of the facility by December 2019.

Commission co-chair Eva de Long, asked the commission to allow Tokman time to write a proposal to present at the next Commission meeting in March.

Guest Tom Tanaoka, stated he worked at the Challenger Learning Center as the educational director from 2006 to 2012. Tanaoka stated it was one the best experiences of his career. Tanaoka stated Tokman asked him to help with the "Kids Discovery Station" and he was happy to contribute in any way he could.

There was no action taken on this item.

Commission Chair Lor returned to continue the meeting with agenda item #4.

4. Approval of funding to support Week of the Young Child, not to exceed \$18,000 (Action).

First 5 Executive Director Martha Hermosillo presented this item for the Commission to approve funding for the annual "Week of the Young Child" in an amount not to exceed \$18,000. Hermosillo stated the Community Collaborative for Children and Families formerly known as Local Planning Council (LPC) has opted to take responsibility for the Week of the Young Child day at the park on April 13, 2019 in a contract not to exceed \$10,000. Hermosillo stated this amount would include advertising, venue, food, children, promotional items, entertainment and literacy materials.

Hermosillo stated \$8,000 would be used for events across the county commemorating the Week of the Young child. Hermosillo stated the events could be book fairs, health fairs, movies at the park and others that commemorate the Week of the Young Child. Entities that wish to participate will submit requests for funds using the Community Engagement Sponsorships guidelines and criteria, allowing up to \$1,000 for an event.

Chair Lor asked if there were questions from the commission, there were none.

Chair Lor asked if there were questions from the public, there were none.

Commissioner Y. Brown moved to approve.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Thompson. The motion was unanimously passed with 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

5. Informational presentation following the Help Me Grow Convening in December (Informational).

First 5 Program Manager Marie Pickney stated on December 6, 2018 First 5 held a "Help Me Grow" network convening for service providers. Pickney stated the convening was held to gather information about current services for children ages 0-5 and to help identify gaps exist in Merced County. Pickney stated participants included representatives from education, behavioral health, public health, social work, medical providers, community based organization(s), library services and other interested parties.

Pickney stated during the event an asset map activity was conducted with participants to identify current community resources and potential gaps in services. Pickney stated participants were also asked to identify and list missing resources and services to be added to an interactive GIS map, to be provided at a later date.

Pickney provided a Help Me Grow screening site and potential service provider attachment to the commission, and a copy was also made available to the public. Pickney stated that First 5 worked with GIS department at the Merced County Administration office to create a map called the "Help Me Grow Systems Site Map" that provides a centralized access point for information and referral, promoting surveillance and screenings, as well as educating and informing the community.

Commission Chair Lor asked if someone wants to add an organization to the map, who would need to be contacted.

Pickney stated that First 5 could be contacted to update the map. Pickney stated that eventually First 5 will have a program specialist who would work closely with maintaining and updating the Help Me Grow Systems Site Map.

Commission Chair Lor requested that agenda item #7 Executive Director's Report be presented before the commissioners depart for a closed session meeting.

6. CLOSED SESSION: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT (RECRUITMENT) Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Title: Executive Director First 5 Merced County.

Commission Chair Lor stated the commission will depart to a closed session at 6:59pm.

Commission Chair Lor called to resume meeting at 7:52pm.

Lor stated that no action was taken, but direction was given at the closed session meeting.

7. Executive Director's Report*

First 5 Executive Director stated the Department of Public Health will have an accreditation site visit during the week of February 4-8, 2019. Hermsillo stated she recently attended the First 5 Leadership Network cohort and stated it was a great experience. Hermsillo stated she would also like to recommend that staff be allowed to attend future First 5 Leadership Network cohorts

Hermsillo provided the commissioners a lapel pin which is symbolic of the First 5 hand logo, to remind them that they are commissioners all of the time, not just during meetings. She also gave them a card with the following words: Clear, Courageous, Curious, Connected and Creative.

Hermsillo reminded the audience about the Tri-county Cannabis convening that will be held on February 14, 2019 at Valley Children's Hospital in Madera. Hermsillo advised those who were invited to make sure they register and attend if available.

Hermsillo provided a Facebook update that views and posts are down, and this was due to Hermsillo having a limited amount of time available to manage First 5's Facebook page over the last few weeks.

Hermsillo provided an update for the 2019 Children's Summit and the planned schedule for the day of events and guest speakers. Hermsillo stated First 5 staff has already created flyers, made catering arrangements, save the date posters and registration is set to open on March 4.

Hermsillo stated, as requested, she is currently working on Commission agendas through June 2019. Hermsillo also stated a meeting is needed between MCOE and First 5 regarding the Sunlight Giving donation, this meeting should happen soon, so that funding can be planned for the 19/20 school year. Hermsillo stated Supplybank.org has a request to distribute free diapers and wipes to mothers, typically through family resource centers but there are no FRCs in Merced. Hermsillo stated she reached out to WIC regarding the distribution of free diapers and wipes and they are interested. Additional work should be done related to this opportunity.

*At the direction of Commission Chair Lee Lor, the executive director's report was presented prior to the Commission's closed session meeting.

8. Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Shirley Brown stated she would like to connect with the Mayya Tokman, who presented the "Kids Discovery Station" proposal.

No other commissioners had anything to report.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.