

## **Claremont Community & Human Services Commission**

### League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area Observer Report

By Observer Barbara Rugeley

May 24, 2018

#### **Purpose of the Commission**

The Claremont Community and Human Services Commission advises the City Council on matters of maintenance of City property and on programs for its citizens. The mission of the Human Services Department is to make life better through high-quality programs and services.

#### **Commission Members (7)** (year indicates end of current term) (4 years, renewable once)

##### **Lee Kane**, (2015-2019). Program Manager, Shoes That Fit. **Chair**

Appointed August 2015 with a term to expire in July 2019 (4 years). BA (English) UCLA. Career in non-profits. Husband and two children: CHS and Hofstra U. Lived in Detroit, So Cal, Seattle, and Claremont 2002-.

##### **Lynne Marsenich**, (2015-2018). Retired Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). Federal Children's Bureau Consultant.

Appointed August 2015 with a term to expire in July 2018 (3 years). BA Pitzer. MA (Social Work) USC. Social work practitioner and manager for public and private agencies. Lived in Claremont 1972-.

##### **Phyllis Munson**, (2013-2021). Stay-at-Home-Mom.

Appointed August 2013 with a term to expire in July 2017. Re-appointed August 2017 with a term to expire in July 2021 (4 years). BA (education). Volunteer in the schools, community, and church. Husband and 6 children. Lived in Claremont 1978-.

##### **Jed Leano**, (2016-2020). Immigration lawyer, Pasadena. **Vice-Chair**

Appointed August 2016 with a term to expire in July 2020 (4 years). BA 2001 U of Kentucky; JD Rutgers U 2005; New Jersey Bar 2006. Interned for Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), KY Rep. Kathy Stein (D-Lexington), Scotty Baesler for Congress, and Bill Bradley for President; energy lobbyist in Mexicali, B.C., Mexico; consultant in Santa Ana City Attorney's Office on civil litigation and housing regulations. Founding board member of the Neighborhood Immigration Clinic (NIC), a monthly pro-bono immigration law clinic held at churches throughout southern California. Pasadena Jaycees President, 2009; Tournament of Roses, 3 years. Claremont, 200?-

##### **Nancy Brower**, (2017- 2021). Retired Adult Ed Teacher, Pomona USD.

Appointed August 2017 with a term to expire in July 2021 (4 years). BA (psych & soc) 1967 La Verne College; MS (counseling) 1998; CA Adult Ed Credential 2018. Parent educator in PUSD, 1999 to 2011. On boards of CLASP, Crossroads, President's Advisory Board-University of La

Verne, San Gabriel Girl Scouts, Children's Advocacy Center, Prototypes Women's Center. Volunteered in CUSD: PFA President, CHS Grad Party Co-Chair 1995. City: Human Services Commission (chair), 1997-2005; Committee on Aging (chair), Youth and Family, Youth Sports Committee, Public Facilities Needs Assessment, Making a Change, Padua Sports Park, General Plan Advisory Committee, "Around A Bout." Lived in Claremont, 1972-.

**Angela Bekzadian-Avila** (Sept 2017- 2021). Stay-at-Home-Mom.

Appointed Sept 2017 with a term to expire in July 2021 (4 years). BA (history and English) 1998 CSU Northridge. Human Services Commission member 2008-10. Husband and 3 sons (CHS, El Roble, and preschool). Born in Beirut, Lebanon, came to North Hollywood at 8. Lived in Claremont, 2007- .

**Pauline Bourne**, (2010- February 27, 2018: resignation); Human Resources Consultant at L. A. Co. Office of Education.

Appointed August 2010 with a term to expire in July 2014 (4 years). Re-appointed August 2014 with a term to expire in July 2018 (4 years). Resigned in March 2018.

**Rachel Forester**, Appointed May 22, 2018.

## **Staff**

### **Human Services**

**Anne Turner, Director** 2014-

MA and PhD (public administration) ULV. Adjunct Professor, ULV; Past exec. director for THINK Together, a nonprofit supporting K-12 out-of-school education. Past exec. director for Rio Hondo College Foundation. Claremont Youth and Family Master Plan. Claremont Community and Human Services Commission past member. Grew up in Claremont.

### **Community Services**

**Roger Bradley**, Director, Apr. 25, 2016-

Dublin CA Asst to City Manager, Dublin CA environmental services head. Dublin's Green Initiative task force manager. Marine Corps corporal, 4 years. In Claremont, 2016-.

**David Roger**, Deputy Director, August 2016-.

**Lisa Marrujo**, Administrative Assistant

**Michele Gonzalez**, Sr. Administrative Assistant

## **Attendance**

Regular meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday monthly in City Council Chambers. I attended 9 of the 13 meetings from May 2017 through May 2018.

## **Overall Assessment**

The agency is following good government standards. It operates transparently, welcomes public input, and Commissioners appear well prepared.

## HUMAN SERVICES

For the first time, the Human Services Dept. raised \$102,000 in sponsorships for their programs. They published a report, "2017 Accomplishments," within the Spring 2018 *Human Services Recreation Brochure*, a boon to my own report. The Commission rejected Councilman Nasiali's suggestion to drop "parks and recreation" from the description of the Community Services Dept.: it is an essential aspect of what they do.

### **HOMELESS SERVICES: Collaborative Community Response to Claremont Homelessness**

The City started a Homeless Pilot Program in 2015, implementing a "super referral service" and working closely with the Police Dept. to provide options for those in need of services and recording the contacts for each person: establishing a "Homeless Log." A Measure H City Homeless Planning Grant allowed the City to hire a consultant to create metrics to measure the impact of the CCRCH. More than 200 CUSD students are homeless: they don't have stable housing. The homeless count in Claremont is declining: 2014-15: 45; 2015-16: 27; 2016-17: 19. Through the Homeless Log, there is proof that people in Claremont are moving out of homelessness, not just driven out of Claremont. Meanwhile the numbers in neighboring communities are rising. Staff understand that some persons do not wish to be in a shelter or cannot conform to the rules of those shelters.

Director Turner has focused on homelessness, which has come to occupy 35-40% of her time. Consequently, she recommends that \$30,000 of the \$60,000 normally spent on grants to agencies serving the homeless be used instead to hire a part-time contract employee for one year to analyze Measure H and recommend how best to take advantage of that quarter-cent sales tax that is due to Claremont. Measure H funding is expected to provide Claremont \$1 million in 2018-19 and \$2 million in 2019-20. Because Measure H funds are not given to cities, only to non-profits, that contract employee should recommend to our non-profits how best to acquire those funds. The next 2-year budget cycle is very tight due to a structural deficit in the budget. (Pension funds? Water lawsuit penalties?) We need to help our non-profits take advantage of Measure H.

### **FUNDING FOR 19 COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (\$86,650) AND 6 HOMELESS PROGRAMS (\$30,000)**

Claremont is one city of 88 in LA County that still provides any kind of community-based funding. Some programs and their funding grants were:

Claremont After-School Programs CLASP	\$14,925
Claremont Meals on Wheels	\$ 5,914
Shoes that Fit	\$ 4,940
VNA Hospice & Palliative Care	\$ 6,358

Crossroads	\$ 7,166
CHAP Claremont Homeless Advocacy Prog	\$ 7,450
Inland Valley Hope Partners Food Security	\$ 6,200

Our commissioners considered carefully the requests, but also realized, as one stated, “I feel good not funding an ineffective service organization.” That takes courage.

#### **4TH OF JULY**

To maintain a balanced budget, advance fireworks tickets this year needed to rise from \$8 to \$10 but remain \$10 at the gate. This is the first increase in 8 years. Activities will run 10:00-2:00 at Memorial Park, with the parade at 3:00, and fireworks at night at Pomona College.

#### **SENIOR PROGRAMS**

With building expansion needed, but not funded, the Committee on Aging, in May 2017, encouraged Patio Projects at Joslyn and Blaisdell to increase space for programs, instruction, and socializing. Joslyn’s installation was April 5, 2018. The Rotary Club and The Claremont Senior Foundation each contributed \$10,000, to the City for senior programming. Through a grant contract with LA County Area Agency on Aging, 26,000+ hot meals were made for seniors. 200 senior volunteers provided 12,500+ hours of service. Seniors have access to many classes, workshops, trips, and parties. The City is now seeking the AARP designation, “Age Friendly Community” which is a 5-year program to review, assess, and improve the quality of life for older persons, most of which we already do. We have a vibrant senior program.

#### **YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS**

In 2017, the City offered 1,080 classes and had 65,000 participants. 76 youth scholarships were granted. The Teen Committee added a Women’s Empowerment Ad Hoc Committee. The City hosted 16 community-wide events, such as Spring Celebration, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, CicLAvia, and Halloween Costume Parade in the Village. Hughes Center is busy with participants in numerous contract classes for all age groups. And Anne Turner is unfailingly excited about each new recreation brochure. Last summer the camp registration increased 30%, due to different marketing and offering \$8 coupons toward contract classes during camp registration. The one-week camps had 125 to 175 attendees in each of 8 weeks of classes with some waiting lists. YAC, at the high school, and TAC, at the middle school, are open about 2:00 – 6:00 pm Monday – Friday during the school year, FOR FREE, with activities, trips (hike to the Hollywood sign!), workshops on safe dates, help with college essays and financial aid, plus monthly free food events. The teens now repaint the YAC murals annually. There is plenty to do in Claremont for all ages.

#### **COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RELATIONS**

A newly restructured and energized Committee on Human Relations began its deliberations January 2017, planning vigorous and proactive work to promote understanding and education to improve human relations in the City, partnering closely with the Police Department. They adopted the ACLU policies and rules and began implementing their work plan with a community showing of the film, *Not in Our Town*, March 29, 2018.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Our Community Services Dept. offers a Youth Maintenance Leader Program in the summer for 10-12 youths who rotate among the various maintenance divisions, gaining experience and building a resume. This year 7 students will return to work 2 days per week.

## **PARKS & MEDIANS, LANDSCAPE & LIGHTING, TRANSPORTATION**

The **Pooch Park** closed for renovation from July 17, 2017, to March 14, 2018 and reopened to fanfare with better turf grass and drainage and reduced soil compaction. The Park will close every April and October for turf recovery.

A 3.62% increase in the CPI will add \$6.14 for a total of \$175.77 per assessment unit for Landscape and Lighting to maintain 21 parks, 95 medians, 50+ acres of public right-of-way, 24,000 street trees, and 2,264 street lights. College Park got new lighting: 29 LEDs and 10 building lights, starting March 19, 2018.

30 of 80 Foothill Transit bus stops may get shelters with solar panels and sign holders. The City contracted for sidewalk grinding. Kiwanis installed 100 tree identification signs on the Thompson Creek Trail. The City established an ordinance for No Parking on Street Sweeping Days. A simple majority of affected residents could request the service.

Dial-a-Ride plans to improve services (a mobility manager; a dedicated driver; extended operating hours; and just one phone number for all services). \$60,000 is designated to create a Transit Website, to combine routes and schedules for 4 services: Dial-a-Ride, Get About, Foothill Transit (bus), and Metrolink, if upgrades to the main Claremont website can't offer this functionality.

The Foothill Blvd. Improvement Project will change the look of Route 66, adding bioswales, bike lanes, new landscaping and irrigation systems. To add the bike lanes, the medians will be narrowed, causing removal of some trees.

## **TREES**

The City has sought and received several grants to help us create a \$637,000 Urban Forest Management Program. The tree inventory update is 90% finished, with additional plans to analyze the canopy cover and compare it to the 2012 survey. 370 volunteers with Sustainable Claremont have planted over 721 street trees or shrubs since October 2017. Over 600 trees have been removed due to PSHB (Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer) or xylella disease, drought, age, and decay. The \$300,000 from reserve funds spent on an experimental treatment for PSHB seems to be working; summer will confirm or disappoint. Non-city trees should also be treated. Citizen input on tree issues is sought through town meetings, 2 in March 2018, more planned for May 2018. The arborist resigned; the position will remain vacant until after the budget process is complete.

## **SANITATION**

With a 2.7% CPI increase, our sanitation fees will also rise 2.7%. Our commercial rates do not subsidize our residential rates, as they do in most of the surrounding cities. Yet our residential rates are on a par with neighbors. A 2014 Ad Hoc Committee reaffirmed that we should continue to own our sanitation service. This fund can only be used for sanitation. By 2021, the debt service on the City Yard will be paid off, and \$500,000 will accrue to the City. Did you know that the City will come pick up used motor oil? Electronics? 2 bulk pick-ups a year? A complete video study of 16,000 linear feet of sewers reported no major problems. Commercial Food Waste Collection began May 2017 with 50 businesses participating. Two tons per week have been diverted.

## **Oak Park Cemetery**

To keep the cemetery viable and to expand a second section, a one-time increase to cost of purchasing services is needed. Since the first expansion in 2014, 75 graves per year have been sold.

## **Clean Power Alliance of Southern California Program (CPA)**

If the Public Utilities Commission approves, Claremont will begin using this new program which increases our use of renewable energy and public accountability in energy decisions, also reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) and lowering residents' energy bills by 4%. Southern California Edison will still process the billing. CPA provides customer choice, cleaner energy, and local control. Several dozen 50 MW solar projects would be needed in LA County. One such project could create 1500 construction jobs and 15 full-time permanent jobs. The City chose a default of 50% renewable energy ("Tier 2"), but residents may change the selection individually. CPA should begin in June 2018.