

REEF-SUNSET UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL JOINT CITY MEETING  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2012  
AVENAL THEATER / MEETING ROOM

A special joint city meeting of the Reef-Sunset Unified School District Board of Trustees and Avenal City Council was held on this date in the Avenal Theater/Meeting room located at 233 E. Kings Street, Avenal, CA 93204

Mr. Casida, City Mayor, called the meeting to order at 5:38pm and led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Gail Monohon, Bill Hatcher, Dr. David East, Harlin Casida, Alvaro Preciado, Donna Curty, Dagoberto Ovalle, Melissa Whitten, Chief Jack Amoroso, Peter Vasquez, Jeri Vasquez and Lorena Venegas were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 5, 2011:

Motion by Gail Monohon seconded by Alvaro Preciado to approve the minutes as presented.  
UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jeri Vasquez from Second Chance Grace, Inc. asked if this would be an appropriate time to make a presentation. Mr. Casida stated he would add them as an emergency item to the agenda under Presentations/Discussion Item A.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

*Second Chance Grace, Inc.:*

Jeri and Peter Vasquez handed out a brochure about their organization, Second Chance Grace, Inc. They gave a history of their personal background and reported they were a non-profit organization based in Corcoran and established in Idaho in 2006. Their main focus is at-risk youth, young adults, and families who are at risk of gang involvement, violence in the home, drug/alcohol abuse and criminal activity. Mr. Vasquez reported that he was planning to do a presentation in March in Kettleman City with the support of Richard Valle and Waste Management. Mr. Vasquez agreed to contact Ms. Whitten when they get a confirmed date and time for their Kettleman City presentation. Ms. Monohon asked Mr./Mrs. Vasquez regarding their credentials, funding and how they measure their effectiveness of their success for their program.

Ms. Monohon asked how the Gang Awareness event sponsored by the City was received. Ms. Whitten and Chief Amoroso stated that it was well attended and that they had various organizations sponsoring booths and presenting information.

*Update on Progress from the Responsible Athletes Program:*

Mr. Casida reported they were absent again because they are busy running their programs. Dr. East reported that RAP received the CA Endowment Grant for the amount of \$5,000.

*Report on Ongoing TES Traffic Congestion Issue:*

Chief Amoroso reported that he has been at TES helping with the traffic congestion issue and observed that 90% of the cars stopped by the regular zone curb. To help with this issue, he spoke with Rob from the City and decided that Rob will paint that curb white to indicate 'drop off zone only' as well as placing a sign there. He also suggested doing something by the water pipes to give people an indication to enter and exit only.

*Report on School Safety and Juvenile Service Officer Coordination:*

Dr. East reported he met with Chief Amoroso and JSO, Alsie Ortega to discuss and coordinate Gang Awareness meetings for parents at Reef Sunset Middle School and Avenal High School. The high school will have their meeting on Monday, February 27, 2012 at 6pm in the AHS

Library. The middle school's presentation will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 6pm in their gym. Dr. East stated that he would be announcing this via the Schoolmessenger program as well as on the school's marquees. Dr. East reported that the presentations will be an open forum and will give parents an opportunity to ask questions. Parents need to be empowered and they should know that we are trying to keep school kids safe. Chief Amoroso stated that Alsie was very excited to start the presentations as she demonstrates natural concern for our students.

*Discuss Joint Youth Recognition Program:*

Mr. Casida expressed how he would like to recognize kids that merit recognition. He feels we need to recognize them in ink, lights or by placing their names on the marquees or newspaper.

*Discuss Supporting Avenal Theater & Event Center:*

Mr. Casida reported that we should support the theater by sponsoring art shows and utilizing the meeting room on Old Timer's Day to have people come in so that they can see that this is more than a theater. Dr. East reported that we held the District's Spelling Bee event at the Pegasus room and parents really appreciated that.

*Opportunities for Community Service for Youth:*

Ms. Monohon passed out copies of the AHS Buc magazine October 2011 editorial where a student was complaining about having to complete 50 hours of community service as a requirement to graduate from AHS. The person is complaining that hours are hard to come by in such a small town; and compared to other high schools, why did Avenal High need more hours than Lemoore to graduate? Ms. Monohon shared the RSUSD Policy 6142.4 requirements for service learning. She pointed out that students gain self-esteem from helping others and knowing that they have contributed something worthwhile through involved citizenship. This positive involvement can help them to avoid gang affiliation. She wondered if students understand the purpose and benefits of community service, and she encouraged the city and district to work together to identify additional opportunities that are available in the community for students to complete their required hours of service.

The next joint city meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 9, 2012 at 5:30 p.m., at the Avenal Theater, Meeting Room.

Dr. East shared the community bond results conducted by Urban Futures Inc. Dr. East reviewed the items that would need repair such as heating/ventilation system at RSMS, the AHS stadium and possibly building an all-weather track, etc. Dr. East stated he would like the City to support this endeavor as we are striving to have the bond on the June 2012 ballot.

Mr. Preciado expressed his concerns about trust in the community and schools. Mr. Ovalle stated that he would have liked to see more RSUSD staff attend their Gang Awareness event recently since it was held at the high school gym. He also thanked Ms. Monohon for providing valuable information before the group. Mr. Casida reported he attended the Christian Athletes Program which is a student run program. Chief Amoroso also reported he attended the Christian Athletes meeting. Ms. Whitten congratulated the Avenal Police Department on their neighborhood watch program.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.