

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
MONROVIA OLD TOWN ADVISORY BOARD  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026**

**CONVENE:** Chair Wahl convened the Regular Meeting of the Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board (MOTAB) on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Monrovia City Council Chamber.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Community Services Director, Tina Cherry; Recreation Manager, Rebecca Sandoval; Recreation Coordinator, Johan Galvan; Administrative Assistant, Luke Bernacki; Mayor Pro Tem, Dr. Tamala Kelly.

**ROLL CALL:** Board Members Ammon, Balsamo, Jurado, Miller, Spencer, Vice Chair Hudson and Chair Wahl.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**PR-1** Presentation on One City, One Story Project  
**Staff Reference:** Carey Vance, Library Manager

Monrovia One City, One Story is a citywide reading and community engagement initiative running January – March 2026 that invites residents to read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak and participate in shared programs. The initiative builds belonging, civic pride, and literacy by offering accessible events. Books will be distributed through the library and local schools beginning in January, with age-appropriate options available for younger readers. Planned events include:

- Kickoff at Library Park on Sat. 1/24
- Weekly Read-In @ the Park events at each city park
- Nature craft programs for all ages
- Book club discussions of *The Bear*
- Meditation in the Park - Mondays at 6pm
- Monthly hikes in Canyon Park
- Workshops with community partners
- Finale event on Sat. 3/28 at Station Square

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** The consent calendar was motioned for approval by Board Member Spencer, seconded by Board Member Jurado, and approved. Vice Chair Hudson abstained due to her absence from the November meeting. The consent calendar consisted of the following Agenda items:

**CC-1** Unadopted Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board on November 18, 2025  
**Recommendation:** Receive and File the Minutes of the November 18, 2025 Meeting.  
**Staff Reference:** Tina Cherry, Director

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

1. Edie Ramirez, Route 66 Committee

**CC-1**

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

### AR-1 Quarterly Budget Update (*Verbal Report*)

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends the Board receives and files the Quarterly Budget Update.

**Staff Reference:** Tina Cherry, Community Services Director

Motioned for approval by Vice Chair Hudson, seconded by Board Member Balsamo, moved unanimously.

## REPORTS FROM STAFF

### 1. Johan Galvan, Recreation Coordinator

- a. Merchant Meeting Mixer at Makers & Clay – January 22, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
  - Staff provided a reminder of the event. Postcards advertising the event were distributed throughout the Old Town BID.
- b. Valentine's Day Carriage Rides Update
  - Registration opens on January 20<sup>th</sup> for 10-15 minute carriage rides down Myrtle Ave. from 4:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 14. Two carriage ride sponsorship opportunities are available for \$500 each.
- c. Wine Walk Update
  - Staff provided a thorough lookback at the 2025 Wine Walk and discussed event enhancements for 2026.
  - The 2026 Monrovia Wine Walk will be on Saturday, April 11, 2026 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Check-in at Library Park begins 5:00 p.m.

### 2. Rebecca Sandoval, Recreation Manager

- a. Holiday Window Decorating Contest Evaluation
  - Merchants were invited to participate in the contest on November 26 and the registration deadline was December 8. The judging occurred December 9, and the winners received Council recognition on December 16. There were 20 entries into the contest and 4 award categories. Jake's Roadhouse won the Judges' Award, Hot Shots Salon won Most Holiday Spirit, Suo won Most Creative, and California Drum Shop won Most Spectacular.
- b. Holiday Parade Evaluation
  - 90 entries and 2,500 participants paraded for a record sized crowd on Thursday, December 4. Discussion with the Board occurred on how to best manage crowd size and street vendor presence in the next parade.
- c. Holiday Carolers Evaluation
  - Holiday carolers came to Old Town on three Saturdays in December, 12/6, 12/13, and 12/20, from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. They moved to specific areas every 15-20 minutes between Foothill Blvd and Olive Ave, with new routes each day. The Board discussed shifting the hours earlier for more daylight and having the carolers visit more of non-front-street Myrtle.

- d. Holiday Carriage Rides
  - Carriage rides were on Sundays in December: 12/7, 12/14, and 12/21 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. There were 476 total riders. Two carriages were used for this program. A free ride came with a \$25+ same day purchase in Old Town that 23 riders utilized. Youth Commission sold out their hot chocolate each day.
- e. Noon Year's Eve & New Year's Eve Event Evaluation
  - Due to weather, Noon Year's Eve pivoted to an indoor grab & go event at the Community Center, featuring interactive lines, themed craft pickups, table art, canyon park ambassadors, and a photo booth. The event had 1,027 participants, drawing in 248 resident families and 74 non-resident families. The NYE Event on Myrtle was cancelled due to inclement weather.

### **3. Tina Cherry, Community Services Director**

- a. Quarterly New Merchant Update
  - 2 new businesses and 1 new owner of an existing business joined the BID from October-December 2025.
- b. 2026 State of the City – Save the Date: February 10, 2026, 6:00 p.m. at LOOK Cinema

### **REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

1. **Chair Wahl:** Suggested periodic check-ups on the holiday lights while they are up. Encouraged further discussion at the Merchant Mixer regarding Route 66 Centennial support.
2. **Vice Chair Hudson:** No Report
3. **Board Member Ammon:** No Report
4. **Board Member Balsamo:** No Report
5. **Board Member Jurado:** No Report
6. **Board Member Miller:** Requested check up on parking lot lights.
7. **Board Member Spencer:** No Report

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** The next Regular Meeting of the Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Wahl adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.