

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on January 13, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Cohen, Kimmel-Dagostino, G. Davis, Kraemer, Miranda, Virobik and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Mr. Joel Massa led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man.
Rabindranath Tagore

A man may fall many times, but he won't be a failure until he says that someone pushed him.

Elmer G. Letterman

Age wrinkles the body; quitting wrinkles the soul.
Douglas MacArthur

Before I can live with other folks I've got to live with myself. The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rules is a person's conscience.
Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner G. Davis moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of January 13, 2015. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner G. Davis moved and Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of November 18, 2014, as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Joel Massa, representing the South Bay Bocce Courts Project

Senior Librarian Deleget, WALTERIA Library

Commissioner Griffith, Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA)
Chair of Health, Nutrition and Long Term Care Committee

Farah Benedict, Home Instead Senior Care

Julie Dojiri, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons

Transit Administrative Analyst Koger

Transit Administration Manager Mills

D. Transportation (Taken out of order)

Transit Administration Manager Mills presented an update on the transition to a swipe card system for the Senior Taxi service and announced that the City Council had approved the swipe card proposal on December 9. He noted that the Transit Department had been working closely with the contractor as they developed the software for the program.

Transit Administration Manager Mills distributed a sample of the informational flyer that will be mailed in February to Senior Taxi users. He explained that free transportation to various library locations throughout the City would be provided, starting in March, so that current Senior Taxis users would be able to register and enroll in the new swipe card system. He stated that the goal was to have everyone enrolled in the new system by June 30, 2015. He noted that users could retain their current tickets or have their tickets transferred to the swipe card.

Transit Administration Manager Mills reported that other cities had had good results with the swipe card system. He noted that he would return to the April Commission meeting to report on the results of the transition.

In response to question from Commissioner Virobik, Transit Administration Manager Mills stated that users could still send in their check but that now their swipe card would be automatically loaded, eliminating the wait for the paper tickets to be mailed back to the user.

Transit Administration Manager Mills reported that the rainy day tickets could be placed on the swipe cards as well. He added that if a card was lost, the card could be cancelled at the time it was reported lost and the balance left on the card would be transferred to a new card.

Transit Administration Manager Mills stated that currently credit cards would be accepted on site to place money on the swipe card; he added that online credit card use would be implemented at a later date.

Transit Administrative Analyst Koger explained how the enrollment process would work at the library locations and noted that current users would be scheduled and informed as to where and when they were able to register and that the entire process, including the picture, the swipe card and loading vouchers would be completed on the day of enrollment. She added that the enrollment process would be a complete re-enrollment process, which would allow the City to verify users' addresses, incomes and confirm and update their current database of Senior Taxis users.

9. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS (Taken out of order)

Joel Massa, a volunteer representing the South Bay Bocce Courts Project, presented information on the Project to build three tournament-sized, state of the art Bocce Courts at Columbia Park. He noted that the courts would be built to accommodate people who were challenged, physically or otherwise as well as those who were not.

Mr. Massa stated that the City Council would vote on the initiative on January 27, 2015. He added that the Park and Recreation Commission had already approved \$80,000 to build the courts and that he and fellow volunteer, Robert Choita had raised an additional \$21,500 in donations. He requested that the Commission consider attending the Council meeting on January 27 to support the Project.

Mr. Massa noted that once the courts were completed, Torrance could become part of the Bocce Federation. He distributed a letter detailing the health benefits of playing bocce. He explained that once the funding was approved and the bidding process was completed, it would

only take between two to three weeks to build the courts. He noted that the City would be responsible for the scheduling the courts and use of City equipment.

Julie Dojiri, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons, stated that she would work with Mr. Massa to schedule a time for him to make a presentation to New Horizons.

7. JOINT MEETING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL

Commissioner G. Davis distributed a copy of the Mayor Furey's signed Best Cities for Successful Aging Pledge. She noted that she had received feedback from the Commissioners on the inquiry that she had sent out asking for suggestions on topics from the pledge that could be used as agenda items at the Joint Meeting with City Council.

It was decided that the pledge item of "*improve access to transportation and mobility options for our older adults*" did not need to be part of the joint meeting agenda.

Commissioner Virobik stated that she would to see the agenda include the topics of "*make a city safe, affordable and comfortable for our older residents*" and "*provide older adults access to resources promoting health and wellness*" and include sidewalk repair on the agenda. It was agreed to include sidewalk repair and a discussion of street repair on the joint meeting agenda.

There was a discussion of the topics under "*provide older adults access to resources promoting health and wellness*" and it was noted that there were already many services throughout the City. Commissioner Kraemer reported that the libraries were beginning a series of senior health talks. Senior Librarian Deleget stated that she would bring more information on the series to the next meeting.

There was a discussion of immunization clinics, distribution of health information from public sources and whether there was a need for transportation to health fairs. Farah Benedict, Home Instead Senior Care, noted that Torrance did not have a system like the Beach Cities Health District which had case managers to guide someone through the entire spectrum of available services. She noted that her agency clients were looking for help in how to navigate the system and find out what was available to help care for their parents or spouse. Commissioner Virobik stated that her volunteers did follow up with callers to ensure that their questions had been answered and that they had been connected to the correct person or agency for their needs.

Ms. Benedict stated that she felt that an information gap existed with the issue of aging, in how to manage the process and find out what services were available and what personnel could assist in the process. She suggested that there could be a centralized person/agency within Torrance for information and services.

It was decided that the pledge items "*provide older adults access to resources promoting health and wellness*" and "*support employment, entrepreneurship, education and other services to make our older residents more financially secure*" did not need to be part of the joint meeting agenda.

Commissioner Virobik stated that housing had always been a topic for seniors. There were discussions on the mobile home subsidy that had been discontinued due to a lack of demand or participation and the possibility of increasing the number of Section 8 units available in Torrance. There was a discussion on the City rules concerning board and care facilities as well as communal homes.

There was a discussion on problems with streetlights in the City and it was noted that any problems should be reported to Southern California Edison, as they were responsible for the streetlights and not the City of Torrance.

Commissioner Kraemer requested that each Commissioner select and research a topic for 2015 for the ‘Senior Moments’ segment of the City Council meetings. She stated that she would send a list of topics to the Commissioners and asked that the Commissioners add any other topics that they felt appropriate, to the list.

It was decided that the items for the agenda for the joint meeting would be:

- Sidewalks (under Mayor’s pledge section: *Make a city safe, affordable and comfortable for our older residents.*)
- Housing: to include Section 8 (under section: *Offer housing options that suit the needs of our older population*)
- Introduction of Senior Moments segment for Council meetings.

In response to a question from Julie Dojiri, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons, Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed stated that the City Clerk had stated that it would be a conflict of interest to have a City Council member as a liaison to the Commission.

8. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that McCormick Ambulance Service had been awarded a three year contract, that the remodeling project at the Del Amo Mall was scheduled to be completed in October 2015 and that a new digital sign was to be installed near the Torrance Plunge on Torrance. She added that Katy Geissert Civic Center Library was scheduled for a lobby remodeling and that new bus benches were to be installed in the City.

She noted that the Council had stated that they were “cautiously optimistic” about the budget for 2015-2017.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the City paid for lobbying at both the federal and state level and stated that the two year federal lobbyist contract was \$216,000 and the two year state lobbyist contract was \$153,000.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino suggested that the McCormick Ambulance Service be invited to a future Commission meeting.

B. Housing

None

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik reported on an article which listed falls as the leading injury-related cause of death and of medical care use among Californians ages 65 and over. She also presented an article on the problems that arose when someone with Covered California coverage was switched to Medi-Cal because of their income level.

There was a discussion on people who had both Medi-Cal and Medicare coverage. Commissioner Miranda stated that the medical plans for seniors were improving.

Commissioner G. Davis reported on an article in the Daily Breeze by Doctor K on energy and how to create and balance your energy.

Farah Benedict, Home Instead Senior Care, announced that the California Supreme Court had issued a ruling in the case of Mendiola v. CPS Security which involved 24 hour shifts for security guards and stated that the ruling had overturned current case law related to 24 hour shifts in the state of California. She added that the ruling would make it financially unfeasible for agencies to offer 24 hour care shift with one person and noted that there would now have to be

three 8 hour shifts instead. She explained that some of her clients had opted to employ their live-in caregivers directly, instead of using an agency. She reported that, although some agencies were reporting that they would still offer 24 hour care, it was not going to be possible under the new ruling.

She stated that the ruling could put as many as 20,000 to 30,000 care givers out of work and may close as many as 30% to 40% of agencies that used the 24 hour care shift. She explained that the ruling affected the wage order and could result in lawsuits against the agencies. She stated that she would send an email with details of the ruling to Commissioner Virobik.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino suggested that Ms. Benedict might want to speak to Assemblyman David Hadley about the issue.

Ms. Benedict stated that she had home health care kits that were available for distribution and asked the Commission to suggest possible locations for the drop-offs.

D. Transportation (see above - taken out of order)

Commissioner Kraemer announced that it was the 75th anniversary of the Torrance Transit system and there would be free rides on January 28.

E. Community Programs

Commissioner G. Davis reported that the South Bay Village was doing well and there were presentations scheduled at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center on January 21, the YMCA on January 27 and a meeting with Temple Menorah on January 20.

Commissioner G. Davis noted that the South Bay Cities Council of Governments would hold their General Assembly on February 27, 2015, in Carson and added that South Bay Village would have a free exhibit booth at the event.

Chairperson K. Davis reported that the Women’s Club was having a charity rummage sale on Saturday, January 31 and donations could be dropped off on Friday, January 30. She noted that there would be food available. She added that the Women’s Club had coordinated with Beacon House for help with the event.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Successful Aging Expo would be on May 9 at the Torrance Marriot from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed stated that she would check on the date of the Torrance Senior Fair.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of:

November 2014

Total number of documented calls: 39	Total number of callbacks: 27
Miscellaneous calls: 58	Total number of walk-ins: 21
Total number of calls received: 97	
Of the documented calls:	
10.2% were for disabilities	26% were for housing
5% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of:

December 2014

Total number of documented calls: 38	Total number of callbacks: 10
Miscellaneous calls: 51	Total number of walk-ins: 9
Total number of calls received: 89	
Of the documented calls:	
10.5% were for transportation	53% were for housing
13.1% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik stated that Focal Point had had a table at the Seniors, Don't be Scammed presentation. She noted that the new computer had been installed at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center and a schedule of use was being designed.

Chairperson K. Davis reported that the wi-fi at Focal Point was very useful.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Cohen reported that 1099 form from Social Security had a phone number and a website method for reporting fraud and identity theft. He noted that the form also offered an elder care locator service sponsored by the U.S. Administration on Aging and Medicare information.

9. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS (see above for items taken out of order)

Commissioner Griffith announced that she would be the public hearing officer on January 16, 2015, at the Wilmington Senior Center for a presentation from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm., on County program offerings for seniors.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that there was a Supreme Court case pending on the question of redistricting by citizens' advisory panels. She noted that if the Court ruled that the redistricting by citizens' advisory panels was not legal, it would invalidate any redistricting that had been done by a panel.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:30 a.m., Commissioner G. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting to the joint meeting with the City Council on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., City Hall, West Annex Commission Room. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cohen and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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Approved as submitted February 10, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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