

January 14, 2014

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on January 14, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

Chairperson K. Davis thanked Commissioner Craft for his service to the Commission.

Commissioner Craft thanked all of the Commission for their good wishes.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Craft, Kimmel-Dagostino, G. Davis, Kraemer and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: Commissioners Robelotto and Virobik

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved to approve the excused absences of Commissioners Robelotto and Virobik; motion was seconded by Commissioner G. Davis. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioners Robelotto and Virobik)

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Craft led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations via email:

The world is a dangerous place to live, not because other people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it.

Albert Einstein

Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go.

Oscar Wilde

The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.

Dolly Parton

When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible, but in the end, they always fail - think of it, ALWAYS.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of January 14, 2014. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioners Robelotto and Virobik)

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of November 12, 2013, as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioners Robelotto and Virobik)

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Pat Artman, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons

Patrice Deleget, Senior Librarian

7. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that a market study conducted to consider a possible boutique hotel and conference center in the City had concluded that Torrance did not have enough name recognition outside of the City and local area to attract conferences.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the Dial-a-Ride and Senior Taxi service contracts had been approved for another two years.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that Councilwoman Heidi Ashcraft had been appointed and that Councilman Numark had resigned his seat.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that there had been a discussion at the Council concerning a board and care facility in Marble Estates. She added that such facilities were controlled by the state and not by the City.

There was a discussion of residential care facilities in the City. Commissioner Kraemer stated that she would investigate the facilities further to gather information

There was a discussion on the salaries increases for police and fire officials.

There was a discussion on neighborhood houses that had trash or other debris in the yard or were poorly kept up. Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino suggested that the Police Department Communities Affairs Division be called to look into the situation.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that she had asked a question at the Council meeting as to whether the app created for Discover Torrance was being utilized. She noted that she had received feedback from Discover Torrance that the app was being used.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the sports fields were being prepared now for the AYSO conference in July.

B. Housing

Commissioner Kraemer noted that there had been a mention of the Village concept in Helen Dennis' column in the Daily Breeze.

Commissioner G. Davis stated that she and Commissioner Virobik would continue working on the Senior Outreach project. Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated her hope that the new incoming Commissioners would be interested in joining the project committee.

There was a discussion as to whether a Village concept project could work in Torrance. It was decided to talk more on the topic at the next meeting with Commissioner Virobik present.

C. Health

Chairperson K. Davis presented information on an article in Healthy Living magazine by Dr. Joanne Foody from Brigham and Women's Hospital on the signs and symptoms of a heart attack.

There was a discussion of heart attacks and prevention methods.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that she had a concern regarding the impact of the Affordable Care Act/Covered California on insurance coverage and discussed her experience in scheduling an appointment.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that at the Council meeting on January 28, the Transit Department would be asking to authorize the City Manager to submit on behalf of the Transit System's Fiscal year 2013-2014, grant applications in the amount of \$7,460,000, which would be used for preventive maintenance, remodeling, above ground tanks, replacement buses and bus tires. She added that the funds were Federal funds and that no City general funds would be used for the projects.

Commissioner G. Davis reported that she had had some problems with the Senior Tax service website.

There was a discussion of the introduction of the swipe card system for the Senior Tax service and the instructions needed to use the taxi system.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the remodel of the Tillim Senior Citizens Center will include new computers and that she had arranged to have someone from the Chamber of Commerce teach a computer skills class for seniors.

Community Programs

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that she had spoken to Police Chief Neu concerning the two hour parking limits in downtown Torrance and noted that he had stated that if there was a special event at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center, the Police Department could be notified in advance and the parking limits could be temporarily waived.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that the AARP Tax-Aide for Seniors Program would start on February 3 and run through April 15, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Police Community Center at 1215 El Prado Avenue. She added that there was no appointment necessary.

F. Focal Point Program

Chairperson K. Davis stated that it had been quiet at Focal Point during the holidays.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that since the Focal Point directory had become available online, it was much easier for everyone to access it, which had led to a reduction in the number of phone calls to Focal Point for information.

Senior Librarian Deleget added that she often referred library patrons to Focal Point for further information.

Commissioner G. Davis stated that she hoped that Focal Point could be a hub for the Senior Outreach program and the Village concept.

It was noted that there was no internet at Focal Point and that there was no mechanism to direct online questions to Focal Point.

There was discussion regarding a senior parking pass for Los Angeles County beaches.

It was decided to further discuss the issues involved with starting an outreach program next month under the Senior Outreach item.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

There was a discussion on phone calls scams on house repairs and phony contests.

There was a discussion on hiding email addresses by using bcc when sending group emails.

8. SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

None

9. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson K. Davis announced that the Women's Club made \$3000 at their January 4 rummage sale and noted that the ad in the Daily Breeze had helped to make the event a success.

Chairperson K. Davis reminded the Commissioners that it was time to begin the search for nominees for the Older Americans Award. Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand added that it was helpful when submitting a nominee's name to include a short bio and the nominee's contact information.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that two new Commission members could be appointed at the January 28 Council meeting. She added that January 22 was the deadline to apply and that currently there was only one applicant. She requested that the Commissioners try to encourage others to apply.

Commissioners Kraemer announced that she and Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino would be attending the Chamber of Commerce's Torrance Police Department Award and Appreciation Luncheon on January 30 at the Torrance Marriot.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that there were sponsorships levels available to support the new Sports Complex.

Commissioner Craft thanked all the Commissioners and stated that he had enjoyed his time with the Commission and hoped that they all had accomplished something worthwhile for the citizens of Torrance.

Senior Librarian Deleget announced that Evan Coates, South East Library and Cynthia Aguado, Katy Geissert Civic Center Library have been promoted to Senior Librarians. She noted that the Library had also added a Teen Tech-Xpert program to help adults use tech devices.

Senior Librarian Deleget stated that she had received all ten of the Brain Booster kits which included: Automobiles, Fashion, Fun and Games, 1960s, Music, Pets, Work Life, School Days, Birthdays and the 1950s. She added that she would schedule the presentation of the kits at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Senior Librarian Deleget noted that the library had obtained a grant to present a story hour program to children with developmental disabilities.

Pat Artman stated that New Horizons had Board elections coming up and would be electing eight members.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that the Youth Program would be hosting a Talent Show at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center, January 27 at 11:30 a.m.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand thanked Commissioner Craft for his service to the Commission and to the City.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

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