

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on February 14, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

**ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE**

Present: Commissioners Craft, Davis, Kraemer, Virobik, and Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: Commissioners Draper, Robelotto

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

**MOTION:** Commissioner Craft moved to approve the excused absences of Commissioners Draper and Robelotto; motion was seconded by Commissioner Virobik. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners Draper and Robelotto)

**FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL**

Commissioner Davis provided the following inspiration:

*Be yourself, everyone else is taken.*  
Oscar Wilde

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

*One may have good eyes and yet see nothing.*  
Italian Proverb

*You can't have faith without doubts and you can't have doubts without faith.*  
John Olson and Randall Ingermanson

**ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of February 14, 2012. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners Draper and Robelotto)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Craft stated that on page 4, the second paragraph under Orals/Announcements, should read, "Commissioner Craft would not be at the March meeting."

Commissioner Virobik stated that on page 2, the second paragraph needed to be changed to read, "Councilwoman Rhilinger had followed up on a request from Commissioner Virobik".

**MOTION:** Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to approve the minutes, as amended, of the Commission on Aging meeting of January 10, 2011. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners Draper and Robelotto)

Commissioner Virobik noted that the drug discount cards through the National League of Cities were available at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Dr. Bonnie Shannon, Educational Consultant and Crisis Intervention

Farrah Benedict, Home Instead

Britt Huff, Executive Director, H.E.L.P.

Former Commissioner Griffith, LACCOA

### **SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS**

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino suggested that now that there were seven Commissioners, with the addition of Commissioner Davis, it might be a good time to reexamine the assignment of the topics under Senior Citizens Concerns.

It was decided to discuss the assignments at the March meeting, when more Commissioners would be present.

#### **A. City Council Activities**

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Council had appointed the new and returning members to Commissions, presented the new Citizens of the Year awards and awarded the Jared Sidney Torrance honor to Janet Payne.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the increase in sanitation fees for green pickup was now in effect and that residents' fee would be determined based on the size of the container that the resident selected. She reported that some residents did not like the fact that the increase was tied to the CPI for the next five years. She noted that the date that the service would begin was dependent on when the truck would be available.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Senior Housing project at Del Amo was returned to the Planning Commission, as the developer had not found an operator for the building and the City would not approve the project without an operator.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that there was a block grant to repair sidewalks in the City.

In response to a question from Commissioner Virobik, Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that due to the lack of redevelopment funds, the housing project on Cabrillo would likely not go forward.

There was a discussion of the senior housing project on Del Amo.

Commissioner noted that the City of Los Angeles was providing buses to transport seniors to senior centers in the city.

Commissioner Kramer noted that the owners of the Del Amo Mall had announced that meetings would begin on proposals for the mall. She added that the first meeting with City Council would take place on February 28 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall and would be televised.

## **B. Housing**

Commissioner Virobik stated that there were now some vacancies available in senior properties, but that most were not subsidized, with rents of \$1400. She added that there was one property that had three subsidized vacancies.

## **C. Health**

Commissioner Virobik reported on an article on a pilot program for teaching skills for the care of the elderly and presented information on a report concerning the ongoing problem of over medication and misuse of antipsychotic drugs in nursing homes.

Former Commissioner Griffith distributed a list of topics that could be found on the California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR) website: [www.canhr.org](http://www.canhr.org) She noted that the website also published a list of nursing home facilities that had received violation citations and fines.

Commissioner Virobik stated that the CANHR could make referrals for lawyers.

Former Commissioner Griffith announced that Good Samaritan Hospital would offer a program on women's health on March 3 for \$25, with lectures on healthy aging and Alzheimer's disease.

Former Commissioner Griffith noted that a LACCOA committee report on planning had stated that because of a provider shortage, specific regions were being offered the use of a nurse practitioner or physician assistant in place of a doctor.

Former Commissioner Griffith stated that due to the closure of the senior daycare facilities, many of the patients were being switched from Medicare to Medi-cal.

There was a discussion of managed care, Medicare billing and electronic medical records.

Former Commissioner Griffith stated that she had heard that Alta Med might take over the medical care for the senior daycare facilities that were due to close. She noted that she would keep the Commission informed, if she had further information.

## **D. Transportation**

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that a decision had not yet been made concerning the Max bus lines.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that there would be two public hearings on changes to the Line 3 bus: the first, at 7:00 p.m. on February 23 in Torrance at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library and the second, in Carson Civic Center on March 1 at 7:00 p.m.

## **E. Community Programs**

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library on February 21 at 10:00 a.m., there would be a scam prevention lecture and information on the AARP tax aid program.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported that the tax aid program was going well and that the location change had presented few problems.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that H.E.L.P. was sponsoring 2 lectures at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, both at 10:00 a.m.: on February 17 for wills, trusts and probate avoiders and on February 24, for elder care choices and options.

In response to a question from Former Commissioner Griffith, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the Senior Centers were not equipped to be overnight shelters in the event of a power outage or a disaster. She noted that the Recreation Center was a designated shelter in the event of a disaster.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that CERT would conduct a disaster drill at the Bartlett Senior Center on June 14 at 6:45 p.m.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that on February 24 the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, along with other agency representatives, would hold a meeting in Carson, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., on preventing disasters and planning for recovery. She noted that the meeting was open to elected officials, their staff and city commissioners.

In response to a question from Farrah Benedict, Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the Torrance City website, in the police section, offered information on the neighborhood watch and “map your neighborhood” programs.

There was a discussion of the CERT and the DSV programs in the City.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the Torrance Fire Department would hold their annual spaghetti dinner on March 10 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the recent Torrance tours had fewer registrants than previous tours and that the tour to the Bowers Museum had to be cancelled. She noted that she had received some complaints regarding the fee increase, mostly from non residents, as they had to pay both the general increase, as well as the non-resident fee. She stated that there had been discussion to change the non-resident fee increase from a uniform \$20 per item to a percentage of the fee.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would verify that Former Commissioner Griffith was on the membership list to receive the Senior newsletter.

**F. Focal Point Program**

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

**January 2012**

Total number of documented calls: 42	Total number of callbacks: 23
Miscellaneous calls: 91	Total number of walk-ins: 27
Total number of calls received: 133	

Of the documented calls:

14.2% were in regard to transportation	36% were for housing
43% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik reported that in January, Focal Point gave one presentation at a local church.

**G. Elder Abuse/Fraud**

Commissioner Virobik reported on a phone scam.

**OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION**

Former Commissioner Griffith stated that LACCOA recognition program was tentatively scheduled for May 31 at the Hall of Administration.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino distributed information on three candidates for Older Americans Recognition.

Farrah Benedict stated that Home Instead was sponsoring a "Salute to Senior Services" and was accepting nominations of volunteers. She noted that the regional winner would have \$5000 donated in their name to a charity of their choice.

It was decided to bring any additional candidate names to the next meeting and vote on all candidates at that time.

### **ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Virobik requested that the Planning Commission meeting minutes be emailed to the Commissioners rather than sent through the mail. Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would make the request for the change.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand requested that the Commissioners check their contact information on the Commission roster sheet and inform her of any changes or corrections.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Commission on Aging had received a certificate of recognition from the Kiwanis Club on February 2.

Commissioner Davis noted that the Women's Club Valentine tea was very successful.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that there would be programs on the history of Torrance at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library on February 11 and February 18.

Former Commissioner Griffith noted that the Valentine Tea would be featured on channel 3 on February 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Farrah Benedict stated that she would bring the information on the "Salute to Senior Services" to the March meeting.

Britt Huff of H.E.L.P. distributed information on upcoming classes and noted that their annual fundraiser would be on June 22 at the Trump Golf Club. She stated that H.E.L.P. would welcome any assistance with the gala.

Commissioner Craft noted that the Torrance Chamber of Commerce luncheon for Black History Month would be in February at the Marriot Hotel.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Submitted March 13, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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