

March 10, 2015

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on March 10, 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, G. Davis, Kimmel-Dagostino, Kraemer, Miranda, Virobik and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.

Harper Lee, "To Kill a Mocking Bird" / Miss Maudie

Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change.

Stephan Hawking

Wolves don't lose sleep over the opinions of sheep.

Old English Proverb

The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook.

William James

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved and Commissioner Cohen seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of March 10, 2015. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meetings of January 27, 2015 and February 10, 2015, as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dawnesha Smith, Community Outreach Manager, County of Los Angeles, Department of Consumer Affairs

Julie Dojiri, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons

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

Senior Librarian Coates, South East Library

7. DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Dawnesha Smith, Community Outreach Manager, distributed brochures describing the services available from the County of Los Angeles, Department of Consumer and Business Affairs. She noted that the department's mission was to create a fair and vibrant marketplace in the County for consumers and businesses. She explained that the department served consumers, businesses and communities through education, advocacy and complaint resolution.

Ms. Smith reported that consumers could report to the department if they felt that they had been the victim of fraud, had a complaint or had a question about their rights as a consumer. She explained that the Department had free services to: help to answer questions, counsel consumers, investigate complaints, offer small claims court advice and mediate disputes. She added that the Department also offered consumer education and public outreach to the community.

She noted that each report or claim that was filed was assigned to an investigator and that investigator would follow up on the claim and keep the person who filed the report/claim informed on the status of the claim.

In response to a question from Chairperson K. Davis, Ms. Smith stated that all the staff was cross trained on elder financial abuse so that any of the staff would be able to assist with senior concerns and issues.

She stated that currently there was no satellite office in the South Bay.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Virobik, Ms. Smith noted that the mediators could come to Torrance area and conduct a meeting in a County Library. Ms. Smith added that not all counties offered these types of consumer services.

There was a discussion on the ways in which the Adult Protective Services and the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs differed and the way in which they could cross report and work together.

Ms. Smith described some typical scams involving seniors: telemarketing fraud, the grandchild scam and an IRS phone scam. She detailed an elder real estate financial abuse case involving an individual who had been in the hospital. She encouraged the Commissioners to set up third party notifications so that a designated person would receive a notice if a particular bill had gone unpaid. She stated that a third party notification for property taxes could be set up at the Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC) by calling 213-974-2111 or through their website.

There was a discussion of third party notifications.

Commissioner Miranda suggested that Ms. Smith attend the "Seniors, Don't be Scammed" seminar on March 25 at the Katy Geissert Library Civic Center Library.

Ms Smith distributed a brochure on how to freeze your credit report to avoid identity theft and noted that the service was free for those over the age of 65.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cohen, Ms. Smith stated that a complaint could be placed by phone, letter or email and that the person who placed the complaint would hear back from the Department by phone within a week or two. She noted that the time to find a solution would vary, depending on the nature of the problem.

Ms. Smith stated that the Department could present talks on: tenant rights, real estate fraud, elder financial abuse, common consumer scams, as well as a range of issues for teenagers, such as how to rent an apartment or obtain a credit card.

8. OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION

Commissioner Griffith stated that the Los Angeles County Recognition Luncheon for the Older Americans would be held on May 7, 2015.

Chairperson K. Davis stated that there were three nominations for Older Americans Recognition: Betty Herbst, Kathryn Endo-Roberts and Commissioner G. Davis.

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved and Commissioner Cohen seconded, to nominate Commissioner G. Davis for both the Los Angeles County Older Americans Recognition and the City of Torrance Recognition and to nominate Betty Herbst and Kathryn Endo-Roberts for City of Torrance Recognition. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

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

Noes: None

Abstain: Commissioner G. Davis

Absent: None

Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed stated that she did not know the limit on the number of guests allowed at the County Recognition Luncheon.

Commissioner Griffith noted that Don Knabe was the only County Supervisor who paid for the recipient to come to a separate recognition ceremony for his district.

9. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Council had reviewed the five year capital budget (2013-2018), which was a no growth budget and had stated that they were cautiously optimistic about the budget. She noted that the Council had stated that there would be a windfall to the budget in the next few months of \$9.8 million because of a land exchange with Rolling Hills Estates.

Commissioner Kramer reported that the Armstrong Theater was in need of upgrading to bring it up to present day standards.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that representatives for the AMC Theaters on Carson Street went before the Council to request permission to serve alcoholic beverages. She noted that the Council had requested that AMC Theaters consider serving alcohol in a limited number of theaters, not in all. Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that she had suggested to the AMC Theater representative that AMC consider selecting the AMC theaters on Crenshaw Boulevard in the Cross Roads Shopping Center instead of the AMC on Carson Street in the Del Amo Mall.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that residents must opt in for the new Torrance Alerts system, by signing up on line.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that there was a living tree dedication program available in the City Parks through the Community Services Department.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that there had been much discussion at Council regarding an ordinance to allow chickens or bees in backyards in Torrance.

In response to a question from Commissioner Virobik, Commissioner Kraemer stated that the Council often had discussions regarding the Hillside Overlay.

B. Housing

None

C. Health

Commissioner Griffith noted that bee allergies would need to be taken into account in the discussion of allowing beekeeping in Torrance.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that Transit Administration Manager Mills had stated that a notice regarding the Senior and Disabled taxi swipe card had been mailed to all program participants and the re-registration process would begin soon and be completed by June 30, 2015. Transit Administration Manager Mills had noted that he would attend the April Commission on Aging meeting to provide an update on the swipe card implementation.

E. Community Programs

Chairperson K. Davis noted that Commissioner G. Davis, along with five others, would receive an award for their work on the South Bay Village at the Kiwanis luncheon on March 18, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reminded the Commission that the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation would be at the Ken Miller Recreation Center on March 14 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

There was a discussion of the movie, Still Alice, and early onset Alzheimer's.

It was decided to ask Freddie Dominguez, from South Bay Village and McCormick Ambulance to make presentations at future Commission meetings.

There was a discussion of ambulance service.

F. Focal Point Program

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

February 2015

Total number of documented calls: 48	Total number of callbacks: 16
Miscellaneous calls: 65	Total number of walk-ins: 39
Total number of calls received: 113	

Of the documented calls:

29% were for transportation	46% were for housing
19% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik noted that the costs for in home services had risen. She noted that Focal Point had received four phone calls on elder abuse; three were for financial abuse.

There was a discussion of Bet Tzedek, who provided free legal services.

There was a discussion of in home health service coverage, Cal Medi Connect, available for seniors who have both Medi-cal and Medicare coverage. It was decided to ask Cal Medi Connect to make a presentation at a future Commission meeting. Commissioner Miranda stated that further information on the coverage could be found at: www.calduals.org

There was a discussion on topics to present for Senior Moments: Senior Prom, tax assistance for a simple tax return, fraud prevention seminar, Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.

It was suggested that the Council members could be asked to make announcements on behalf of the Commission.

There was a discussion of the schedule for the City's Commissioner training sessions.

Chairperson K. Davis stated that she would be the Commission representative to help select candidates for the Youth Council's program, *Beat the Odds*.

The Commission thanked Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed for her commitment to the Youth Council and the *Beat the Odds* program.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Covered under Department of Consumer Affairs.

10. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Virobik reported that on 9:30 a.m. on May 15, Focal Point on Aging would have a speaker from the County Office of Consumers Affairs to speak on consumer protection, dispute settlements and identity theft. She stated that she and Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed would check to see if the presentation could be open to the public and if other presentations that were made to Focal Point staff needed to be open to the public.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that she had attended Congressman Ted Lieu's swearing in ceremony and noted that Congressman Lieu had requested that the Torrance Fire Department Honor Guard perform the presentation of the flag at the ceremony. She added that twelve people from Torrance had been in attendance.

Commissioner G. Davis stated that she and other members of South Bay Village had attended the South Bay Cities Council of Governments meeting. She added that there had been excellent presentations and panels. She noted that an interview about South Bay Village would be presented on City Cable.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that redistricting duties might be sent back to the state legislature instead of being allowed to be drawn by citizens committees. She noted that the current districts would have to be redrawn.

Commissioners G. Davis and Kimmel-Dagostino stated that they would attend the Torrance Chamber of Commerce *State of the State* meeting on April 2. Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that she would also attend the Chamber's Government Affairs Program meeting on March 11.

Senior Librarian Coates announced that Healthcare and Elder Law Programs Corporation (H.E.L.P.) would be presenting programs on financial planning for long term care at the South East Library and the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library. He added the GET program was continuing and there will be new programs in April as well as a Healthy Family Field Day - Health Expo at Wilson Park on May 9 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. He reported that there was a new Brain Booster kit on seniors of the 60's.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:24 a.m., Commissioner Miranda moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cohen and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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Approved as amended April 4, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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