

March 11, 2014

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on March 11, 2014 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 Wand

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Miranda led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspiration:

My responsibility is getting all my players playing for the name on the front of the jersey, not the one on the back.

Unknown

It's what you learn after you know it all that counts.

John Wooden

You can't turn back the clock, but you can wind it up again.

Bonnie Prudden

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of March 11, 2014. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kraemer requested that the first sentence in the last paragraph under City Council Activities be changed to read: Commissioner Kraemer noted that Police Chief Neu had ~~resigned~~ retired and that new Commissioners had been appointed.

Commissioner Virobik requested that the second paragraph under Housing be changed to read: Commissioner Virobik reported that life alert systems ~~would soon have~~ had the ability to extend coverage to travel outside of the home.

MOTION: Commissioner Cohen moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of February 11, 2014, as amended. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Commissioner Griffith, Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA)

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center

Pat Artman, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons

Julie Dojiri, resident at South Bay New Horizons

7. PRESENTATION: How 911 Emergency Calls are Handled

Chairperson K. Davis stated that the 911 presentation had been postponed and needed to be rescheduled for a future time.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that a representative from a City of Gardena senior housing project and the project developer had requested to present information on the project to the Commission at the April meeting. She added that she had requested that they also contact Focal Point on Aging.

It was decided to reschedule the presentation by the Fire Department to the May meeting. Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that she would follow up with the Fire Department.

8. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the dedication of the new sports fields on Maple Avenue would be on March 26, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. She noted that the fields had already been completely reserved.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the next Commissioner training would be held on April 24 and that anyone interested should contact the City Clerk's office.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the first candidate forum was on March 27.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that there had been a presentation on the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) pension rates and obligations and noted that the presentation was available online.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that construction work was scheduled to begin on Crenshaw Boulevard between 180th Street and 190th Street.

Commissioner Kraemer added that the Mayor had directed staff to investigate access to wi-fi for Focal Point on Aging and the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

B. Housing

None

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik reported on articles on an Errand Volunteer Program run through the Beach Cities Health District in Redondo Beach. She also reported on an article concerning a Department of Public Health audit that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors ordered after a news report revealed that many nursing homes inspectors were told to close cases without fully investigating them.

There was a discussion of the article and the conditions in nursing homes and the effect of budget cuts on services.

Commissioner Griffith distributed a list of proposed Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) bills that were now under consideration in the State Legislature. She encouraged Commissioners to contact their legislators.

There was a discussion of churches or teens adopting nursing homes to help supervise each home and interact with the residents.

Chairperson K. Davis discussed an article from the AARP magazine regarding a possible change in the acceptable range for blood pressure readings.

Commissioner Virobik stated that she would give Vicki Hershberger the contact information for Love, Inc.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the Transit Department was in the process of purchasing an additional 14 to 18 compressed natural gas buses and noted that Transit Administration Manager Mills and Transit Director Turner were currently in Washington, DC.

E. Community Programs

Chairperson K. Davis announced that the ATTIC program would be sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast on April 5 at 2320 West Carson Street, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and the breakfast cost was \$ 5.00 per person.

There was a discussion of the adult education programs in Torrance. Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that there was now an ad hoc committee seeking to preserve the Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SCROC).

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported that the renovation of the Herma Tillim Senior Citizens Center and McMaster Park was behind schedule. Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that when the renovation was completed, there would be computers for seniors' use in the center.

Chairperson K. Davis reported that Debra Reed at "Beat the Odds" program had requested that interested Commissioners apply to be on the scholarship committee and noted that the first meeting was on April 3 at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Cohen stated that he would attend the meeting and Commissioner G. Davis stated that she would be an alternate, if needed.

Commissioner Cohen noted that there was a program at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library for one on one computer training and that the local Apple and Mac Malls stores offered training on Apple products.

Chairperson K. Davis reminded the Commissioners to send their RSVPS for the Torrance Advantage Awards on March 20 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Torrance Airport.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino presented the certificate of recognition for Community Service that the Commission had received from the Kiwanis Club. She noted that she and Commissioner G. Davis attended the award presentation.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that the Torrance Travelers tours sign up had been successful, except that the Santa Barbara Orchid Festival had been cancelled due to insufficient signups.

F. Focal Point Program

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

February 2014

Total number of documented calls: 17	Total number of callbacks: 24
Miscellaneous calls: 67	Total number of walk-ins: 15
Total number of calls received: 84	

Of the documented calls:

53% were for transportation	53% were for housing
18% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik reported that Focal Point was in the process of updating the directory for publication in May/June.

Commissioner Virobik announced that South Bay Senior Services was closing on March 15, due to lack of funding from the County. She added that the agency had provided services to keep seniors in their home. She stated that she thought that some of the seniors had been transferred or would be transferred to Independence at Home, a Long Beach agency, but added that the agency had a long waiting list.

Commissioner Virobik stated that many of the calls about transportation were questions about how to sign up for the senior taxi services or the dial a ride program.

There was a discussion on the senior taxi service, dial-a-ride programs and the Advantage program and the way in which to register and use the programs.

Chairperson K. Davis announced that a senior parking pass could be obtained through the Department of Beaches and Harbors.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that she would talk to the Transit Department to determine if a satellite center could be set up to register seniors for the taxi services at a local senior center.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Kraemer noted that there was a *Seniors, Don't be Scammed* program at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library 10:00 a.m. on March 25.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that there would be an Operation Outlook program on April 5 to explain the "See Something, Say Something" Police Department Program and inform neighborhoods about residential burglaries in the area.

There was a discussion of the increase in burglaries in Torrance.

9. SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

Commissioner G. Davis stated that she and Commissioner Virobik had been working with Executive Director Kitabayashi of the Westchester Playa Village and had discussed becoming a part of their program. She added that if the Torrance program was under the Westchester Playa Village umbrella, then the Westchester program would provide the coverage for legal concerns and liability issues.

Commissioner G. Davis stated that she and Commissioner Virobik envisioned that the South Bay program could join together local senior centers and churches under one program

that could offer a vary of services for seniors. She added that a taxi company could also be included as part of the program.

Commissioner G. Davis reported that she would attend a meeting on March 24 at 10:00 a.m. with Commissioner Virobik, Executive Director Kitabayashi and Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand to further discuss the issues involved.

There was a discussion on the types of screening for the volunteers needed for the program.

Commissioner Virobik suggested that computers be made available in the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center for seniors to use, with a group of volunteers available to train the users. She added that the computers would also generate interest and attendance for other programs in the center.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would investigate the possibility of obtaining used computers from the City.

10. OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION

Chairperson K. Davis stated that May was Older Americans month and that all nominees approved by the Commission would be recognized at a City Council meeting on the second Tuesday in May and that one of the nominees would be selected to also receive Los Angeles County recognition.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the County ceremony would be on May 8.

Commissioner Cohen distributed information on his nominee: Harriet Apsel

There was a discussion of the all the nominees that had been presented.

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved and Commissioner Cohen seconded, to approve the nominations of Robert J. Chiota, Frances Glauber and Harriet Apsel for the Older Americans Recognition by the City of Torrance. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to approve the nomination of Robert J. Chiota for the Older Americans Recognition by the County of Los Angeles on May 8. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would send announcement letters to Chairperson K. Davis for signing and mailing to the nominees.

11. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

In response to a question from Commissioner Cohen, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the sink that had been removed from the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center would be replaced.

Chairperson K. Davis reported that the Woman's Club had an ongoing collection for clothing and suitcases for foster children.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the Fire Department spaghetti dinner was a great success.

Vickie Hershberger from Torrance Memorial Medical Center stated that she would now be attending the Commission meeting once a quarter. She reported that the Advantage membership newsletter and the Torrance Hospital IPA (THIPA) membership letter had been merged to triple the number of recipients and increase the number of articles. She noted that on

April 3 there would be the first in a series of free lectures, the first was by John Pierre on “Pillars of Health” and she added that to register, one needed to call 310-517-4711.

Vickie Hershberger announced that on July 29, Doctor Wes Youngberg would speak on diabetes and October 30, Doctor Tierona Lowdog would speak on “Life is Your Best Medicine”.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the Torrance Memorial Foundation members had praised Vickie Hershberger to Leadership Torrance.

Pat Artman, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons stated that the election for new board members was today.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reminded the Commission that their forms 700 were due in the City Clerk’s office by April 1.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

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Approved as submitted April 8, 2014 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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