

March 13, 2012

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on March 13, 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 Davis, Kraemer, Virobik, and Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: Commissioners Craft, Draper, Robelotto

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

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

FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Virobik led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

Each snowflake in an avalanche pleads not guilty.
Stanislaw J. Lec

There are only 3 colors, 10 digits and 7 notes; it's what we do with them that's important
Jim Rohn

People who are wrapped up in themselves make very small packages.
Unknown

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of March 13, 2012. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners Craft, Draper and Robelotto)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of February 14, 2012. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners Craft, Draper and Robelotto)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Farrah Benedict, Home Instead

Ardis Shubin, Community Services Specialist, H.E.L.P.

Former Commissioner Griffith, LACCOA

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

There was a discussion of the assignment of topics under Seniors Citizens Concerns. Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that Commissioners Craft and Robelotto had replied by email and stated that they would continue with their assigned topics of Elder Abuse/Fraud and Housing.

The topics were assigned as follows:

- **City Council Activities:** Commissioner Kraemer (continuing)
- **Housing:** Commissioners Draper and Robelotto (continuing)
- **Health:** Commissioner Davis
- **Transportation:** Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino (continuing)
- **Community Programs:** All
- **Focal Point Program:** Commissioner Virobik (continuing)
- **Elder Abuse/Fraud:** Commissioner Craft (continuing)

It was decided that anyone who was interested could contribute an inspirational.

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Simon Property Group of the Del Amo Mall had made a presentation of their renovation plans for the mall to the City Council.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that Councilmember Rhilinger praised Commissioner Virobik and the Commissions for their work in helping to provide a prescription drug discount card to Torrance.

Commissioner Virobik and Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that the drug discount cards were available at Focal Point, City Hall and the Senior Citizen Centers.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that Harvey Horwich was recognized for his 32 years of service to the City.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the information on the prescription drug card was on the City website, along with a list of participating stores.

There was a discussion of the available discount for the drug card. Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that she would contact Hope Witkowsky and ask her to add information about the drug discount card to her Senior Scene program.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported that Councilman Numark had presented information at the South Bay Council of City Governments meeting regarding disaster plans and emergency supplies.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that police officers from Disaster Preparedness would attend the May Commission meeting to talk about the City's disaster plan, including the plan for seniors and the "map your neighborhood" program.

There was a discussion of the disaster plans that were in place at the local hospitals.

B. Housing

None

C. Health

Commissioner Davis reported on articles on Brain Health, the AARP's 10 tips on a healthy brain and job opportunities for seniors.

Commissioner Kraemer reported on an article on improving care of the elderly in the hospital, to ensure that the patient's health did not decline during their hospital stay.

Commissioner Virobik discussed an article detailing the website, GoodRx, that made it easy to compare prices for prescription drugs.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported on a study that concluded that statins increased the likelihood of diabetes.

D. Transportation

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that Torrance decided to continue the Max route until June 2013.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Transit Department was attempting to make the Line 3 route more efficient by rescheduling the time between buses.

E. Community Programs

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported that the increase in the fees for the Torrance Tours had a major impact on signups for the tours and that each tour was currently only half full and might have to be cancelled.

There was a discussion of the adverse effect on attendance from the increased fee, which now had to include indirect costs as well as direct costs.

In response to a question from Farrah Benedict, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that anyone who wished to speak about the fee increase could come before the Commission on Aging to register their concerns and comments.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that there would be City budget meetings on May 8 and 15.

It was decided to draft a letter to the City Council from the Commission to express their concern on the increased tour fees and the effect of the increase on seniors.

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, that the Commission on Aging write a letter now, and a follow up reminder letter later, to the City Council expressing their concern with the fee increase in the tours and its effect on seniors. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners Craft, Draper and Robelotto)

It was decided to email the draft of the letter to the members of the Commission for comments and suggestions, and have the final version of the letter ready for signatures at the April meeting.

Commissioner Davis reported that the Woman's Club was unable to fill a table for the H.E.L.P. fundraising event, but she added that the Club could provide volunteers for the event.

Commissioner Davis noted that the Woman's Club would be assisting the Redondo Beach Woman's Club with a baby shower to benefit foster care infants.

Commissioner added that the Woman's Club Fashion Show would be held at the Toyota Automotive Museum on April 14, that the tickets were \$40, and stated that the event sponsored scholarships for local area high schools and 2 nursing scholarships at El Camino College.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino distributed an article regarding the Kiwanis Club award to the Commission.

F. Focal Point Program

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

February 2012

Total number of documented calls: 29	Total number of callbacks: 13
Miscellaneous calls: 83	Total number of walk-ins: 16
Total number of calls received: 112	

Of the documented calls:

31% were in regard to transportation	24% were for housing
21% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik reported that in February, Focal Point gave a presentation to a Homeowners Association and had set up a table at the Police Department fraud series, "Don't Be Scammed" at the library.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Former Commissioner Griffith reported on a phone scam.

There was a discussion on email frauds.

Commissioner Davis reported on an article on reverse mortgage scams.

Farrah Benedict reported on roofing repair scam.

OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION

Former Commissioner Griffith stated that LACCOA recognition program was scheduled for May 30 at the Hall of Administration.

There was a discussion of the candidates.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that there could be up to 7 candidates chosen for the City Council's recognition on May 8 and one candidate selected from that group for the County recognition on May 30.

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Davis seconded; that all 3 candidates: Marcy Taguchi, Edith Stieglitz and Hope Witkowsky be recognized by the City Council for an Older American Recognition award. The motion was passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners Craft, Draper and Robelotto)

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Davis seconded, that Hope Witkowsky be recognized by the Los Angeles County for the Older American Recognition award. The motion was passed by a roll call vote.

- Ayes: Commissioners Davis, Kraemer, Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino
- Noes: Commissioner Virobik
- Abstain: None
- Absent: Commissioners Craft, Draper and Robelotto

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand requested that Commissioner Virobik provide her with a short write-up describing Edith Stieglitz that the City Council could use when presenting her with the award.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the Successful Aging Program will be on May 12.

Commissioner Davis reported that she had met Dr. Marion Somers who had written "Elder Care Made Easier", and invited her to attend a Commission meeting.

Former Commissioner Griffith suggested that the Commission contact the Simon Group at the mall to ask to be part of the public discussions on the redesign of the mall.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that the 2nd Annual Senior Prom would be April 13 at 12:30 p.m. at the Ken Miller Recreational Center and that volunteers were always needed.

Ardis Shubin, H.E.L.P., stated that she had attended a legal clinic in South Central Los Angeles with pro bono lawyers available for consultation. Ms. Shubin reported that the H.E.L.P. class series would begin in March at the North Redondo Beach library and that the 6 part class series would begin at the main Redondo Beach Library in April.

Farrah Benedict stated that Home Instead was conducting a "Salute to Senior Services" and the winner would have a \$500 donation made to their charity of choice. She also distributed information on a fundraiser called "Fido and Friends". Ms. Benedict stated that when she was not available to attend the Commission meetings, Home Instead's owner, Denise would attend in her place.

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center, announced a tentative lecture with Dr. Erminia Guarneri, head of the Integrative Medicine at Scripps for June 28. Ms. Hershberger added that there would be a lecture in Manhattan Beach on "Diabetes and Heart Disease – Kids to Adults" on March 13, and a lecture on sleep problems on March 21, 2012.

Commissioner Davis announced that OmniLore would sponsor a walk on March 16 from Wilson Park to Madrona Marsh and back.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Submitted April 10, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
