

April 14, 2015

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on April 14, 2015 at 9:33 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, Kraemer, Miranda, Virobik and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino; motion was seconded by Commissioner Miranda. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino)

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Ms. Yesenia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

Never iron a four leaf clover; you don't want to press your luck.

Unknown

Live as though you will die tomorrow. Learn as if you will live forever.

Gandhi

Other people do not have to change for us to experience peace of mind.

Gerald Jampolsky

I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions.

Steve Covey

The sweetest of all sounds is praise.

Xenophon

Chairperson K. Davis presented a flower to Recording Secretary Seaman and thanked her for all of her work.

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 April 14, 2015. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino)

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Cohen requested that on page 5, under section G, that it read, "Covered in Presentation by Department of Consumer Affairs."

Chairperson K. Davis requested that on page three, paragraph one, the date for the Recognition Lunch be changed from May 6 to May 7, 2015.

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of March 10, 2015, as amended. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino)

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Commissioner Endo-Roberts of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission thanked the Commission for her nomination for the Older Americans Recognition.

There was a discussion of the date that the McCormick Ambulance Service would be scheduled to attend a Commission meeting.

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

Ms. Yosenia, graduate student in Social Work at California State Long Beach

7. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SERVICES FOR SENIORS: Officer Kelli McCarthy, Torrance Police Department

Item continued, Department not present

8. OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION – Update

Chairperson K. Davis stated that all the recipients had been notified. She noted that the County ceremony was May 7 and the City's ceremony was May 12, 2015.

There was a discussion on transportation to the County recognition ceremony.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed stated that she was still waiting for information from the County on the total number of guests per recipient allowed at the ceremony.

9. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the Mayor's "My Water Pledge" was available on line until April 30, 2015. She added that there was a contest among the cities in the State.

Commissioner Kramer announced that Youth Council would sponsor their Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 18 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that there had been a speaker during orals questioning the high cost of Torrance's senior tours compared to the cost in other neighboring cities. Commissioner Kraemer noted that the Council had indicated that more of City funds were allocated to the Senior Taxi service than to funding of the tours.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that budget discussions were scheduled for May 12 and 19. She noted that a budget shortfall was anticipated for the next fiscal year because of the loss of utility users taxes from Exxon Mobil, due to their current problems.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that new bus benches had been installed, which were metal and less costly to maintain.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that changes to the salaries for the City Attorney and the City Manager had been discussed. She added that there was a new City Clerk portal which would make it easier to request information and public records.

There was a discussion on what the water usage limits were for the City.

B. Housing

None

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik reported on an article on a Medicare physician bill reform (HR 2), which was passed by the House to avoid future cuts to physician payments.

7. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SERVICES FOR SENIORS: Officer Kelli McCarthy, Torrance Police Department (continued)

Sergeant Solorzano, Officer McCarthy and Officer Szczypkowski introduced themselves to the Commission and noted that they would be discussing scams that affected seniors.

There was a discussion of the IRS scam and Officer McCarthy noted that the IRS would not contact anyone by phone. Sergeant Solorzano stated that if anyone had been scammed, both a police crime report and a federal report had to be filed.

Officer Szczypkowski explained that no legitimate organization would ask for payment in the form of prepaid debit cards and cautioned not to give out any personal information on the phone.

There was a discussion of generational differences and how that affected senior's behavior toward callers and solicitors.

Sergeant Solorzano stated that citizens should not open the door and should call the Police if they have any suspicions or problems with solicitors.

In response to a question on elder abuse issues from Commissioner Virobik, Sergeant Solorzano stated that the Police Department often had a Detective assigned to the Economic Crimes Division who worked directly with the Adult Protective Services (APS) and if the Police were dispatched to a call and there was a suspicion of elder abuse, a crime report would be taken, along with an APS report. He added that a determination would then be made by the Economic Crimes Division whether to send the report to the District Attorney's office or the City Attorney's Office.

Sergeant Solorzano stated that the abuse victim would have to be willing to file a report for the Police to take action, if not, then APS might be able to provide other types of social services.

There was a discussion of the campaign for "See Something, Say Something". Officer Szczypkowski described how a forensic team was able to track down a thief based on a neighbor's report of a crime. She distributed a flyer for the "See Something, Say Something" campaign and a flyer with contact information for various divisions within the Police Department.

Commissioner Endo-Roberts discussed a computer scam that held her computer hostage. Officer Szczypkowski noted that the criminals were becoming more and more sophisticated.

In response to a question from Chairperson K. Davis, Sergeant Solorzano stated that the Del Amo Mall had private security and Torrance Police would only be involved in special events.

Julie Dojiri, New Horizons Civic Affairs Chairperson, described a scam involving a car repair service and a young woman visiting a resident of the complex.

There was a discussion of various other scams and crimes that involve seniors who might be vulnerable.

Officer McCarthy stated that mailboxes should be locking and that no outgoing mail should be placed on the outside of the home mailboxes or placed in outside post office collection boxes. She added that checks should be written in gel pens so that the check is not "washable".

Sergeant Solorzano stated that the most important point of the "Seniors, Don't be Scammed" series of lectures was to empower people with adequate and current information so they might better evaluate and verify if something was legitimate or a scam. He added that the next lectures would begin in June and July.

Sergeant Solorzano noted that all the Department were online, under Community Affairs, including vacation check, return home registry, neighborhood watch and business watch. Officer Szczypkowski added that CitiCABLE had just filmed a special on the Return Home Registry.

Officer McCarthy announced that the Tip-A-Cop fund raising event for Special Olympics would be held at the Lazy Dog Cafe from 5:00 pm. to 9:00 p.m. on April 15. She noted that Department would have a booth at Relay for Life on April 25 at South High School.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Miranda, Officer McCarthy stated that Torrance Police Department did ticket for jaywalking.

Officer McCarthy stated that the Community Affairs Department would also speak to small groups.

There was a discussion of hoarding. Sergeant Solorzano stated that the Community Lead Officers would coordinate with the Fire Department and the City. He added that the first agency to contact to report hoarding would be the Fire Department, followed by the City.

Officer McCarthy stated that the Department did receive a good response from online videos seeking information on criminals. She added that the Department did update the public on the results of the investigations, but noted that often the updates were delayed because the investigation was still underway.

Sergeant Solorzano stated that home camera surveillance systems were becoming more prevalent and noted that the Department recommended to homeowners who were installing the systems to place a camera facing the street in order to capture views of vehicles and license plates.

C. Health (continued)

Commissioner Cohen distributed information on Lectures on Caregiving sponsored by Providence Little Company of Mary on April 15 and May 4.

D. Transportation

Chairperson K. Davis stated that Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino had sent her a report from Transit Administration Manager Mills which explained that Phase 1 of the Transit Enhancement Project had been implemented and 100 new bus benches had been installed. Transit Administration Manager Mills' report noted that Phase 2 would begin soon to install new trash receptacles and bus signs and Phase 3 would follow with the installation of new shelters. Transit Administration Manager Mills' report stated that the swipe card system was progressing well and would begin on May 18 and that he would attend the May 12 Commission meeting with an update.

Former Commissioner Griffith presented information on a lecture at Torrance Memorial Medical Center by Dr. Harriet of the Training, Research and Education for Driving Safety (TREDS) program at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine. She noted that

TREDS had developed assessment tests for older drivers and were recommending that Doctors test their older patients and refer those that need further assessment to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

E. Community Programs

Commissioner Kraemer reported that at the April 14 City Council meeting, the Rose Float Committee would find out whether they would receive funding.

Chairperson K. Davis stated that she had represented the Commission at the “Beats the Odds” program and that the award dinner was on May 7.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that she had attended the Kiwanis luncheon, where the Commission on Aging had received an award.

F. Focal Point Program

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

March 2015

Total number of documented calls: 51	Total number of callbacks: 13
Miscellaneous calls: 76	Total number of walk-ins: 26
Total number of calls received: 127	
Of the documented calls:	
20% were for transportation	43% were for housing
33% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik stated that City would honor one of the Focal Point volunteers, Annabell Saint John, who was 94.

There was a discussion of the Volunteer Appreciation celebration and how it differed from last year. It was noted that it was more crowded and felt less personal than last year.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Cohen explained that the Vial of Life was available at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center and noted that the following organizations had attended or had information at the “Seniors Don’t be Scammed” lecture: H.E.L.P., American Red Cross, Keep Safe, Federal Trade Commission and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Commissioner Virobik presented information from the Federal Trade Commission on a complaint against DIRECTV for deceptive advertising on a 12-month programming package. She also reported on an article on a carjacking scam.

Commissioner G. Davis announced that the Older Americans Award ceremony was May 7, the South Bay Women’s Conference was May 8, and the Daily Breeze Expo on Successful Aging and the Annual Senior Faire were both on May 9.

10. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Miranda stated that he had been invited to be a member of the Exxon Mobil Community Advisory Panel and to attend a dinner on April 22.

Ms. Yesenia stated that she was happy to attend the Commission meeting and noted that she was looking forward to be able to contribute. Chairperson K. Davis explained that the Commission meetings and minutes were posted on the City’s website. Commissioner G. Davis

stated that Freddie Dominguez, a certified Alzheimer's Association speaker, would speak on Alzheimer's at the May meeting.

Commissioner G. Davis announced that South Bay Village was featured on a segment of Senior Scene. She added that South Bay Village would be able to open their door within the next two weeks.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:28 a.m., Commissioner Cohen moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner G. Davis and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval. (Absent Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino)

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Approved as submitted May 12, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
