

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on October 9, 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*, G. Davis, Kimmel-Dagostino, Kraemer, Robelotto, Virobik, and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

*Commissioner Craft arrived at 9:55 a.m. and left at 11:40 a.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Robelotto led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

Most smiles are started by another smile.

Frank Clark

If you have butterflies in your stomach...ask them into your heart.

Cooper Edens

1. *Be true to yourself.*
2. *Make each day your masterpiece.*
3. *Help others.*
4. *Drink deeply from good books, especially the Bible.*
5. *Make friendship a fine art.*
6. *Build a shelter against a rainy day.*
7. *Pray for guidance and give thanks for your blessings every day.*

John Wooden

Commissioner Virobik provided the following inspiration:

And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.

Abraham Lincoln

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of October 9, 2012. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent *Commissioner Craft)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Robelotto moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of September 11, 2012, as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent *Commissioner Craft)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Community Services Director Jones
Recreation Services Manager Brunette
Senior Analyst Orpe
Senior Business Manager Minter
Former Commissioner Griffith, LACCOA

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer noted that there was a national legislative update at the October 3 meeting.

B. Housing

Commissioner Robelotto reported on an article concerning a project that provides assistance and information to make houses and communities “age friendly”.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that she would investigate a service that offered to have a nurse practitioner visit the home to check vital signs and see if there was anything that needed to be changed in the house for safety and accessibility reasons.

Commissioner Virobik noted that Focal Point had received inquiries for shared housing.

Senior Business Manager Minter presented information on the Home Improvement Program (HIP) which provided home improvement assistance to residents and suggested that a representative from the program could do a presentation at a future Commission meeting.

There was a discussion of shared housing. Recreation Services Manager Brunette suggested that might be a way to establish a category for shared housing on Craig’s List.

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik reported on an article on changes to healthcare insurance coverage.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that October 15 through December 7 was the Medicare open enrollment period. She added that she would attend an event on October 23, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, on the impact of health care reform on employers and the California economy.

Commissioner K. Davis announced that there was a food drive for seniors from September 24 through October 22. She noted that there were various drop off locations.

Commissioner K. Davis discussed an article on the increase in knee replacement surgery.

There was a discussion on the impact of shorter hospital stays.

Former Commissioner Griffith stated that LACCOA was sponsoring a senior walk in Whittier Narrows on May 4. She presented information on a program sponsored by Lego in which young people could participate and develop items to aid seniors.

Former Commissioner Griffith noted that she had visited the nutrition center at the Torrance YMCA, who had been designated as a distinguished nutrition site.

Commissioner Virobik stated that people could drop off unused and out of date medications at Focal Point.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the Transit Department would go before the City Council on October 16 to request approval for several service changes. She added that the Transit Department would receive 9 new compressed gas buses in October.

E. Community Programs

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the recognition ceremony for David Villasenor of the Torrance YMCA would be on October 23 at City Council. She added that Ted Lieu, Don Knabe and Betsy Butler would provide recognition letters for Mr. Villasenor, to be presented on November 4 at the YMCA celebration.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino announced that there would be a shakeout drill on October 18 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported that the City would celebrate the 40th Annual Sister City Program which included a welcome ceremony for the delegates at 8:30 a.m. on October 12 at City Hall.

Commissioner K. Davis stated that the Torrance Historical Society would sponsor home tours on October 12 and 13. She added that the Art in the Park would also take place at the same time.

F. Focal Point Program

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

September 2012

Total number of documented calls: 57	Total number of callbacks: 30
Miscellaneous calls: 65	Total number of walk-ins: 28
Total number of calls received: 122	

Of the documented calls:

16.8 % were for transportation	28% were for housing
31.6 % were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik reported that Focal Point attended one health fair and did one classroom presentation at Torrance Memorial Medical Center. She noted that she had 3 volunteers who just joined the staff, with 2 more on a waiting list.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Craft reported on a phone call fraud.

DISCUSSION ITEM ON THE ENTERPRISE FUND SUBSIDY LEVELS WITHIN THE COST RECOVERY/SUBSIDY PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Community Services Director Jones introduced the material of record on the enterprise fund subsidy and requested that the Commission discuss the Plan and either support the levels as presented in the plan or support the subsidy levels with suggested subsidy level revisions or comments. He added that the Plan would next go to the Youth Council and then be a discussion item for a Joint Cultural Arts and Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on November 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Annex Meeting Room.

Senior Business Manager Minter explained that the budget process was a year long process and reviewed the philosophy statement of the Cultural Arts Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission.

He presented the guidelines that were used to develop program fees in the Cultural and Recreational Classes division and to determine the appropriate cost recovery and/or amount of City subsidy necessary for the program to operate. He explained the services included and the subsidies for each of the 6 categories.

Community Services Director Jones noted that direct costs had always been required to be entirely covered in the budget, but in the 1990's, indirect costs had only partially been included in the cost. He added that now the indirect costs had to be fully included in the cost.

In response to a question from Commission Virobik, Senior Business Manager Minter stated that full time staff salaries were included in indirect costs, as the costs were spread over more than one program.

Responding to a question from Former Commissioner Griffith, Community Services Director Jones stated that the indirect costs in the budget extended and included the Divisional Manager level but did not extend to the City Manager and above, which was under the General Fund.

Senior Business Manager Minter stated that the subsidy funds came from the General Fund, which was funded by tax payments: property, utility and sales.

In response to a question from Commissioner Robelotto, Senior Business Manager Minter stated that if enough programs were cut, it would become necessary to reduce full time staff as well.

Community Services Director Jones noted that that same scenario would apply to any of the Enterprise funds.

Senior Business Manager Minter presented the net cost review from the Recreation Services Division for the fiscal year 2012-2013, which included the indirect costs as a percentage of the total budget. He noted that even with the recommended subsidies, some programs were not breaking even.

Community Services Director Jones explained the information in the report on Recreation Services Division which detailed the number of participants in 2011 for each program category and outlined each program's goals, objectives and value to the community.

Community Services Director Jones stated that the Commission had the responsibility to the City Council to be advocates for the senior community and that staff needed their input, suggestions and recommendations.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino questioned why some programs such as the Art Museum or the Madrona Marsh received 100% subsidies, while some Senior programs received a 20% subsidy.

Community Services Director Jones stated that 2010 market rate analysis helped set the fees for each of the programs. He noted that the fee structure for the senior fees were currently right above average.

There was a discussion of friends' groups that supported individual programs.

Senior Business Manager Minter stated that any changes in the percentages in any of the subsidy rates would affect other categories and other subsidies.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that she would like the subsidy rate to be more than 20% for the Senior excursions.

Commissioner Robelotto noted that there were only 350 people who had participated in the senior excursions.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Kraemer, Senior Business Manager Minter stated that the budget was revised and revisited throughout the year, usually on a quarterly basis.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that all programs had been affected by the addition of indirect costs.

There was a discussion of possible ways to solve the budget problem for the senior excursions.

MOTION: Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino moved and Commissioner Robelotto seconded, to accept the 100% City Subsidy level for the Seniors-Facilities, the 60% City Subsidy level for Senior-Programs, but not to accept the 20% City Subsidy Level for Senior-Excursions, but instead direct staff to explore the percentage of the subsidy level for the Senior-Excursions because of concerns of the effect of 100% of the indirect costs being applied to the Senior Excursion program. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION ITEM ON THE IMPACT TO WAIVING DIVISIONAL INDIRECT COSTS FOR THE SENIOR EXCURSION PROGRAM

Community Services Director Jones reviewed the recent history of the senior excursion program. He stated that the September recommendation of the Commission to remove all of the indirect costs from the Senior Excursions would create a budget gap of \$55,098, which would mean that direct costs would have to be reduced or revenues would need to be increased.

Community Services Director Jones noted that he had been hopeful that the September recommendation would work, but he now needed to return with other options and recommendations for the November Commission meeting agenda.

There was a discussion of a possibility of a grant. Commissioner G. Davis stated that she had someone who was willing to research the possibility of a grant.

The following suggestions were made: to reduce the number of excursions, perhaps from 12 to 9 (8 day, 1 overnight), increase the fees, decrease the indirect costs perhaps by 50% and include the scholarship program.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that it was necessary to know the amount of the percentage change for the Commission's recommendations in order for staff to determine if the suggestions would be able to close the budget gap.

Senior Business Manager Minter stated that a scholarship program would have to be created for the senior excursion program. He noted that persons using the scholarship would be able to defray only a portion of the fee for each excursion taken.

Senior Business Manager Minter stated that people using the scholarship program would need to disclose their income level.

Community Services Director Jones suggested that the Commission could request additional City money be put into the current scholarship fund, which was now \$35,000.

MOTION: Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino moved to direct staff to investigate the Commission's suggestions for the Senior Excursion program: to reduce the number of excursions, perhaps from 12 to 9 (8 day, 1 overnight), increase the fees, decrease the indirect costs perhaps by 50% and include the scholarship program; motion was seconded by Commissioner G. Davis. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

Community Services Director Jones thanked the Commission for their dedication to this issue and stated that he would return to the November Commission meeting with suggested plans for the Senior Excursion Program.

Commissioner Craft left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

"CELEBRATING OUR CENTENNIAL" EVENT

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that the Mayor and City Council had offered tickets to three members of each Commission to attend the Centennial Celebration, with dinner, awards and a video presentation, at the Double Tree Hotel on Friday October 19.

Commissioner K. Davis and Commissioner G. Davis stated that they would attend. Commissioner K. Davis contacted Commissioner Craft and asked him to contact Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand by the close of business on October 9, if he was interested in attending.

JOINT MEETING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would leave the item on the agenda so that the Commission could discuss possible topics at upcoming meetings.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson K. Davis stated that Vickie Hershberger of Torrance Memorial Hospital had asked her to tell the Commission that the Advantage newsletter would be out by the end of this week and contained information on upcoming classes on Medication 101 and on Medicare.

Chairperson K. Davis noted that the Commission would be dark in December.

Commissioner G. Davis stated that she would assist with the topic of Housing, under Senior Citizens Concerns.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would email the newest Commissioner roster to all Commission members.

Chairperson K. Davis reported that the Torrance Woman's Club had participated in Operation Teddy Bear and would participate at the Halloween Ball for the Pediatric Therapy Network. She added that the Club would offer a photo session with Santa on November 10.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the Torrance Rose Float Association had fundraising lunches on Thursdays.

It was announced that October 28 would be the Centennial Torrance Birthday Bash at Wilson Park.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12.07 p.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

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