

November 12, 2013

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on November 12, 2013 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 Craft, Kimmel-Dagostino, G. Davis, Kraemer, Robelotto, Virobik and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner G. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

Just because you can doesn't mean you should. Crawford Laritts

God performs his best works in deep waters where you have to rely on him to hold you up. Bryndan Laritts

The cost of being wrong is less than the cost of doing nothing. Seth Godin

There is no revenge so complete as forgiveness. Josh Billings

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Robelotto moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of November 12, 2013. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of October 8, 2013, as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Ashley Koger, Administrative Analyst, Transit Department

Jim Mills, Transit Administration Manager, City of Torrance

Senior Administrative Analyst Andrew Orpe-Community Services Department

Pat Artman, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons

Patrice Deleget, Senior Librarian

Kay Ujimori, Librarian from El Retiro Library

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

7. TORRANCE PARKS SATISFACTION SURVEY

Senior Administrative Analyst Andrew Orpe distributed Torrance Parks Satisfaction Surveys to the Commissioners, staff and guests at the meeting and then collected the completed surveys. He explained that the Park Services was looking to gather feedback from the public and the Commissions on their local parks. He noted that the survey distribution might then be expanded to the Farmer's Market or to a online survey.

Senior Administrative Analyst Andrew Orpe discussed an incident involving a homeless person that had occurred at a Torrance park.

Senior Administrative Analyst Andrew Orpe stated that upon survey completion, he would forward a copy of the compilation of all the Commissions' surveys to Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand.

8. BRAIN BOOSTING KIT DEMONSTRATION

Senior Librarian Deleget demonstrated a brain boosting kit that had been purchased through a grant to the Library. She distributed various components from the kits to the Commissioners and sampled some of the activities and materials that were part of the kit.

Senior Librarian Deleget noted that the kits were designed to be used in groups and she would be working with Phil Duthie to adapt the kits to use with developmentally disabled adults.

Senior Librarian Deleget stated that she would make copies for the Commission of some of the materials from the kits.

Senior Librarian Deleget noted that she would try a demonstration of one of the kits at lunchtime at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center. She added that the Library had committed to conducting 4 kit presentations to groups of older adults and 7 presentations to developmentally disabled adults within the next fiscal year.

Senior Librarian Deleget requested that the Commission send her any ideas or suggestions for purchasing additional types of kits or any suggestions for groups who may be interested in using the kits.

Commissioner Virobik and Pat Artman, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons suggested that New Horizons might be a suitable place to use the kits.

Senior Librarian Deleget stated that after the year of required presentations, the kits would be cataloged and available for check out through the library by groups or individuals.

9. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that there was a discussion at the Council to add more electric cars charging stations in the City.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that work had begun at the sports field by the courthouse.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that October 20-26 was "Save for Retirement" week in Torrance.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the 300th Army Band would be in concert on June 13, 2014 in Torrance.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the City had placed a moratorium on any new collection bins in Torrance.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that a Public Safety Center office would be established at the Del Amo Mall.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the City had grants to continue working to make sidewalks in Torrance handicapped accessible.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Council had defeated a motion to have fireworks on July 4th at the Civic Center. There was a discussion of past years' fireworks shows.

B. Housing

None

C. Health

Chairperson K. Davis presented information on column in the Daily Breeze by Anthony Komaroff on the health benefits of 12 "superfoods".

Commissioner Virobik reported that as of November 1, the stimulus funding for the Supplemental Assistance Program (SNAP or Food stamps) expired. She added that it was estimated that the average single-person household would see a decrease of \$11 a month. She noted that seniors could maximize their SNAP benefits through the use of the medical expense deduction or shelter deduction, if they met certain conditions.

There was a discussion of the food stamp program, the loss of the funding and the effect on seniors.

Commissioner Griffith stated that she had been following the effect of the earthquake on the Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan and the spread of the resulting radiation.

Chairperson K. Davis reported on the recall of generic Lipitor from Ranbaxy, due to the discovery of glass particles in batches of the drug.

There was a discussion of food recalls.

D. Transportation

Transit Administration Manager Mills stated that the Transit Department would renew their contracts for the Senior Taxi and Disabled Transportation services and that the budget would not be cut. He added that at the December 3 Council meeting the Transit Department would ask for a 2 year extension for \$750,000 on the Senior Taxi services contract and \$500,000 for the disabled, Dial-a-Taxi services.

Transit Administration Manager Mills stated that the Department was investigating a system to change from paper tickets to a swipe card. He noted that the department would come back to the Commission and share the outcome of the investigation into the use of swipe cards before taking the matter to City Council.

In response to a question from Commissioner Griffith, Transit Administration Manager Mills stated that the proposed "Cars to Go" program would have a negative impact on the existing taxi companies which currently had to pay a franchise agreement fee to the City. He added that the program might also cause a parking problem. He noted that the City would need to investigate the matter further.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Virobik, Transit Administration Manager Mills stated that someone registering for the Senior Taxi service would need to come in person the first time to verify their age and their Torrance residency with a valid id and a current utility bill. He added that if the applicant was also applying for discount tickets, they would need to verify their income by bringing in a tax return. He noted that the details on the requirements for

applying were on the City's website and explained that a person could bring in a marriage license if all of the utility bills were in their spouse's name.

Transit Administration Manager Mills stated that a doctor's note would be necessary every 3 months, if a person needed to purchase an additional 12 tickets.

Transit Administration Manager Mills stated that Torrance still had Access Service, through Los Angeles County, for the disabled.

Commissioner Virobik noted that the Access Service only provided curb to curb service, not door to door service.

Transit Administration Manager Mills stated that the 3 taxi companies that were part of the Senior Taxi franchise were All Yellow, Administrative Services Co-op and Bell Cab.

In response to a question from Commissioner Craft on additional charging stations for electric vehicles, Transit Administration Manager Mills referred the Commissioner to Danny Santana in the Community Development Department.

Transit Administration Manager Mills stated that the taxi tickets expired after 90 days. He added that the tickets had a \$13 value and if the ride was more than \$13, the riders had the choice of using another ticket, paying cash or using a credit card. He noted that the cost to the airport was approximately \$40.

Transit Administration Manager Mills stated that riders using a cab to the airport must verify that the cab company would be able to pick them back up at the airport.

Transit Administration Manager Mills stated that the Transit Department would come back before the Commission after the December Council meeting with information from the investigation on swipe cards.

Community Programs

Chairperson K. Davis stated that Torrance Memorial Medical Center was looking for volunteer help for their Holiday Festival. She added that the Woman's Club would hold a rummage sale on January 4, 2014 and donations for the sale could be dropped off at the Club.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that 2 of the 3 Senior Tours had sold out and had waiting lists, but that the Phantoms and Folklore tour had been cancelled.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the Senior Scene program would repeat the episode called "Spring Break for Seniors" at 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on November 12.

Chairperson K. Davis stated that the Woman's Club had raised \$1700 for the USO from their Sock Hop event.

Commissioner Craft reported that Ted Lange would perform in a production of "George Washington's Boy" during Black History month.

F. Focal Point Program

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

October 2013

Total number of documented calls: 25	Total number of callbacks: 6
Miscellaneous calls: 52	Total number of walk-ins: 19
Total number of calls received: 77	

Of the documented calls:

36% were for transportation	76% were for housing
20% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik noted that the Focal Point had reportable cases of elder financial abuse.

There was a discussion of mandated reporters of abuse and the guidelines to be followed. Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would investigate the procedure and get back to the Commission with the information.

Commissioner Virobik distributed a list of bills passed in 2013 that benefitted California's older population.

Commissioner G. Davis reported on a phone app that had been developed for women who were being abused to be able to report abuse without detection by the abuser.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

There was a discussion on phone calls on computer viruses scams.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the Fire Department was conducting senior outreach programs on safety in the kitchen.

10. SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

None

11. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported that a Flu Clinic would be held on November 18, 2013 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

Commissioner Craft asked if the mayoral candidates could be invited to a Commission meeting. Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would investigate the possibility.

There was a discussion on the Strategic Plan for the City and the procedures for updates to the Plan and the Key Performance Indicators.

Pat Artman, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons stated that the assisted living complex on Sepulveda Boulevard would be completed sometime in 2014.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

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Approved as submitted January 14, 2014 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
