

November 13, 2007

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order in the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center on November 13, 2007 by Chairman Craft at 9:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Breaker, Callen, Cardella, Clutter, Griffith, Virobik and Chairman Craft

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Cardella led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

“To keep the heart unwrinkled, to be hopeful, kindly, cheerful, that is to triumph over old age”.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich

“God grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the courage to change the one I can, and the wisdom to know it’s me”.

Unknown

“Our business in life is not to succeed, but to continue to fail in good spirits”.

Robert Louis Stevenson

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Callen, Commissioner Virobik seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of November 13, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Griffith moved, Commissioner Virobik seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of October 9, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Matthew Avancena, Access Services
Eleanor Barkelew, H.E.L.P.
Enny Chung, Torrance Transit Department

7. ACCESS SERVICE OUTREACH – MATTHEW AVANCENA AND ARUN PREM, PRESENTERS

Matthew Avancena, Manager of Planning and Coordination, explained that Access Services was formed in 1994 to provide complimentary ADA transit service. He provided an overview of the services they provide and indicated that they are currently implementing a centralized dispatch and reservation software system that should increase efficiency and improve services. The Commission discussed the services they provide, with Mr. Avancena clarifying issues regarding their automated telephone system and hold times, hours of service, scheduling, ticket pricing and eligibility requirements.

8. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council

Commissioner Griffith spoke on the City Council's budget allocation of \$120,000 for senior housing rent assistance. She reviewed the program which involves the City giving \$100.00 per month to those most in need. Noting that she as well as many residents was not aware of this program, she talked of the importance of keeping the Commission apprised of such issues. Commissioner Griffith also suggested that a letter of appreciation be forwarded to the City Council for their action.

Commissioner Virobik asked for information on how the screening will be handled so she can inform her Focal Point volunteers. The Commission held discussion on this matter, with Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand clarifying that staff will obtain information on the screening process and work with Commission Griffith on formulating a letter of thanks to the City Council.

Commissioner Griffith also reported that the Blue Ribbon Committee on Ethics presented their recommendations to the City Council. She briefly reviewed the five proposed ordinances, which will come back to the City Council for adoption at their January meeting.

B. Housing

Commissioner Cardella mentioned the new senior condominiums in Redondo Beach starting at \$200,000.

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik distributed copies of an article "Medicare drug benefit to change for some". She noted that double digit increases in premiums

and a shift in plans is in store for many participants and that seniors need to check how their policy will be affected.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Griffith inquired about the Senior Bus Ambassador Program and how their recent outing went.

E. Cable

Commissioner Callen reported that the Roaring 90's Club is currently being broadcast, and that he is currently working on coverage of the Flu Clinic. He also spoke on the tremendous attendance at the official opening of the Western Museum of Flight at the Torrance Airport and what a wonderful event it was.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik shared that Focal Point participated in three health fairs and did a presentation at a Torrance Adult School care giving class.

Commissioner Virobik reported the following statistics for the month of October:

Total number of calls received -- 155

- Total number of documented calls -- 68
(Note: 51 follow up phone calls were made to clients)
- Miscellaneous calls -- 87
- Total number of walk-ins -- 20

Of the 68 documented calls,

- 26.5% were for Housing
- 18.0% were for Legal
- 19.1% were for Transportation

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

The Commission discussed the most recent scams involving tree trimming and jury duty service. Commissioner Callen suggested that Police Officer Dave Crespin update the Commission on recent scams and how one can be protect against fraudulence.

9. ORALS

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that James Duarte, Public Education Officer of the Fire Department is scheduled for the December meeting to address questions on paramedic services and assistance and transportation costs to the patient. She announced that Rebecca Cutting of Community Development will address the Commission on the City's Strategic Plan at their January meeting and that she will invite Police Officer Dave Crespin to attend the February meeting.

Eleanor Barkelew distributed the third edition of "Your Way", sharing that she believes it is the best edition yet and should be used as a companion piece to a one's health care directive.

Commissioner Virobik announced that the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center Gerontology Program will present "12 Things you ever wanted to know about Antioxidants" on November 16th from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Bartlett Senior Center.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand followed up on the matters discussed at the Commission's Joint Meeting with the City Council. She confirmed that the Commission will further discuss their role of disaster preparedness outreach to seniors at their January meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. to Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bartlett Center, Hosler Conference Room.

Approved as Submitted December 11, 2007 Sue Herbers, City Clerk
