

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on November 18, 2014 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 Cohen, Kimmel-Dagostino, G. Davis, *Kraemer, Virobik and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: Commissioner Miranda

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed

*Commissioner Kraemer left the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Miranda; motion was seconded by Commissioner G. Davis. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioner Miranda)

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Cohen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffiths provided the following inspirations:

I used to think that the worst thing in life was to end up all alone. It's not. The worst thing in life is to end up with people that make you feel alone.

Robin Williams

A bad attitude is like a flat tire. You can't go anywhere till you change it.

Anonymous

Blessed are those with cracks in their broken hearts because that is how the light gets in.

Shannon L. Alder

I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing that I can do to any fellow being, let me do to now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again.

William Penn

4. 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 November 18, 2014. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Miranda)

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kraemer requested that "Commissioner Griffiths" be changed to "Former Commissioner Griffiths" in four places.

Transit Administration Manager Mills requested that his title be corrected on page 4, last paragraph, under Transportation.

Chairperson K. Davis requested that on page 5, paragraph 6, the line should read “would sell craft and Christmas items for philanthropic purposes before the start of the meetings.”

MOTION: Commissioner G. Davis moved and Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of October 14, 2014, as amended. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Miranda)

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Commissioner Griffiths, Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA)
Chair of Health, Nutrition and Long Term Care Committee

Julie Dojiri, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons

Transit Administration Manager Mills

D. Transportation (Taken out of order)

Transit Administration Manager Mills presented an update on the transition from a ticket system to a swipe card system for the Senior taxi service. He stated that two proposals had been received from vendors, that the Transit Department had evaluated both proposals and had selected a vendor. He added that the Department would bring their decision before City Council on December 9 and upon approval, award a contract. He noted that the software system would be put in place within two months, with the goal to have full rollout and transition to the swipe cards by June 2015.

The Commissioners concurred with Transit Administration Manager Mills’ request to include the Commission on Aging’s support of the swipe card system with the item to go before the City Council.

Transit Administration Manager Mills reported that the Transit Department would conduct satellite outreaches at all Senior Centers to register and train users on the new system. He stated that the Department hoped to have a smooth transition for the program and noted that he would return to the Commission meeting in January or February to update the Commission on the progress of the transition.

In response to questions from Commissioner Virobik, Transit Administration Manager Mills stated that “rainy day tickets” would be transferred to the new swipe card and that the Dial-A-Ride system would also transition to the swipe card program.

Transit Administration Manager Mills reported that the transition to the new system would offer opportunities for the Department to update their database and to track the records for pickups, drop-offs and no shows. He stated that the company that would be supplying the system had systems already in place in New York City, Chicago and San Francisco. He added that the contract would initially be for one year and then month to month from that point forward.

Transit Administration Manager Mills stated that once the Council had approved the vendor for the swipe card system, Transit would begin to advertise the transition to the swipe card to both current and potential users of the taxi program.

Chairperson K. Davis presented the Commission with the framed copy of the “Best Cities for Successful Aging Pledge” from the Milken Institute that Mayor Furey had signed. She thanked Commissioners Virobik and G. Davis for all their hard work to make the signing of the pledge possible.

Commissioners Virobik and G. Davis thanked Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed for her help with the pledge.

7. JOINT MEETING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL

Chairperson K. Davis announced that the joint meeting would be January 27, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. and requested topic suggestions for the meeting.

Commissioner Virobik stated that she would like to ask Mayor Furey how the Commission could help the Mayor reach the goals of the pledge that he had signed to make Torrance one of the best cities for successful aging.

Commissioner G. Davis noted that now that the Mayor had signed the pledge, the Milken Institute would measure and rank the City's performance based on 78 indicators that determine the overall quality of life for aging adults. She stated that she could give an overview to the Council of the analysis that the Milken Institute would conduct.

Commissioner Kraemer suggested that the Commission could research and compile a list of the senior services that the City currently offered and do a very short presentation on one or more of those services, once a month, during the Comment period of a Council meeting. She added that that presentation could be called, "A Senior Moment".

There was a discussion of which services could be included in the presentations and other ways to advertise the services.

Commissioner G. Davis recommended that the Commission inquire of the Council if there was a particular Council person responsible for senior concerns.

There was a discussion of the issues of improving sidewalks, roads, handicap accessibility and opportunities for affordable housing.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the Commission needed to give a list of specific items to the City Council that the Commissioners had determined to be needed by seniors.

Commissioner Virobik stated that she would like to ask that the taxi and car services for the disabled be able to assist seniors to and from their homes to the vehicles.

There was a discussion of taxi drivers being able to assist passengers to and from their door. Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed stated that when she had received the specifics of the Commission's inquiries on the question of whether drivers would be able to add an escort service to the taxi and dial-a ride services and how the issue of liability could be addressed, she would forward the questions to City Attorney Fellows for his comments.

Commissioner G. Davis stated that she would email a list of selected issues related to the goals from the pledge for "Best Cities for Successful Aging" to Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed for distribution to the Commission.

It was decided to include the following items in the agenda for discussion at the joint meeting:

- An introduction and explanation of "A Senior Moment" presentations at Council meetings
- A question on whether a particular Council member would serve as liaison to the Commission.
- A list of issues related to the Best Cities topics that had been selected as agenda items by the Commission.

There was a discussion of the problem of loneliness and how it affects seniors. It was noted that some agencies do have a list of seniors that they call on a regular basis.

Commissioner Kraemer left the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

8. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that Commissioner Kraemer had requested that Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino present the following report on the City Council meetings:

- The construction of Transit center had been fully funded and would begin in 2015.
- There had been a discussion held with public input on the options on view impairment in hillside overlay district.
- The McMaster Park improvements were set to begin after the new year and were scheduled to be completed within 180 days.
- There had been the first reading of the ordinance governing collection/donation boxes with the second reading scheduled for the Council meeting on November 18. The owners of bins would now need business licenses, with different fees for profit and non-profit businesses.

B. Housing

Former Commissioner Griffiths reminded the Commission of the presence of a national shared housing organization that had staff and resources to match and place people in homes. She noted that San Diego had some similar services and that the Jewish community had services in the Fairfax district. She reported that past City Councils had supported the idea of the service, but no system had yet been implemented.

Commissioner Virobik stated that Love Inc. used to match people, but had discontinued the program.

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik reported that the California State Auditors had released a report stating that the Department of Public Health had not effectively managed investigations of complaints related to long-term care facilities and that there were still more than 11,000 open complaints.

Commissioner Virobik noted that the nursing home residents were now permitted by Medicare or Medi-Cal to leave the facilities for short periods of time, such as during the holidays.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that if the City contract for ambulance service was awarded to a different service provider, the Commission may want to invite a representative to a future Commission meeting.

Chairperson K. Davis reported on an article from the AARP Bulletin on the joys of care giving.

There was a discussion on caregivers.

D. Transportation (see above - taken out of order)

E. Community Programs

Former Commissioner Griffiths reported that due to a lack of governmental funding, Southern California Regional Occupation Center (SCROC) would close at the end of the school year and individual Adult Education programs in the schools would now need to apply or partner with local districts for funding.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino announced that there would be a holiday luncheon on December 12 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center and tickets were available for \$12.

F. Focal Point Program

In response to a question from Commissioner Virobik, Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed stated that she would ask Recreation Supervisor for Senior Programs Snodgrass about the possibility of speakers at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

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

October 2014

Total number of documented calls: 53	Total number of callbacks: 23
Miscellaneous calls: 50	Total number of walk-ins: 15
Total number of calls received: 103	
Of the documented calls:	
23% were for transportation	47% were for housing
23% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik stated that there was one new volunteer.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Cohen reported on a lecture at the Carson Library conducted by the Department of Consumer Affairs on Senior Financial Abuse. He added that the lecture had pointed out that care givers were often responsible for the financial abuse. Commissioner Cohen stated that he would ask the lecturer to speak at the March or April 2015 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Cohen noted that the "Seniors, Don't be Scammed" lecture on internet safety would be held on November 18 at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

9. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recording Secretary presented information and literature on Fountainview at Gonda Westside, a senior living facility to be built in Playa Vista.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that there would be a "Taste of Torrance" held on November 19 at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center at 6:45 p.m. and admittance was either \$5 or a donation of canned goods.

Commissioner G. Davis reported that the South Bay Village had done presentations for the Civics Affairs Commission of New Horizons and the Rivera Home Owners Association. She added that both presentations were very successful. She noted that she had future meetings planned on November 27 with the Retired Teachers Association and in February 2015 with the North Torrance Home Owners Association.

Chairperson K. Davis reported that she was participating in the Partners in Policing class and noted that unwrapped toys, especially for teenagers, were needed for the holiday toy drive and could be dropped off at either the Police or Fire Station or given to her.

Julie Dojiri, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons, stated that the Village program presentation done by Commissioner G. Davis had been well received. She thanked the Commission for all the valuable information that she was able to use to benefit the residents at New Horizons.

Former Commissioner Griffiths noted that Helen Dennis had reported that the Commission on Aging had often included topics that she had written about in the newspaper as discussion points in their Commission meetings.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:28 a.m., Commissioner G. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cohen and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval. (Absent Commissioners Kraemer and Miranda)

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Approved as submitted January 13, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
