

March 8, 2016

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on March 8, 2016 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

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer 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

Sara Meyers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the inspirations.

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner G. Davis moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of March 8, 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Miranda)

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Cohen moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of February 9, 2016, as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Miranda)

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Bruce Juell, retired corporate executive and author

Sara Meyers, President/CEO, Volunteer Center South Bay

Commissioner Griffith, 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

Senior Librarian Coates, South East Library, Library liaison to the Commission on Aging

7. SARA MEYERS; PRESIDENT/CEO, VOLUNTEER CENTER SOUTH BAY-HARBOR - LONG BEACH AND BRUCE JUELL, RETIRED CORPORATE EXECUTIVE, AUTHOR

Sara Meyers stated that she was now into her second month with the Volunteer Center and noted that one of the Center's activities that would be an excellent volunteer opportunity for seniors was the Center's newest initiative, *Food for Kids*. She explained that the program served to supplement the existing nutrition program for students at Title 1 schools, because school

administrations had determined that there was an additional need for food to feed the students and their families outside of school hours. Ms. Meyers explained that to meet that need the Volunteer Center was now organizing a food bank and issuing requests for specific types of healthy foods in order to supply bags of food for distribution to the school sites. She added that there was a need for volunteers to pack the bags, assist with food drives and deliver the bags to the school sites.

Ms. Meyers stated that the Volunteer Center had 5 satellite offices which assisted the Center with their Court referral service volunteers and added that she hoped to add traditional volunteering opportunities to those satellite offices. She described micro volunteering, in which volunteers worked out of their homes on their computers to assist agencies such as NASA. She requested that the Commissioners let her know if they had any ideas for senior volunteering opportunities.

Ms. Meyers stated that the Volunteer Center had met with the Corporate Volunteer Council which worked with area businesses. She noted that one of the challenges would be to efficiently transport the volunteers to regions where they were most needed.

Ms. Meyers explained that the Volunteer Center had a variety of programs: Court referred volunteers, youth programs for mentoring and developing projects for middle and high school students, a traditional volunteer program which matched volunteers with non-profits, as well as the Corporate program. She noted that there was a need for volunteer programs for parents and young children as well as professional singles who were looking to meet other singles.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino suggested that Ms. Meyer contact Chris Cagle at the Workforce Investment Board, which placed workers in training positions in local businesses.

Ms. Meyers stated that she planned to: publish a printed newsletter, improve the website and work with the schools' administrations to determine the needs of their students. She added that the Volunteer Center sponsored a support group called Pantry Partners which worked to provide food on the weekend for underserved elementary students. She noted that the Volunteer Center's funding came from foundation grants, fundraisers and appeals and added that the fees from the court referral volunteers helped to pay the Center's overhead and administration, which allowed donations to go directly to programs.

Former Commissioner Griffith stated that there was a need for volunteers to help seniors.

Bruce Juell stated that he had become involved with the Volunteer Center in his effort to find volunteer opportunities for retired business people. He described his career and his business experience. He stated that he had written *The Retirement Activities Guide, 165 Ideas for Finding Fulfillment and Meaning (When Golf and Grandkids Aren't Enough)* in an effort to help retired successful business people find opportunities to lend their expertise to others (retirement productivity) and to help retired people find enjoyment and fulfillment in their retirement (retirement happiness).

He stated that he had enjoyed working with the Executive Service Corps who offered their services to the non-profit community at reduced fees. He distributed copies of his books to the Commission and requested that the Commission give him their feedback.

8. OLDER AMERICAN NOMINATIONS - Discussion

Chairperson K. Davis stated that the nominees were: Beverly Greeno, Lynn Robinson, Jim Mills and Lloyd Alfred Brown.

Former Commissioner Griffith stated that some of the Los Angeles County Supervisors held their own award ceremonies.

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to present Beverly Greeno, Lynn Robinson, Jim Mills and Lloyd Alfred Brown for the City of Torrance Recognition. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Miranda)

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved and Commissioner Cohen seconded, to present Lloyd Alfred Brown for the Los Angeles County Older Americans Recognition. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Miranda)

9. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Historic Preservation District in Old Torrance were still under discussion.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that next Commissioner training session would be March 29, 2016.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that Madrona Marsh and the Preserve had contracts for a new building and the installation of exhibits and added that the City had purchased the lot next to Fire Station 1 in order to expand the parking area.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Council had begun discussions on short term rentals. She added that the City had received a program grant to redo the area on Cravens Avenue between Carson and Torrance Boulevard to make it more pedestrian friendly.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the tree ordinance was still under consideration and discussion.

There was a discussion of Homeowners Associations, mapping your neighborhood and the CERT program.

B. Housing

None

C. Health

Former Commissioner Griffith reminded the Commissioners to empty any standing water after a rain to avoid attracting mosquitos.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino discussed the ongoing construction at LAX for the Green Line extension.

Commissioner Cohen stated that the Uber might be an acceptable alternative for seniors, because of the price. There was a discussion of the service.

E. Community Programs

Chairperson K. Davis announced that the Attic Advisory Committee would hold their annual Pancake Breakfast on April 2 from 7 to 11:00 a.m. and noted that the Youth Council had requested a Commissioner to serve on the selection Committee for Beat the Odds scholarship program on March 31.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that she would serve on the selection Committee.

Chairperson K. Davis reported that several Commissioners had attended the Kiwanis event and the Commission had received two certificates.

Chairperson K. Davis stated that she also attended the ground water desalter expansion project event.

F. Focal Point Program

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

February 2016

Total number of documented calls: 59	Total number of callbacks: 13
Miscellaneous calls: 79	Total number of walk-ins: 31
Total number of calls received: 138	
Of the documented calls:	
19% were for transportation	59.3% were for housing
15.2% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik stated that Focal Point had participated in the “Don’t be Scammed” presentation.

There was a discussion of available housing in Torrance.

Chairperson K. Davis stated that she had contacted the Fire Department to speak to the Commission at a future meeting about Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST).

It was decided to ask Doris Herzog to come to a Commission meeting as a HICAP representative to speak on Medicare. There was a discussion of placing meeting announcements in the newsletter.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Cohen stated that the “Don’t be Scammed” lecture had distributed literature with some good tips for avoiding scams and ID theft.

There was a discussion about the “do not call list.”

Commission Virobik described ways to avoid scams.

10. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson K. Davis and Commissioners Kimmel-Dagostino, and G. Davis, and Senior Librarian spoke.

Julie Dojiri reported that Bartlett Senior Citizens Center would have a shuffle board court area converted to an exercise area.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed announced that an information piece on a request for an additional pool table for the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center would be included in the Commission’s next meeting’s agenda.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:30 a.m., Commissioner Kraemer moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 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 Commissioner Miranda)

Approved as submitted April 12, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk

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