

July 14, 2015

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on July 14, 2015 at 9:32 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Cohen, G. Davis, **Kimmel-Dagostino, Kraemer, Miranda, *Virobik and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed

* Commissioner Virobik arrived at 9:40 a.m.

** Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino left at 11:28 a.m.

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Ms. Hershberger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Try to be a rainbow in somebody's cloud.

Maya Angelou

Some people drink from the fountain of knowledge. Others just gargle.

Robert Anthony

Change happens when the pain of holding on becomes greater than the fear of letting go.

Spencer Johnson

Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there some day.

A.A. Milne, Winnie the Pooh

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Miranda moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of July 14, 2015. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent *Commissioner Virobik)

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner G. Davis moved and Commissioner Cohen seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of May 12, 2015, as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent *Commissioner Virobik)

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center

Transit Administrative Manager Mills

Julie Dojiri, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons

Senior Librarian Deleget, Torrance Library

Jul Marie Hermosisima

Arlene Kallenback, A Special Touch Care Services

7. DIAL-A-LIFT TAXI SWIPE CARD PROGRAM UPDATE: Jim Mills Transit Administrator, Transit Department

Transit Administrative Manager Mills presented an update on the swipe card system and stated that the outreach had been very successful. He noted that 300 people had been registered, to date, at two libraries: El Retiro and Walteria and that registration had now begun at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library. He noted that up to 500 people might register at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library and that the registration period could be extended for a fourth week. He explained that registration would then continue at the Henderson and North Torrance libraries, with the expectation that the transition to the new system would be completed by September or October. He added that all new users to the system had been directly registered for the new swipe card program.

Transit Administrative Manager Mills stated that users were happy with the new card system as they: did not have to wait for paper tickets to be mailed, could call to check on the balance and were able to swipe the cards themselves and therefore control the transaction. He noted that in the very few instances that a card malfunctioned, the department worked directly with the cab driver to process the transaction and worked directly with the company to reactivate the card, allowing the user a smooth trouble-free transaction.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino, Transit Administrative Manager Mills stated that at this time, for those paying by credit card, the credit card numbers were not being kept on file to be billed automatically. He noted that that process would be put in place at a later date. He added that there currently was no option to pay using Pay Pal.

Transit Administrative Manager Mills stated that new users could apply for the swipe card at the West Annex with the appropriate identification and then mail in checks, referencing their swipe card id number, to purchase more tickets. He noted that it was up to the user to keep track of their card's balance and added that the tickets were only good for 90 days.

Transit Administrative Manager Mills explained that riders needing to be classified as disabled had to submit a form signed by their doctor, and noted that the taxi service for either the disabled or the seniors was only curb to curb service; the drivers did not come to the door or into the house. He added that all passengers could bring a companion for free, as each ride was only 1 ticket, regardless of the number of passengers.

Transit Administrative Manager Mills explained that the ride service could be used outside of Torrance, but that a ride might cost more than 1 ticket or require additional cash to make up the fare difference. He added that the users could also use "rainy days tickets" to pay for a ride. He noted that "rainy day tickets" did not expire, but that a rider would only get a lifetime total of eight.

There was a discussion of Access Services and it was noted that Access Services could accommodate wheelchairs.

Transit Administrative Manager Mills stated that the fares were set by the taxi services and users could call in advance for the rates. He detailed the steps required to obtain the swipe card for first time users and the range of prices for the tickets, based on the household's income.

Transit Administrative Manager Mills stated that the taxi services received fines if there were more than five complaints against them and noted that drivers could also be removed from the program. He added that the taxi drivers were independent contractors and received a percentage of the fare.

Transit Administrative Manager Mills stated that tipping was not required.

Former Commissioner Griffith thanked Transit Administrative Manager Mills for being such an excellent advocate for seniors.

Julie Dojiri thanked Transit Administrative Manager Mills for his support of the residents at New Horizons.

The Commission thanked Transit Administrative Manager Mills for all his support and wished him the best in his retirement.

8. ANNUAL REPORT – Discussion

Commissioner Virobik requested an addition to the report stating that the total number of calls for the year to Focal Point was 1358.

MOTION: Commissioner Cohen moved and Commissioner Miranda seconded, to approve the amendment to the Annual Report. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Commissioner Miranda moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to accept the Annual Report. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Miranda nominated Commissioner G. Davis for Chair of the Commission.

Commissioner G. Davis nominated Chairperson K. Davis to continue as Chair.

Commissioner G. Davis declined the nomination for Chair.

MOTION: Commissioner Miranda moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to appoint Chairperson K. Davis to continue as Chair of the Commission. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

Chairperson K. Davis thanked the Commission for the nomination and the privilege.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino nominated Commissioner Cohen for Vice Chair.

Commissioner Virobik nominated Commissioner G. Davis for Vice Chair.

Commissioner Cohen declined the nomination for Vice Chair.

MOTION: Commissioner Miranda moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to appoint Commissioner G. Davis as Vice Chair of the Commission. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

10. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the next Commissioner training session would be held on Tuesday, September 29 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the George Nakano Theater. She noted that the Commissioners could check with the City Clerk's office to see if they needed to attend the training session.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the budget for the next fiscal year might be affected by the Mobil refinery shut down, but that the opening of the renovated mall in the fall would help add tax dollar income.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that if there was a street light out in your area, you could report it on the SCE website or by calling 800-611-1911.

She noted that there were three Commission vacancies filled: on the Library, Cable and Water Commissions.

Commissioner Kraemer explained that the City would receive \$9.8 million from a land exchange with Rolling Hills Estates and noted that the money would be used for: repairs and upgrades to the Cultural Arts Center, the Armstrong Theater and the Civic Center. She added that funds were also allocated for: the Rose Parade floats for the next two years, a new mobile command center for police and for school district crossing guards for four years. She noted that \$3 million was allocated to pay down the unfunded pension liabilities and funds were also allocated for a trial period of police body cameras. She noted that the complete details for the funding could be found in the agenda items of the July 7, 2105 City Council meeting.

There was a discussion of how to improve the aisle/ramps for seniors and the disabled in the Armstrong Theater. It was decided to present the item during the Orals Communications portion of the July 14 Council meeting in order to find out what repairs or upgrades was already contained in the budget item. Commissioners Cohen and Kimmel-Dagostino stated that they would present the item during the Orals portion of the City Council meeting.

There was a discussion of a follow-up letter to the Mayor on the safety improvements needed for the Armstrong Theater. Chairperson K. Davis requested that the Commissioners email her their suggestions for the letter and she would compile them and bring the proposed ideas to the next meeting.

There was a discussion of the new electronic bill board.

B. Housing

Chairperson K. Davis discussed an email from City Librarian Theyer on the subject of "elder orphans", people who, at a younger age, had decided not to have children, who now had no family to care for them in their later years. There was a discussion of the impact of the "elder orphans" on nursing homes and other care facilities and the options involving long term care insurance, Medicare and Medi-Cal.

There was a discussion of inspections and investigations of nursing home complaints.

C. Health

Commissioner Miranda announced that Monika Vega from Harbage Consulting would be at the August 11 Commission meeting to explain Cal MediConnect.

Commissioner Virobik presented information on article on the importance of vitamin D and an article on the failure of the Department of Health Care Services to properly monitor California's Medi-Cal managed health plans.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Miranda stated that there were private transportation plans with door-to-door service offered by many insurance plans. He stated that he would bring a list of the providers to the next meeting. He noted that October 15 through December 7, 2015 was the open enrollment period for Medicare.

E. Community Programs

Commissioner Kraemer reported that Rock around the Block would be held on July 16 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There was a discussion of the activities available at the event.

Chairperson K. Davis stated that she was volunteering for the Special Olympics in Long Beach.

F. Focal Point Program

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

May 2015

Total number of documented calls: 42	Total number of callbacks: 20
Miscellaneous calls: 57	Total number of walk-ins: 19
Total number of calls received: 99	
Of the documented calls:	
52.4% were for transportation	57% were for housing
8% were for in home services	

June 2015

Total number of documented calls: 51	Total number of callbacks: 16
Miscellaneous calls: 108	Total number of walk-ins: 17
Total number of calls received: 159	
Of the documented calls:	
17.7% were for transportation	70.6% were for housing
27% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik stated that Focal Point had attended the "Seniors, Don't be Scammed" lecture. She distributed copies of the Focal Point Directory to Vickie Hershberger of Torrance Memorial Medical Center and Senior Librarian Deleget.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Cohen reported on a Daily Breeze article on financial fraud which noted that most victims of fraud were between the ages of 80-89 years of age and cautioned that family members and care givers needed to pay attention to changes in financial accounts.

Commissioner Miranda noted that he could place a request to Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey to speak on elder abuse and fraud at an upcoming Commission meeting.

There was a discussion on mail scams.

11. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner G. Davis announced that South Bay Village now had 12 members and 34 volunteers; but she noted that more drivers were still needed. She added that there would be a grand opening party on July 18 and that press releases had gone out to local newspapers and cable stations.

Vickie Hershberger of Torrance Memorial Medical Center distributed flyers for classes on balance, yoga, and dance exercise.

Senior Librarian Deleget stated that either Senior Librarian Coates or another librarian would take her place as liaison to the Commission, as she was no longer able to attend the meetings.

Senior Librarian Deleget described the summer reading programs and activities available for children and adults at the libraries. She distributed booklets entitled "Torrance Public Library – The Best Deal in Torrance - Resource Guide for Seniors". She added that she would send an additional 30 copies of the booklet to Focal Point.

Senior Librarian Deleget explained that any brochures that the Commission wished to have available for distribution at the library should be first given to Pat Heineman at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library's reference desk.

Chairperson K. Davis thanked Senior Librarian Deleget for being the Library liaison to the Commission.

Senior Librarian Deleget thanked the Commission for all their help.

Jul Marie Hermosisima stated that she had taken the Commissioner training class and was interested in joining the Commission when there was a vacancy. She added that she had brought her friend, Arlene Kallenback, from *A Special Touch Care Services* to the meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:46 a.m., Commissioner Kraemer moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miranda and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval. (Absent ** Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino)

###

Approved as submitted August 11, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
--