

August 9, 2016

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on August 9, 2016 at 9:35 a.m. in the West Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 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  
Community Service Director Jones  
Recreation Services Manager Brunette  
Recreation Supervisor Snodgrass  
Community Services Leader IV Wilson

**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**

Community Service Director Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Former Commissioner Griffith provided the inspirations.

**4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cohen moved and Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of August 9, 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Miranda)

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Virobik requested that on page 5, first paragraph, the removal of “she had attended the Successful Aging Expo in May.”

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cohen moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of July 12, 2016, as amended. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Miranda)

**6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Community Service Director Jones introduced the members of his staff: Recreation Services Manager Brunette, Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed, Recreation Supervisor Snodgrass and Community Services Leader IV Wilson.

**7. BOCCE COURTS – Joel Massa, brief update**

Chairperson K. Davis stated that the item was continued until the September meeting.  
Community Service Director Jones reported that the Bocce Courts were a capital project

at Columbia Regional Park and would be three full-sized courts, which were now in the pre-construction phase, with an anticipated grand opening date of early November 2016.

## **8. EVALUATING CENTER PROGRAMS AND ROOM USE- update**

Recreation Services Manager Brunette presented the results of the survey that had been conducted at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center and stated that there was now money in the budget to make some of the requested or needed changes and upgrades. He added that capital improvements had already been approved to replace carpeting at the Center and to implement ideas that the staff had for repurposing areas within the Bartlett. He noted that the Commission and the public would be updated when General Services had scheduled the capital improvement projects.

He detailed and explained the results of the survey:

- Most ratings were above average
- Health and fitness activities were highly rated
- There are 375 seniors who use the Center and 181 surveys completed, which was a 48% return rate.
- Overall ratings for the programs, facility and staff were very high
- The lunch program was the most popular program.

He detailed the staff recommendations and users' proposals, using enlarged floor plans to show the proposed locations for the changes and noted that the goal was not to displace anyone, but to be able to offer additional requested programs:

- Re-purpose four out of the five Shuffleboard Courts on the first floor to a fitness activity zone
- Move the pool table and add a second combination pool table/Ping-Pong to downstairs lounge area to reduce the wait time and noise. Will remove wall between rooms, if necessary.
- Relocate lounge and library upstairs.
- Re-purpose conference room to a movie/television room, remove conference table and replace with portable table and chairs

Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that the City defined senior as fifty and older.

There was a discussion on methods to share the pool tables and the ping pong table. Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that the City's goal was to not displace anyone and serve the needs of everyone.

Ray Esquibel stated that the survey was not accurate as the people who participated in the exercise programs for only a few hours per week had been encouraged to come in in force and complete the survey.

In response to a question from Mr. Esquibel, Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that the Bartlett Center was both a senior center and a community center, as seniors were a part of the community and added that the survey was statistically valid and more than 95% accurate as more than 50% of the users took the survey. He stated that the survey was an honest effort by staff to get an accurate picture of how seniors were currently using the center and how the center would be used in the future. He noted that the staff had not pushed any one agenda over another. Recreation Services Manager Brunette explained that seniors were looking to have more active programs at the center.

Bonnie Wulff stated that she taught classes at the Center approximately 10 hours a week.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that staff would be looking into providing additional afternoon classes and programs, as the survey indicated that users would be interested in participating.

Responding to a question, Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that some of the senior exercise classes offered at the Center were free, some were paid, some were in partnership with the Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) and some additional senior programs will soon be provided by the City's contract instructional classes, as now offered in other programs within the City.

In response to a question from Mr. Esquibel, Community Service Director Jones stated that Walteria Center was a recreational multipurpose room, not a senior center. He stated that the City needed to maximize the use of the Bartlett Center for growth in the population and to remain relevant for future users, which was the reason for the survey and the plans to re-purpose space within the Bartlett.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that staff had worked hard to ensure that no one would be losing space or made to leave the facility, but he noted that rooms that were not currently being utilized fully, would be re-purposed to offer more activities and uses.

Former Commissioner Griffith stated that Focal Point on Aging was a very valuable City agency for seniors and expressed her hope that the program would be allowed to continue.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the West Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room would be left open throughout the year in order to be used for: overflow for lunch, community meetings or other special community events.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette detailed the plans for the Russ Nolte Annex:

- Focal Point on Aging would be located there year-round
- AARP Tax-Aide Program would be located there from January through April
- Technology area with classes
- Expansion of partnering with community services or non-profits such as legal advice, or referral services to other agencies or services
- HICAP Center for Health Care Rights

Responding to a question from Kathryn Endo-Roberts, Community Service Director Jones stated that the Department would need to put in a budget item to replace tables and chairs at the Center and noted that members of the public could always attend a Council meeting to speak about items that they felt were important.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that the Center had been given a budget for this fiscal year, but that the timing on the projects would depend on when General Services' Department or other contractors could begin the work. He added that the work projects would have to be done sequentially, so that no one was moved until their new location was available for use.

Luis Santos stated that the tables in the ceramics area need to be replaced as they were unsafe. He added that caregivers were also attending workshops with small children.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that staff would look into the issue of small children in the Center.

Julie Dojiri commended staff on their proposal for the Center and their attempt to accommodate as many activities as possible to meet the needs of many people.

In response to a question from Ms. Dojiri, Community Service Director Jones stated that he had been in negotiations and would continue to negotiate with the management of the Pacific

Bell building to arrange a plan to be able to use their 35 parking spaces to alleviate some parking problems at the Center.

Responding to a question from Former Commissioner Griffith, Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that staff had begun discussions to provide walking classes or other activities at the Center, perhaps by using some instructors from TUSD, contract instructors or volunteers.

Dean Mochinaga stated that he thought moving the two pool tables to the television room was a good idea, as it would enclose the noise, as long as there was sufficient room for the tables and players within the room.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette explained that a combination ping pong / pool table had a foldable, removable ping pong top that fit over the top of the pool table. He noted that staff had investigated how much room was needed to play either ping pong or pool and noted that current television/library room was large enough for both tables.

In response to a question, Recreation Supervisor Snodgrass stated that there were plans to install a bike rack outside the Center in 2017, after street renovations had been completed.

Community Service Director Jones stated that it was the goal of the City to be able to provide activities as offered at the Center, to seniors throughout the City. He noted that the recent survey was an important tool and the first step in the long process of providing those services.

Responding to a question from Mr. Santos, Community Service Director Jones stated that the Commission on Aging could share with the City Council the concern regarding the lack of parking at the Center, as well as the 2-hour parking limit restrictions.

Ms. Endo-Roberts stated that the Center kitchen needed a thorough cleaning. Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that staff would look into the matter.

Commissioner Cohen suggested only adding the second pool table now and waiting to add the ping pong table, as well as retaining two shuffleboard courts.

There was a discussion of parking in the area and the lack of a drop off area by the Center.

There was a discussion of a display area in the Center for craft items: to promote classes, highlight artists, feature work from participants or for the possible sale of items.

Commissioner Cohen requested that the Department return to the Commission with an amended plan that included the items that had been discussed today.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that she believed that the Department would take into account all discussion that had occurred today as they proceeded on the various steps of the plan.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kraemer, Commissioner Cohen stated that he would like to remove the installation of a ping pong table from the plan.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that there had been requests from staff and Center users to bring ping pong into the Center and added that the best area for ping pong, for noise control purposes, would be in the enclosed room with the pool table. He noted that the combination ping pong table would also double the number of pool tables.

Community Service Director Jones suggested that ping pong players have scheduled times to use the tables.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to approve the evaluation of the Center Programs and Room Use as presented. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Miranda)

## **9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Commissioners Virobik and G. Davis nominated Chairperson K. Davis for Chair. Chairperson K. Davis accepted the nomination.

Commissioners Kimmel-Dagostino nominated and Chairperson K. Davis seconded Commissioner Cohen for Chair. Commissioner Cohen declined the nomination.

Commissioners Kimmel-Dagostino nominated and Commissioner G. Davis seconded Commissioner Miranda for Chair.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that the Commission could vote for the two nominees separately or together.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Virobik moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to nominate Chairperson K. Davis as Chair. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Cohen, G. Davis, Virobik, Chairperson K. Davis  
Noes: Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino  
Abstain: Commissioner Kraemer  
Absent: Commissioner Miranda

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to nominate Commissioner Miranda as Chair. The motion failed.

Ayes: Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino  
Noes: Commissioners Cohen, G. Davis, Virobik, Chairperson K. Davis  
Abstain: Commissioner Kraemer  
Absent: Commissioner Miranda

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino and Commissioner G. Davis nominated Commissioner Cohen for Vice Chair. Commissioner Cohen accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Virobik and Chairperson K. Davis nominated Commissioner G. Davis for Vice Chair. Commissioner G. Davis accepted the nomination.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to nominate Commissioner Cohen as Vice Chair. The motion failed.

Ayes: Commissioners Cohen, Kimmel-Dagostino  
Noes: Commissioners G. Davis, Virobik, Chairperson K. Davis  
Abstain: Commissioner Kraemer  
Absent: Commissioner Miranda

**MOTION:** Commissioner Virobik moved and Chairperson K. Davis seconded, to nominate Commissioner G. Davis as Vice Chair. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners G. Davis, Virobik, Chairperson K. Davis  
Noes: Commissioners Cohen, Kimmel-Dagostino  
Abstain: Commissioner Kraemer  
Absent: Commissioner Miranda

## **10. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS**

### **A. City Council Activities**

Commissioner Kraemer reported that organizations could apply to the Community Event Support budget to offset the cost of renting facilities in Torrance and new Commissioners had been appointed to the Planning, Airport and Traffic Commissions.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that there had been problems with the Expressive Conduct Users Zone area at the Farmer's Market and that the Council was working to resolve the situation.

### **B. Housing**

There was a discussion on the procedure for housing at Coleman Court and other subsidies.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed requested that the Commission send her an email with their questions on Coleman Court and other properties and she would return to the next meeting with information on City subsidies.

There was a discussion on whether there were limits on rent increases within Torrance.

### **C. Health**

Commissioner Virobik reported on legislation, SB41010, that would require drug makers to provide advance notice before making big price increases.

### **D. Transportation**

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that work was progressing on the Transit Center, which would be opening in the spring or summer of 2017. She announced that Assembly Member David Hadley would hold a senior transportation town hall meeting on September 7.

### **E. Community Programs**

No report.

### **F. Focal Point Program**

Commissioner Virobik explained that Focal Point was run by volunteers and reported the following statistics for the months of:

#### **July 2016**

Total number of documented calls: 40	Total number of callbacks: 18
Miscellaneous calls: 64	Total number of walk-ins: 35
Total number of calls received: 104	
Of the documented calls:	
40% were for transportation	30% were for housing
28% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik reported that Focal Point had participated at the Rock around the Block event and had added two volunteers to the staff.

Chairperson K. Davis reported that Focal Point updated and distributed their Directory on a yearly basis.

### **G. Elder Abuse/Fraud**

Commissioner Cohen reported on an email scam that threatened harm.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that Torrance Police had issued a fraud alert for automatic tellers at several 7-11 stores.

**11. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioners G. Davis announced that South Bay Village was having a town hall meeting on September 15 at the First Lutheran Church with Assembly Member David Hadley as moderator, along with Providence Medical Center, Torrance Memorial Medical Center and other community organizations.

Chairperson K. Davis and Commissioner G. Davis thanked the Commission for their reappointments.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:39 a.m., Commissioner G. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Virobik and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval. (Absent Commissioner Miranda)

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Approved as submitted September 13, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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