

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on September 8, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Callen*, Cardella, Craft**, Draper, Kraemer, Thomas,
Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: none

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand
Commissioner Callen* (arrived at 10:05 a.m.)
Commissioner Craft** (arrived at 9:37 a.m.)

FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Cardella led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

None

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Cardella moved and Commissioner Thomas seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of September 8, 2009. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioners Callen*, Craft**)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Draper seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of August 11, 2009. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Callen*) (Commissioner Thomas abstained, as she was not present at the August 11, 2009 meeting.)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Phillip Ross, Senior Librarian, City of Torrance
Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council

Commissioner Kraemer reported that although a great deal of time had been spent on the massage therapy ordinance, it still had not been settled.

B. Housing

Commissioner Kraemer reported on an article in the Daily Breeze on September 8 concerning the release of the draft General Plan, which includes plans to change some industrial parcels to medium density housing. She stated that there will be public meetings to discuss the plan, the first on September 23, 2009.

C. Health

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported on her follow up to the possibility of forming a Memory Club in Torrance. She stated that the program in Manhattan Beach was run by the Beach Cities Health District, partnered with the Alzheimer's Association, and that the

program was an eight week education and support group for individuals in the early stages of memory impairment and their care partners. She noted that those in the program needed to be interviewed and accepted into the group. She reported that the Alzheimer's Association was willing to partner with health institutions and suggested that it might be a program that could be conducted through either Torrance Memorial or Little Company of Mary Medical Centers.

Vickie Hershberger of the Torrance Memorial Medical Center stated that she would be interested in speaking further with Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand and receiving additional information about the program.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that she had forwarded emails from Former Commissioner Griffith to the commissioners concerning: free flu shots for the jobless at CVS and Walgreens, a California Department of Health website for swine flu information and adverse health effects from the Station fire.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced a flu shot clinic would be held at the Ken Miller Recreation Center on Monday, October 5, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. She noted that this year the CDC had expanded the list of those recommended to receive the shots, which might result in an increase in the number of people participating in the clinic.

In response to questions from Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the flu shot clinic on October 5 would only be for the regular flu shot, not the H1N1 virus, and was open to anyone, not just Torrance residents. She also noted that the clinic is being held earlier than normal in anticipation of possible additional clinics for the H1N1 shots.

Commissioner Cardella noted that Kaiser had free flu shots on specific days for members and Torrance Memorial Medical Center offered free flu shots to their volunteers.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced the 17th Annual Health and Resource Fair co-sponsored by the Salvation Army Adult Day Care and the City of Torrance Community Services Department on Saturday, September 19, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino discussed changes to the Medicare rates for 2010.

D. Transportation

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the presentation of key performance indicators for the Strategic Plan for Transit had been changed to September.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that Jim Mills, Transit Manager, stated that Torrance was investigating the feasibility of replacing paper vouchers with a fare card for dial-a-ride and taxi programs, similar to those which will be used in Los Angeles County Cityride program.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Transportation Department had tabled the discussion regarding advertising on buses until February 2010, at which time advertising on buses for the 2010 census would come under consideration.

E. Cable

Commissioner Callen announced his resignation from CitiCABLE, but said that he would still hold an advisory position and be able to do reporting.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand and the Commission thanked Commissioner Callen for his informative programs and his years of service for the City.

F. Focal Point Program

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

July 2009

Total number of documented calls: 46	Total number of callbacks: 30
Miscellaneous calls: 103	Total number of walk-ins: 20
Total number of calls received: 149	
Of the documented calls:	
39.1% were in regard to Housing	13.0% were for finances
20.0% were for Legal	

Commissioner Cardella noted that Focal Point had seven cases of elder abuse reported in July.

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

August 2009

Total number of documented calls: 41	Total number of callbacks: 24
Miscellaneous calls: 79	Total number of walk-ins: 20
Total number of calls received: 120	
Of the documented calls:	
39% were in regard to Housing	32% were for transportation
9.8% were for Legal	

Commissioner Cardella also reported that Focal Point gave a presentation to the PERS group in Torrance on Focal Point services and earthquake preparedness. She reported that Bea Virobik attended the following meetings: SMART meeting about the Torrance community improvement program, a meeting with Miinh-Ha Nguyen, Assistant Director of Los Angeles County Aging and Adult Services and Julia Rosenberg, California Senior Legislature member, for discussion concerning the operation of the Torrance Focal Point and how other Los Angeles county Focal Points could implement some of Torrance’s procedures.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

In a follow up to questions at the August meeting as to the number of reported cases of elder abuse in the area, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported that she had contacted Dave Crespin of the Torrance Police Department, who recommended that she speak to Adult Protective Services. She stated that she had placed calls, but as of yet, had not received a return call from the agency.

In response to a suggestion from Commissioner Cardella, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would invite Dave Crespin of the Torrance Police Department to speak about elder abuse and fraud at the October or November Commission on Aging meeting.

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT

It was determined to amend the annual report as follows: Under *Transportation*, the following will be added: *A Commission on Aging member served on the Strategic Plan Committee for Transit and helped develop key performance indicators for the Strategic Plan sub-goals. These include new senior-friendly bus routes and improvement of transit opportunities for seniors.*

It was also noted that the Focal Point attachment needed to be included with the annual report.

MOTION: Commissioner Callen moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to approve the annual report, as amended. The motion carried.

**UPDATE ON CITY COUNCIL AD-HOC COMMITTEE-
REVIEW OF COMMISSIONS / COUNCILS**

There was a discussion about the recently held City Council Ad-Hoc Committee Review of Commissions/Councils. Many Commissioners indicated that they would not want the Commission on Aging to merge with or delegate duties to another Commission and felt that they play an important role in communicating important information to their peers as well as the City Council. A number of Commission members did indicate that they would perhaps be willing to “go dark” twice a year, once during one of the summer months and again in December. The Commission indicated that they would send a representative to any additional scheduled meetings on Commission review.

After discussion, it was decided to add an agenda item to the next meeting to discuss and coordinate a joint meeting with City Council.

After discussion, it was decided that each Commissioner would take responsibility for a particular item under the agenda listings for senior citizens concerns as follows:

City Council: Commissioner Kraemer
Housing: Commissioners Draper and Thomas
Health: Commissioner Cardella
Transportation: Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino
Cable: Commissioner Callen
Focal Point Program: Commissioner Cardella
Elder Abuse/Fraud: Commissioner Craft

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand distributed a summary of the City’s Strategic Plan for the Commission to use as a reference point for topics and concerns to be addressed by the Commission.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino asked Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand to inquire as to the reason the Commission’s 2009 minutes were not posted on the City’s website.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the Torrance Block Party 2009 was held on August 30 and was a nice beginning for a new event.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the Torrance Historical Society and Museum currently had a promotional fundraiser called 30 for 30, \$30 for the 30 years that the historical society has been in existence.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the Centennial Commission had been named at the last City Council meeting and that there will be many volunteer opportunities for the Centennial in the next two years.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the draft general plan is available for review at the library.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that she had attended the first meeting of the Census Complete Count Committee and that the committee was forming partnerships with different city organizations in order to notify residents of the upcoming census.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that there will be a Disaster Expo on October 10, 2009 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that Los Angeles County had implemented a mass notification system that will be used to contact county residents and businesses via recorded phone messages, text messages or email messages in case of emergency. She noted that it is only for land-line numbers and that it would be necessary to register cellular numbers or email addresses at: <http://portal.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/alertla>.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that the Torrance Travelers Program had registration beginning September 11, 2009 and the three programs are: Winemaker for a Day, October 22, Meet Me in St. Louis, November 8 and Mission Inn Festival of Light, December 7. She also noted that The Smile and Be Happy Senior Dance would be on September 25 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for \$5.00, with tickets available for purchase at the Bartlett Senior Center.

Senior Librarian Ross announced that the Henderson Library was closed for refurbishment and that the Walteria Library would close in November for refurbishment. He noted that during library branch closures, seniors who are not able to use their neighborhood libraries would be eligible for the "words on wheels" program.

Senior Librarian Ross distributed the first edition of the City of Torrance Volunteer Newsletter and the Volunteer brochure for the Torrance Public Library and announced Musical Mornings on September 12 for one to five year olds at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

Senior Librarian Ross distributed flyers for upcoming library events and noted for the record that Michael George, a reference librarian, had been left off the list at last month's meeting as being one of the library staff who was responsible for presentations at the library. Senior Librarian Ross noted that Michael George heads the Biography and Memoirs Bookclub and would be presenting a talk, entitled "Don't Know Much about Torrance History" on September 19, 2009 at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center, noted that the hospital tower plan had been approved and distributed flyers and newsletters for upcoming activities and classes at Health Links at the Medical Center and Lomita Parks and Recreation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m. to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Submitted October 13, 2009 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
