

# MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2008

BARTLETT SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Craft at 9:32 a.m.

## 2. ROLL CALL

Present: Callen, Cardella, Griffith, Thomas and Craft

Staff: Wand

## 3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Griffith provided the inspiration:

*“His thoughts were slow, his words were few and never formed to glisten, but he was a joy to all his friends, because he knew how to listen.*

*Smile and the world smiles with you, kick and you kick alone, for the cheering grin will let you in where the kicker is unknown.*

*Even when a marriage is made in heaven, the maintenance work has to be done on earth”*

Herbert V. Prochnow; Speakers and Toastmaster’s Handbook

## 4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Callen moved, Commissioner Griffith seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of October 14, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Griffith moved, Commissioner Cardella seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of September 9, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

## **6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

- Jim Mills, Transit Department
- James Lee, Transit Department
- Vicky Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center

## **7. PRESENTATION: “Upcoming City Council items from Transit Department “ and “Update on Transit Ambassador Program”**

Jim Mills, Transit Manager, provided an update on the Transit Ambassador Program, indicating that the program has been very successful. Past trips include the Redondo Beach Pier, Torrance Certified Farmers’ Market, and Olvera Street/Union Station. The program is designed to help seniors feel more comfortable utilizing public transportation.

Mr. Mills also shared information about proposed changes to the Torrance Transit fee structure. At this evening’s City Council meeting, the Transit Department will be asking for permission to seek public input in regard to the proposed changes. There are a number of reasons for the proposed changes including increased fuel and labor fees and trip subsidies.

Proposed changes include:

- Base fare would be increased from \$ .50 to \$1.00
- Increase discount eligibility age from 60 to 65 years
- Add discount fare for students
- Raise zone fares for seniors by \$ .25

Following public input, the Torrance Transit Department will return to the City Council with a final recommendation on December 9, 2008. The Commission expressed their thanks to Mr. Mills for sharing the aforementioned information.

## **8. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS**

### **A. City Council**

Commissioner Griffith reported that several Torrance youth sports teams had recently been recognized by the City Council. She also referenced the Council’s recent consideration of a proposal to build a large home on Via Anita; the proposal was denied.

### **B. Housing**

Commissioner Griffith reminded all that new housing will not be permitted on the Del Amo Fashion Center property.

**C. Health**

Commissioner Griffith distributed a recent newspaper article which referenced five Internet rating sites which rate doctors, hospitals, and nursing homes. Commissioner Griffith also discussed changes in research being conducted by Pfizer Labs. She also discussed recent research which indicates that expressing gratitude and developing coping strategies aid individuals in living healthier, more stress-free lives.

**D. Transportation**

No report.

**E. Cable**

Commissioner Callen reported that upcoming segments will include:

- Salvation Army/City of Torrance Health and Resource Fair
- “Dancing with the Senior Stars” event sponsored by the Community Services Department
- Veteran’s Day observances in the community

**F. Focal Point Program**

Commissioner Griffith reported that she had recently discussed the shared housing concept with staff at Love, Inc.

**G. Elder Abuse/Fraud**

Commissioner Callen reported an unsettling phone call he recently received in which the caller asked for his credit card number. He cautioned all to never give their credit card number over the phone.

**9. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT**

Commissioner Callen made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to accept the Commission on Aging Annual Report as submitted. The MOTION carried unanimously. The Annual Report will be submitted to the City Council for consideration at their October 28 meeting.

**10. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Guest Vicky Hershberger distributed materials about upcoming health education programs at Torrance Memorial Medical Center.
- With sadness, Mrs. Wand discussed the passing of former Commissioner Charles Breaker. Several Commissioners added their memories of Charles and expressed condolences to his family.
- On a personal note, Mrs. Wand expressed thanks to Torrance Memorial’s Health Links staff, specifically Cam Johnson and Claire Coignard, for their support of her daughter’s Girl Scout Gold Award project.

**11. ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned in memory of former Commissioner Charles Breaker at 11:10 a.m. to the next meeting of Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at Bartlett Center.

Approved as Submitted November 18, 2008 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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