

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2008

BARTLETT SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Cardella at 9:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Callen, Cardella, Griffith and Thomas

Excused Absence: Craft

Staff: Wand

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Griffith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Griffith provided the inspiration:

"No one is so eager to gain new experience as he who doesn't know how to make use of the old ones"

Maria Ebner Von Eschenbach

"It makes no difference if I burn my bridges behind me – I never retreat."

Fiorello LaGuardia

Commissioner Griffith also read: *"Sometimes"*

"Sometimes when day after day we have cloudless blue skies, warm temperatures, colorful trees and brilliant sun, when it seems like all this will go on forever,

when I harvest vegetables from the garden all day, then drink tea and doze in the late afternoon sun, and in the evening one night make pickled beets and green tomato chutney, the next red tomato chutney, and the day after that pick the fruits of my arbor

and make green grape jam, when we walk in the woods every evening over fallen leaves, through yellow light, when nights are cool, and days warm, when I am so happy I am afraid I might explode or disappear or somehow be taken away from all this,

at those times when I feel so happy, so good, so alive, so in love with the world, with my own sensuous, beautiful life, suddenly

I think about all the suffering and pain in the world, the agony and dying. I think about all those people being tortured, right now, in my name. But I still feel happy and good, alive and in love with the world and with my lucky, guilty, sensuous, beautiful life because,

I know in the next minute or tomorrow all this may be taken from me, and therefore I've got to say, right now, what I feel and know and see, I've got to say right now, how beautiful and sweet this world can be."

By David Budbill

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 November 18, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Griffith moved, Commissioner Thomas seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of October 14, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

- Linda Kramer
- Leilani Kimmel
- Candace Allen, Field Representative for Assemblyman Ted Lieu
- Phil Ross, Torrance Public Library

7. PRESENTATION: "Update on Services for Seniors"

Candace Allen, Field Representative for Assemblyman Ted Lieu, gave an overview of services for seniors provided by the State of California. The State budget crisis and cuts to various programs were also discussed. Ms. Allen distributed materials about the following programs:

- Toll Free Telephone Numbers and Websites
- Elder Financial Abuse

- “Protect your Identity” Public Service Information
- Home Mortgage Crisis
- Stopping Elder Abuse
- Identity Theft
- The California State Budget Process
- How to Lobby the California State Legislature

8. **SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS**

A. City Council

Commissioner Griffith reported with sadness that the mothers of both Councilman Pat Furey and City Manger LeRoy Jackson had recently passed away. She discussed the proposed Transit Center and mentioned that Councilman Numark had recently raised the issue of perhaps selling advertising space on the outside of City buses. Commissioner Griffith also announced that a 60th birthday celebration was recently held for Mayor Scotto, with all proceeds donated to three local charitable organizations.

B. Housing

Commissioner Griffith announced that the City Council recently asked the Community Development Department to bring forward an ordinance pertaining to roof decks.

The lack of affordable housing was discussed.

C. Health

Commissioner Griffith discussed a novel, “Deaf Sentence,” which deals with the isolation felt by a deaf individual.

Commissioner Cardella indicated that some dentists are willing to negotiate special rates for seniors.

D. Transportation

No report.

E. Cable

Commissioner Callen reported on current and upcoming segments:

- “Dancing with the Senior Stars” event held September 26, 2008 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center
- Flu Vaccination Clinic held November 3, 2008 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center
- Holiday Arts and Crafts Sale held November 15, 2008 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center

Mrs. Wand thanked Commissioner Callen for his tremendous coverage of the aforementioned events.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Cardella reported Focal Point Statistics for the months of September and October:

September

- Total number of calls received – 146
- Total number of documented calls – 51
- Miscellaneous calls – 95
- Total number of walk-ins – 29

Of the 51 documented calls,

- 29.4% were in regard to Housing
- 23.5% were in regard to In-Home Services
- 20% were questions about Transportation

October

- Total number of calls received – 138
- Total number of documented calls – 47
- Miscellaneous calls – 91
- Total number of walk-ins – 17

Of the 47 documented calls,

- 36% were in regard to Housing
- 19.1% were in regard to In-Home Services
- 17% were questions about Transportation

Over the two month period, Focal Point volunteers participated in 5 Health Fairs. Debbie Cortez from St. Mary's Low Vision Center, spoke at the October Focal Point meeting; she will return in March and will offer free vision screening for the detection of low vision problems.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Griffith reported on a current scam involving "fake checks." Telephone and e-mail scams were also discussed.

9. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest Phil Ross discussed two events being planned for baby boomers as part of the "Transforming Life After 50" grant: a Travel Fair and a Health and Fitness Expo. He also announced that the remodeling at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library is estimated to be completed by the end of January.

In response to an inquiry by Commissioner Thomas, Mrs. Wand provided an update on the Young Seniors Association Tour Program. She also discussed the City's participation in the recent state-wide Disaster Drill.

11. ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. to the next meeting of Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at Bartlett Center.

Approved as Submitted December 9, 2008 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
