

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on January 10, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

**ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE**

Present: Commissioners Craft, Draper, Kraemer, and Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: Commissioners Robelotto, Virobik

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

**MOTION:** Commissioner Craft moved to approve the excused absences of Commissioners Robelotto and Virobik; motion was seconded by Commissioner Kraemer. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners Robelotto and Virobik)

**FLAG SALUTE**

Vickie Hershberger, Wellness Educator at Torrance Memorial Medical Center, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL**

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspiration via email:

*The walls we build around us to keep sadness out also keeps out the joy.*  
Jim Rohn

**ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Draper seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of January 10, 2012. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioners Robelotto and Virobik)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to approve the minutes, as submitted, of the Commission on Aging meeting of November 8, 2011. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioners Robelotto and Virobik)

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Kathleen Davis, Torrance Women's Club

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center

Farah Benedict, Home Instead

Britt Huff, Executive Director, H.E.L.P.

**SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS**

**A. City Council Activities**

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Rose Float Association had been given a donation of \$75,000 to support next year's float. She added that the Rose Float Association would be conducting fundraisers at local area restaurants.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that there would be a hearing at the January 24th City Council meeting on the proposed increase in sanitation fees for green pickup.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the City was working on an ordinance for food vendor trucks.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that Councilwoman Rhilinger had followed up on a request from Former Commissioner Virobik and asked that City staff look into drug discount cards available through the National League of Cities.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the prospective developer of a housing complex at Del Amo Financial Center had filed an appeal which would be heard at the Council meeting of January 10.

### **B. Housing**

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the mobile home parks that participated in the rental subsidy were: South Bay Estates, Del Amo Gardens and Torrance Mobile Home Park.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the affordable housing that was planned for Cabrillo Avenue might be affected by the loss of redevelopment funds.

### **C. Health**

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the YMCA had been honored for their Senior Nutrition sites.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino presented information from Former Commissioner Griffith which stated that payment reductions to doctors seeing Medicare and Medical patients could result in wholesale refusal by the doctors to see such patients.

### **D. Transportation**

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the Transit Department would implement its first service expansion in over a decade with a rapid bus service, during peak hours, from the South Bay Galleria to Long Beach, beginning in the summer of 2012.

Kathleen Davis reported that the Women's Club would arrange to have a speaker from the Transit Department attend one of the club's meetings.

### **E. Community Programs**

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that registration for the Torrance Travelers Tours would begin on January 27.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that Torrance Symphony would present the Centennial Concert on January 21.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that there would be a Chinese New Year's celebration, sponsored by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, at Sunrider International. She added that the celebration included a luncheon and a tour of the art gallery.

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

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported the following Focal Point statistics from a report submitted by Commissioner Virobik for the month of:

#### **November 2011**

Total number of documented calls: 30	Total number of callbacks: 19
Miscellaneous calls: 60	Total number of walk-ins: 29
Total number of calls received: 90	

Of the documented calls:

23.3% were in regard to transportation	23.3% were for housing
26.6% were for in home services	

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported that in November, Focal Point attended one community fair and participated in one health fair.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported the following Focal Point statistics from a report submitted by Commissioner Virobik for the month of:

**December 2011**

Total number of documented calls: 55	Total number of callbacks: 20
Miscellaneous calls: 53	Total number of walk-ins: 24
Total number of calls received: 108	

Of the documented calls:

20% were in regard to transportation	24% were for housing
33% were for in home services	

**G. Elder Abuse/Fraud**

There was a discussion on various phone and email scams.

**FEE INCREASE TO TORRANCE TRAVELERS EXCURSION PROGRAM**

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that fees for the Torrance Travelers Program had been increased, as the City had mandated that the indirect costs of the program, in addition to the direct costs, be covered. She noted that she was uncertain as to what participants' response to the fee increase would be.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the fee increase would vary, depending on the tour, but that the average increase would be about 20%. She added that non residents paid an additional \$20.

In response to a question from Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that problems might result if only volunteers, instead of staff personnel, were used to lead the tours, but she added that Torrance had replaced one of the two staff members on the tour with a volunteer. She noted that it was difficult to compare fees among other cities' tours, as cities could have higher or lower standards to comply with or other funding sources to defray costs.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that to add computerized registration for the Tours would add \$4 to the fee.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand requested that the Commission send her any feedback on the fee increase.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the fee increase would be in effect for registration on January 27. She noted that past tours almost always sold out and had significant waiting lists.

**AARP TAX AIDE PROGRAM UPDATE**

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported that the AARP tax aide program would be set up for the next four months at the Police Substation on El Prado near Sartori Street. She noted that the program had been located at City Hall in the past.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that in order to minimize confusion over the change in location she would inform the Senior Taxi Service of the change and place volunteers in the front of City Hall to redirect people to the new location.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the AARP had sent out letters to people who had utilized the service in the past, informing them of the new location.

Senior Recreation Supervisor requested that the Commissioners inform any interested parties of the location change.

### **ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the cost of first class postage would increase by 1 cent on January 22.

Commissioner Craft announced that he would not be at the March meeting.

Commissioner Kraemer passed around picture post cards from the Centennial celebration of Lights, Camera, Action.

Farrah Benedict of Home Instead, distributed information on their successful 2011 "Be a Santa to a Senior" Program and thanked everyone who had helped out in the program.

Vickie Hershberger of Torrance Memorial Medical Center distributed *Pulse* magazine, information on the Miracle of Living series, "Tipping the Scales" and an announcement that Torrance Memorial Medical Center had gained Magnet Recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Kathleen Davis reported that the Torrance Women's Club volunteers helped with the Christmas program at the Armstrong Theater. She noted that there would be a rummage sale on January 28 from 8:00 a.m. from 1:00 p.m.

Britt Huff, Executive Director, H.E.L.P. stated that the first 2012 edition of the magazine would be published soon. She added that their new series of classes would begin in February and be held on Fridays at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

Farrah Benedict of Home Instead reported that the companionship exemption for in home caregivers was under study at the Federal level and that a change in the exemption could affect the affordability of in home care. She added that anyone wishing further information on the proposed exemption change could contact Home Instead.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Amended February 14, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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