

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on March 12, 2013 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, G. Davis, Kimmel-Dagostino, Kraemer, Virobik**, and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: Commissioner Robelotto

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

** Commissioner Virobik left the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Robelotto; motion was seconded by Commissioner G. Davis. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Robelotto)

FLAG SALUTE

Senior Business Manager Minter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

Nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion.

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel

There is no hope of joy except in human relations.

Antoine De Saint-Exupery

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

Commissioner Craft provided the following inspiration:

Being smart is when you believe only half of what you hear... But brilliance is when you know which half to believe.

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Kramer moved and Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of March 12, 2013. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioner Robelotto)

MOTION: Commissioner G. Davis moved and Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of February 19, 2013, as amended. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioner Robelotto)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Jason Minter, Senior Business Manager

Shawn Plunkett, Home Improvement Program Supervisor

Andres Islas, Home Improvement Coordinator

Kendrick Scott, trainee with Home Improvement Program

Former Commissioner Griffith, LACCOA

INTRODUCTION TO THE HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Senior Business Manager Minter presented information on the Home Improvement Program (HIP) and noted that the Program was now part of the Community Services Department and funded by Community Services block grants. He explained that the program had two components: it provided unskilled workers paid training in carpentry, electrical repair, painting and other home repair skills needed to become successful in a permanent job, and also provided home improvement services and handicap upgrades to seniors.

Home Improvement Program Supervisor Plunkett distributed program brochures and asked the Commissioners to assist the program in forwarding information about the program to seniors. He noted that the service was for residences only and that in order for home owners to receive the service, they would need to qualify under the HUD income level guidelines.

Home Improvement Coordinator Islas noted that the Program was covered under the City's liability insurance.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kraemer, Home Improvement Coordinator Islas stated that response time to requests could vary and that safety issues always took first priority. He noted that most wheelchair ramps were custom installations and that the waiting period for house painting could be one year.

Home Improvement Coordinator Islas stated that staff assisted applicants with the necessary financial forms to qualify for the service. He noted that the funds could not be used to pay bills for seniors, but that a repair to fix a leak or a broken window would help to lower utility bills and result in a savings for the homeowner.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Virobik, Home Improvement Coordinator Islas stated that HIP did work with the Specialty Multi-Agency Response Team (SMART) Team on some projects, such as hoarding.

Senior Business Manager Minter stated that there was no exact limit for any one individual's services, but that it was very important to budget both time and money for the entire program. He noted that the budget for the year was \$278,000.

Kendrick Scott, a trainee in HIP, stated that the position was his first job and that the position would be for 6 months and a total of 1000 hours.

Senior Business Manager Minter stated that the program did not service rentals as there could be problems with landlords and he noted that requests for services at mobile homes were evaluated on a case by case basis. He added that there would soon be new HIP brochures and he invited the Commission's feedback on the new brochure.

Senior Business Manager Minter explained that he was hoping to offer a certificate for the training portion of HIP, with a graduation recognition ceremony at a Council meeting.

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the City initiated a two year project to collect used tires for recycling.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the City had reduced the number of employees from 1800 to 1300.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that City had authorized a letter of intent for a LAX Flyaway Service (Capitalized)

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the City Council had adopted the following Community Development Block Grants:

Sidewalk Improvement: \$285,000
Cravens Sidewalk Repair: \$92,000
Torrance Park Improvement: \$116,000
Home Improvement Program: \$278,000

Commissioner Kraemer explained that the City had approved an agreement with Meta Housing Corporation for mixed use affordable housing project at 1640 Cabrillo Avenue. She stated that the complex would consist of 22 one bedroom units, 8 two bedroom units and 14 three bedroom units and that the required income levels would be: 10 very low, 28 low and 5 moderate.

B. Housing

Commissioner Virobik noted that she had done further research on the Pasadena Village housing concept that Commissioner Kraemer had spoken of at the February meeting and explained that the concept was that of a membership organization which offered support, programs and services to allow members to remain living in their homes. She added that membership was \$720 for a one person household and \$960 for a two person household.

Commissioner Kraemer discussed an article in the Daily Breeze on the Meta Housing Corporation project at 1640 Cabrillo Avenue.

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik noted that she had used a website called Age Watch for information she had presented at past meetings.

Former Commissioner Griffiths announced that the California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform would present a workshop on Medi-Cal for Long Term Care Professionals, on April 11 in Pasadena and April 12 in Los Angeles.

There was a discussion on long term care insurance.

Chairperson K. Davis discussed an article in AARP on the benefit of music for Alzheimer's patients.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that Transit Administration Manager Mills had reported that: the City would purchase 10 additional CNG buses, service had begun on the Line #3 Rapid Service and the Express 110 Service and that the senior fare was still just 25 cents.

E. Community Programs

Chairperson K. Davis announced that the City was looking for volunteers to conduct interviews for the Youth Council's "Beat the Odds" Program and stated that she would send the information to the Commission.

Former Commissioner Griffith distributed information on the CalFresh program and the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Americans.

Commission G. Davis discussed information on the release of State parolees from the meeting of the South Bay Cities Councils of Government (SBCCOG).

Chairperson K. Davis announced the Attic Pancake Breakfast would be held on April 6 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., with a suggested donation of \$5.00. She added that Helen Dennis would be speaking at the Women's Club on April 3.

Commissioner Virobik noted that Los Angeles County had published a very extensive Emergency Survival Guide.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported that the Torrance Tour Program had sent notices to past program participants and posted information online for the Spring tours to the Queen Mary, San Diego and the Space Shuttle Endeavour.

F. Focal Point Program

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

February 2013

Total number of documented calls: 26	Total number of callbacks: 18
Miscellaneous calls: 50	Total number of walk-ins: 14
Total number of calls received: 76	

Of the documented calls:

7 % were for transportation	65.4% were for housing
23% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik reported that Focal Point had handled four financial elder abuse cases, which were reported to the authorities. She added that Focal Point did one community presentation.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

There was a discussion on phone and home scams regarding electricity bills.

Commissioner Kraemer reported on a post card alert mailed out by the AARP regarding contest scams.

Commissioner Kraemer reminded the newly reappointed Commissioners to fill out and submit their forms to the City.

OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION

Commissioner Kraemer distributed her own resume and the updated resume for Toni Sargent.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that May 29 would be the likely date for the LA County recognition.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that she would support of Toni Sargent and at 11:20 a.m. recused herself from the vote and left the room.

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved and Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino seconded, to approve the nominations of Toni Sargent, Lynda Kraemer and Fran Day for the Older Americans Recognition by the City of Torrance on May 14. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioners Robelotto and Kraemer)

MOTION: Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to approve the nomination of Lynda Kraemer for the Older Americans Recognition by the County of Los Angeles on May 29. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioners Robelotto and Kraemer)

At 11:23 a.m. Commissioner Kraemer returned to the meeting. Commissioner Kraemer thanked the Commission for her nomination.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson K. Davis announced a State of the County luncheon meeting on March 14 with 4th District Supervisor Don Knabe and noted that Terri Nishimura would be honored.

Commissioner Craft noted that there had been an ad in the Daily Breeze asking for volunteers for Focal Point.

At 11:25 a.m. Commissioner Virobik left the meeting.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that the Spring Boutique would be held at Wilson Park on Sunday, March 17.

Chairperson K. Davis announced that at the April 3 meeting of the Women's Club, there would be a collection for clothing for foster children aged 2 to 12 years.

Former Commissioner Griffith expressed her concern that many Adult Education classes were being discontinued and that Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SCROC) might close.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that she would be attending the Government Affairs meeting with Chamber of Commerce on March 26 and she would bring up the subject of the Adult Education classes. She added that she would also attend a Leadership Torrance meeting in Sacramento on April 7 – 9 with Al Muratsuchi, Ted Lieu and Rod Wright and she would again raise the subject of adult education.

Chairperson K. Davis noted that she would not be at the May meeting.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would check to see the best date to place the Annual Report on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Amended April 9, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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