

April 12, 2016

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on April 12, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

**2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE**

Present: Commissioners Cohen, Kimmel-Dagostino, G. Davis, Kraemer, Miranda and Virobik

Absent: Chairperson K. Davis

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cohen moved to approve the excused absence of Chairperson K. Davis; motion was seconded by Commissioner Miranda. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Chairperson K. Davis)

**3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL**

Acting Chair G. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the inspirations.

**4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Miranda moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of April 12, 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Chairperson K. Davis)

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Kraemer requested that on page 3, under City Council activities, third paragraph, that the words "for a new building and" be deleted.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cohen moved and Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of March 8, 2016, as amended. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Chairperson K. Davis)

**6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Doris Herzog, Registered HICAP Volunteer Counselor

Dean M.

Shirley Cooper

Commissioner Griffith, Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA)  
Chair of Health, Nutrition and Long Term Care Committee

Recreation Services Manager Brunette

**7. HEALTH COUNSELING AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM (HICAP)**

Doris Herzog stated that she was registered with the California Department of Aging and volunteered through the Center for Health Care Rights as a HICAP Volunteer Counselor and noted that she met with people on a one on one basis to educate them on how Medi-Cal relates

to Medicare. She explained that Medicare was a federal program available for persons over 65 and Medi-Cal was a California insurance for low-income persons. She noted that people could have both Medicare and Medi-Cal (Medi-Medi) and distributed an information sheet on how Medicare worked together with Medi-Cal. She stated that Medicare paid first for your health care and paid for: doctors, hospitals, medical bills and prescription drugs, while Medi-Cal paid for: Medicare co-payments and deductibles, prescription drugs not covered by Part D, long term care in a nursing home and your Medicare Part B premium in some situations.

Ms. Herzog also distributed a screening tool which could be used to determine the level of benefits a client would be eligible for. She noted that the client's income, assets and resources needed to be calculated to determine their eligibility level and added that the look back period for resources was now 30 months and would be increasing to five years. She explained that she advised her clients to get legal advice before transferring income or property, in order to better understand the consequences for both tax and health care benefits.

There was a discussion of sources available to obtain information on Medi-Cal and how and when to apply. Ms. Herzog added that if you were denied Medi-Cal coverage, you could reapply, if your income level changed. She noted that you could also be eligible for emergency approval, if you were admitted to certain hospitals.

Ms. Herzog stated that Medi-Cal covered dental services for those over 65, but she noted that you would need to use their providers, which could be difficult to access. She explained that if a person was full Medi-Medi, they could change drug plans once a month, if they had a problem with a particular plan.

In response to a question from Former Commissioner Griffith, Ms. Herzog stated that she did not anticipate that there would be many benefits added to the existing plan. Commissioner Miranda reminded the Commission that at the Successful Aging Expo on May 7, there would be information on the benefits for the new Medi-Medi plans.

Commissioner Miranda stated that in eight Counties it was mandatory for a person on Medi-Cal to be on managed care for the Medi-Cal portion of their services.

There was a discussion of the various plans and long term care options.

Ms. Herzog stated that most of the people she counseled were either turning 65 and wanted to understand what their options would be under Medicare or those who wished to change their drug plans. She added that she had legal staff at the Center for Health Care Rights to assist her if the issues were complicated. She noted that she saw very few in home care clients or nursing home patients, because they were not likely to be able to visit the office. She explained that people could make appointments to see her either at the Bartlett Center or Torrance Memorial Medical Center. She added that there was an ad for her services in the Senior newsletter and on flyers in the Bartlett Center.

#### **8. OLDER AMERICAN NOMINATIONS - Discussion**

Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed stated that the item would go before the Council on May 17 along with the Proclamation and the recognition for the four nominees.

#### **9. EVALUATING BARTLETT SENIOR CENTER ROOM USAGE - Introduction for future discussion of programs and room use**

Recreation Services Manager Brunette presented the report included in the meeting material and noted that the purpose of the report was to keep the Commission informed and to begin a discussion on possibilities for future plans for the Bartlett Senior Center. He noted that staff was evaluating how the rooms might be re-purposed, such as possibly replacing some of the shuffle board courts with fitness areas or an additional pool table. He explained that staff

believed that there were several potential opportunities to add services without having to displace any programs that were currently being provided at the Center.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that the age of 50 and older had been established as the target for the Senior Center. He added that the Bartlett Senior Center was the only Center in the City that had large enough rooms that could accommodate other events and staff wanted to be able to continue to allow other organizations the use of the facility. He stated that staff was working on ways to add parking or share parking.

Acting Chair G. Davis stated that she had a concerns that the Center did not provide enough classes and was not welcoming to seniors.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that staff wanted to work with the Commission and the public to make suggestions and help identify ideas to help make changes to the Center. He added that the Department was looking for ways to increase funding for the Center.

Commissioner Kraemer requested that the report include a map of the Center and the organizations that were currently using the facilities.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that residents in North Torrance would like more activities and programs at McMaster Park. Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that the Department would first start with improvements at the Bartlett Senior Center and explained that the recent remodeling at McMaster Park had run short on funding and was not able to complete everything that had been originally proposed.

There was a discussion of adding a second pool table and soliciting the public's opinion on desired changes for the Center.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette described the history of the Gem and Mineral program at the Bartlett Center and how it evolved to become a City program.

Commissioner Virobik noted that walk in traffic for Focal Point had increased during the months that AARP income tax help was operating in the building, as the front door was unlocked and the building was easier for the public to access. She added that her volunteers were much happier when there were other occupants in the building. Acting Chair G. Davis stated that she had placed a request with the Mayor and City Council that South Bay Village be allowed to move into the Annex. Recreation Services Manager Brunette confirmed that the City was also exploring options for the Russ Nolte Annex, as part of the overall Bartlett Center's programs evaluation.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino suggested that the One Stop Shop for Work Force Development Group could develop some focus on jobs for seniors.

Commissioner Virobik suggested that the Department conduct surveys during lunch times at the Center to ask seniors for their suggestions on what they would like to see at the Bartlett Center.

Shirley Cooper stated that she had been a longtime patron of the Bartlett Center and noted that she was in favor of adding another pool table as there was such great interest and enthusiasm from the players. She requested that the Department look into reviving a popular Sunday dance program that used to be held at the Center, and noted that without special programs and activities the number of people who came to the Center and stayed for lunch was lower.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette requested that the Commission notify Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed of any ideas or questions they might have regarding the Bartlett Center, so that she could then forward the information on to him and Cindy Snodgrass.

Commissioner Virobik stated that the request for ideas for the Bartlett Center should also be placed in the Senior newsletter.

## **10. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS**

### **A. City Council Activities**

Commissioner Kraemer reported that budget workshops were set for May 10 and 17 and added that this was the second year of the two year operating budget. She noted that the new Mall opening did not have an effect on the fourth quarter sales tax revenue.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the Council was working on a garage sale ordinance, a plan for back yard chickens and a logistics plan for the fireworks display on the Fourth of July.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the Council had approved but not yet funded free wi-fi service in the Council Chambers.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that a request for proposal (RFP) for an emergency ambulance service had been denied and McCormick remained as the City's ambulance provider. She noted that at the April 12 meeting there would be an item to ask for a Commissioner's resignation.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the City's budget had been affected by the loss of the utility tax from the shutdown of Exxon Mobil.

### **B. Housing**

Commissioner Kraemer stated that a six story senior condominium complex would be built on Prairie Avenue.

There was a discussion of senior apartments and senior living facilities in Torrance.

### **C. Health**

Commissioner Miranda reminded the Commission that the Successful Aging Expo would be held at the Torrance Marriot on May 7.

### **D. Transportation**

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that Uber was working on a method for caregivers to be able to schedule rides for their clients.

### **E. Community Programs**

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Annual Bunka-Sai Japanese Cultural Festival would be held at the Ken Miller Recreation Center on April 16 and 17.

Acting Chair G. Davis reported that the Annual Senior Fair would be held at the Ken Miller Recreation Center on May 17.

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

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

**March 2016**

Total number of documented calls: 40	Total number of callbacks: 25
Miscellaneous calls: 78	Total number of walk-ins: 72
Total number of calls received: 118	
Of the documented calls:	
22.5% were for transportation	50% were for housing
17.5% were for in home services	

**G. Elder Abuse/Fraud**

Commissioner Cohen stated that AARP Bulletin contained a variety of good information, both on scams and other issues.

Commissioner Virobik reported that to prevent identity theft, one could place a on security freeze on your credit report. She distributed information on the procedure.

Acting Chair G. Davis stated that she had reduced the number of unsolicited calls by picking up the phone, but not speaking.

**11. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There was a discussion of coyotes in Torrance and a County program that might be able to help.

Commissioner Cohen, Virobik and Acting Chair G. Davis spoke.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:35 a.m., Commissioner Miranda moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kraemer and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval. (Absent Chairperson K. Davis)

###

Approved as submitted May 10, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
---