

May 12, 2015

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on May 12, 2015 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, G. Davis, Kimmel-Dagostino, Kraemer, Miranda, Virobik and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Mr. Dominguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

Courage is fire; bullying is smoke

Benjamin Disraeli

If you are irritated by every rub, how will your mirror be polished?

Rumi

The possible's slow fuse is lit by the imagination.

Emily Dickinson

Every man must do two things alone: He must do his own believing and his own dying.

Martin Luther

Leaders become great not because of their power, but because of their ability to empower others.

John Maxwell

Motherhood: All love begins and ends there.

Robert Browning

Commissioner Kraemer provided the following inspiration:

Write thank-you notes. Tip well. Sing. Drink responsibly. Remember that good manners cost nothing, and open doors. Reach out to someone who is lonely. Make them laugh. Help people smile.

Scott Simon's quotes from his mother

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner G. Davis moved and Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of May 12, 2015. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Cohen moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of April 14, 2015, as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Andrea, sister of Commissioner G. Davis

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

Fredy Dominguez, Attentive Home Care

Transit Administrative Manager Mills

Transit Administrative Analyst Lee

Mark Davis

Julie Dojiri, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons

Youth Services Librarian Gutierrez, Walteria Library

7. UPDATE ON THE SWIPE CARD SYSTEM: Jim Mills Transit Administrator, Transit Department

Transit Administrative Manager Mills presented an update on the swipe card system. He stated that re-registration for the first 90 people would begin on May 18 at the El Retiro Library. He explained that each week re-registration information letters would be sent out to another group of users. He noted that the re-registration process allowed the department to verify and update their database as well as create a personal swipe card with a photo for each user. He added that all of the paper tickets will be credited to the swipe cards, eliminating both the need for paper tickets and the lengthy processing time necessary for payment and mailing out of the tickets.

Transit Administrative Manager Mills stated that the re-registration letters would detail what types of identification information the user would need to bring in order to re-register in the program and provide a free ticket to allow travel back and forth to the registration site. He added that there were multiple registration sites and users would be assigned to go to the registration location closest to their home. He noted that at each location three stations with volunteers and staff members would be set up to:

1. Verify identification and eligibility
2. Take the user's picture for the card
3. Issue and activate the swipe card, add any paper tickets to the card or add newly purchased tickets to the card, register the user's credit card for future purchases

Transit Administrative Manager Mills stated that over the next three months, the Department planned to re-register 1500 people. He noted that the department had established a hotline to help with the transition. He explained that he would return to the Commission in July with an update.

In response to a question from Chairperson K. Davis, Transit Administrative Manager Mills stated that currently the user was not able to add money to their swipe card using their own computer.

There was a discussion of problems obtaining identification.

Transit Administrative Manager Mills stated that the Transit Department had scheduled a preliminary visit to New Horizons before the residents were scheduled for their re-registrations appointments. He added that the swipe cards would be usable as soon as they were activated

during the registration process and explained that lost cards were replaced for free and reloaded with any remaining balances.

Transit Administrative Manager Mills announced that he would be retiring from the City in July and would miss his visits to the Commission.

8. ALZHEIMER'S PRESENTATION - Fredy Dominguez

Mr. Dominguez explained that he was a volunteer for the Alzheimer's Association and distributed information and presented a video on Alzheimer's disease.

Mr. Dominguez stated that Alzheimer's was an age-related disease and the chances of developing Alzheimer's increased with age. He described the symptoms and warning signs of the disease which include memory loss that disrupts daily life, withdrawal from work or social activities or changes in mood and personality. He noted that a person's overall health also affected the chances and progression of Alzheimer's.

Mr. Dominguez stated that a skilled physician could diagnose Alzheimer's disease with 90 percent accuracy thorough a series of tests and examinations. He noted that Alzheimer's disease was a type of dementia and discussed the other types of dementia. He explained that Alzheimer's disease was a progressive, fatal disease, had no cure and that there were currently no drugs that slowed the progress of the disease, but that there were drugs that could mask some of the symptoms. He added that by the year 2050 there would be 50 million people in the United States with Alzheimer's disease.

Mr. Dominguez described procedures to follow when visiting the doctor: make a list before hand, bring all medications, and keep a log. He discussed the different stages of Alzheimer's disease and the stressful impact of the disease on the caregivers.

There was a discussion of personal impact of the disease on families and caregivers and the types of medication and care facilities available in the area.

Mr. Dominguez noted that he had additional presentations on Alzheimer's and other topics such as hypertension and memory loss and aging, that were available to the Commission or other interested groups.

9. OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION

Chairperson K. Davis stated that the recognition ceremony was to be held this evening, May 12 at the City Council meeting.

10. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that a Commissioner had been removed from the Library Commission.

Commissioner Kramer announced that the Commission on Aging's meeting place had now been officially listed as the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the City was now moving to a Level 2 for water usage, regardless of where you lived in the City and which Water company serviced your area.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino added that Torrance had won the Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation.

B. Housing

None

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik reported on an article that stated that 37% of hospitals in the state were graded “C” or worse for patient safety while 43% of the hospitals received an “A” rating. She noted that the article had reported that one in every 25 hospital patients would contract a new infection during their hospital stay.

Chairperson K. Davis presented information from an article in the Spring issue of Providence Health & Services Southern California magazine on the Telestroke system, which assisted staff in quickly evaluating potential stroke victims.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that she was on the LAX Airport Association Committee which was working with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) on the extension of the Green Line to LAX and noted that eventually the extension would extend to the Torrance Transit Center.

Commissioner Cohen reported that there was a free express bus from the Artesia Transit Center to all Dodger home games.

E. Community Programs

Chairperson K. Davis distributed information from City Librarian Theyer on an app for a smart phone to help stimulate the memory of early-onset Alzheimer’s patients.

Commissioner Kraemer reported on a program in Wisconsin called “Chefs for Seniors” which, for a fee, brought a Chef and food to a home to help prepare meals.

Chairperson K. Davis distributed a draft of the Commission’s Annual Report for the Commissioners’ review and comments and noted that the report would be brought before the Council for approval in September. It was decided to discuss the report at the July meeting.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino announced that this week was Blue Ribbon week and that the Police Department would hold a ceremony honoring fallen officers on May 13 at 10:00 a.m. at the Toyota Meeting Center.

Commissioner Miranda noted that May 12 was Nurses Day.

Chairperson K. Davis read a note of thanks from Recording Secretary Seaman.

F. Focal Point Program

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

April 2015

Total number of documented calls: 41	Total number of callbacks: 16
Miscellaneous calls: 84	Total number of walk-ins: 17
Total number of calls received: 125	
Of the documented calls:	
39% were for transportation	49% were for housing
24% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik stated that Focal Point had received seven cases of elder abuse, both financial and physical.

There was a discussion on the Home Improvement Program (HIP) and the income requirements for the program.

There was a discussion on a computer glitch involving Medi-Cal. Commissioner Miranda stated that he would send the 800 number for Medi-Cal help to Commissioner G. Davis to forward to the family having the problem.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Cohen explained that the Daily Breeze had an article on the increase in identify theft. He stated that people should not give personal information over the phone to persons that call them.

Commissioner Miranda distributed a fraud alert flyer and reminded the Commission that Medicare or Medi-cal neither sold nor mailed medical supplies.

There was a discussion of the fraud phone calls from callers claiming to be the federal government.

11. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner G. Davis stated that she, Chairperson K. Davis and Mark Davis went on a water treatment tour of the Jensen and Edmunson Treatment Plants and recommended that the Commissioners consider taking the tour the next time it was offered.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Council budget hearings would be held on May 12 and May 19.

There was a discussion of the change of date to May 20 for the County's Older Americans Recognition award ceremony. Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed stated that she had received some information but had not yet received the parking passes.

Commissioner G. Davis announced that South Bay Village went live last week and that two seniors had received services, and added that there were six new members and 25 volunteers. She noted that she had requested that Debbie Hays assist her with a press release for the South Bay Village.

Commissioner Cohen reminded the Commission of the Armed Services Day Parade on May 16 and the concert on May 15.

Commissioner G. Davis stated that the Successful Aging Expo and the Annual Senior Faire were both well attended and successful.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:20 a.m., Commissioner Cohen moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner G. Davis and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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Approved as submitted July 14, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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