

November 10, 2015

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on November 10, 2015 at 9:33 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, Kraemer, and Virobik

Absent: Commissioners G. Davis, Miranda and Chairperson K. Davis

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved to approve the excused absences of Commissioners G. Davis, Miranda and Chairperson K. Davis; motion was seconded by Commissioner Virobik. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioners G. Davis, Miranda and Chairperson K. Davis)

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Ms. Judith McCoy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

Remembrance Day is observed in most countries on November 11 to recall the end of hostilities of World War I "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" in accordance with the armistice signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente.

Veterans Day honors all that have served.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that the government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from this earth.

Abraham Lincoln

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved and Commissioner Cohen seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of November 10, 2015. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners G. Davis, Miranda and Chairperson K. Davis)

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kramer requested that on page three, under City Council Activities, the first item be changed to read the new Commission for Social Services.

Ms. Lynne Michaels requested that the spelling of her name be corrected under Introduction of Guests, from Lynn to Lynne.

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved and Commissioner Kramer seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of October 13, 2015, as amended. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners G. Davis, Miranda and Chairperson K. Davis)

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Judith McCoy, representing New Horizons

Commissioner Griffith, Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA)

Lynne Michaels

Senior Librarian Coates, South East Library, Library liaison to the Commission on Aging

7. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Mayor had reopened a discussion for Fourth of July fireworks and had made a five day trip to China.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that there had been many discussions about the latest incident at the Exxon-Mobil refinery and added that all residents of Torrance should register to become part of the Torrance Alerts system in order to stay informed about conditions and events within the City.

Commissioner Kraemer explained that residents could sign up for the Torrance Alerts through the City website.

There was a discussion of the methods in which the Torrance Alerts notified the public.

In response to a question from Former Commissioner Griffith, Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that because the Emergency Services program was undergoing changes and the CERT program had been put on hold, there had been no widespread distribution on the window cards that were to be used in the case of an earthquake.

There was a discussion on the difficulties with the Emergency Services program. It was decided that Former Commissioner Griffith and Commissioner Cohen would draft a letter to the City and return with the letter to the January meeting.

There was a discussion of the various types of emergency preparedness plans that individual neighborhoods could develop.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino announced that there would be an agenda item concerning beekeeping for the Council meeting of November 10, 2015.

B. Housing

Commissioner Virobik reported that Mr. Thomas Safran, a local builder, had stated that there was no property available on which to build affordable housing.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that housing units for veterans had been opened in Harbor Gateway.

Commissioner Virobik reported that Welbrooke Senior Living had some vacancies and a rental incentive for November, December and January.

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik stated that she had been in contact with a representative of the Congress of California Seniors who had discussed key bills for seniors which included: end of

life choices, new licensing rules for residential care facilities, limiting recovery of Medi-cal costs and a budget item for funding more health and senior services. She added she would bring the full report to the January meeting.

There was a discussion of palliative care in the state.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kramer reported on a meeting outlining transportation choices sponsored by Assemblyman David Hadley, who is the Vice Chair of the Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care. She explained that in attendance at the meeting were representatives from various transportation providers: Uber, Access, Metro and Torrance Transit. She noted that Uber service was not easy for seniors to use, but that Metro provided maps and direction information online, had reasonable senior fares and the use of the TAP card, which meant that it could be a cashless transaction. She noted that people in the meeting reported problems with Access services. She added that Assemblyman Hadley would be holding additional meetings in the area on scams and financial issues for seniors.

Commissioner Virobik reported on a meeting on transportation with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG). She explained that there was a Metro program with a branch in El Segundo called *On the Move Riders Club*, which helped seniors plan and learn to use and take trips on the Metro system. She added that 24Hr Home Care in Culver City was partnering with Uber to offer a premium door-to door service for handicapped seniors. She reported that a representative from Access Services stated that the company was growing, but had a shortage of drivers and could only offer curb to curb service.

There was a discussion of Uber services and the use of the swipe card for taxi service in Torrance.

E. Community Programs

Commissioner Kramer announced that Torrance Memorial Medical Center would be hosting the Festival of Trees starting on December 1, with free days for seniors.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed reported that the Senior Holiday Arts and Craft Fair would be held on November 14 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the Holiday Luncheon would be held on December 18 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed reported that the Flu Clinic was attended by 180 people.

Senior Librarian Coates noted that there would be a *Seniors, Don't be Scammed* program at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

Commissioner Cohen explained that a Torrance Memorial Advantage Member Card could be used for discounts at the Center and transportation to medical appointments.

F. Focal Point Program

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

October 2015

Total number of documented calls: 53	Total number of callbacks: 15
Miscellaneous calls: 75	Total number of walk-ins: 15
Total number of calls received: 128	

Of the documented calls:

34% were for transportation	43.4% were for housing
3.8% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik stated that Focal Point had added a new volunteer to the staff.

There was a discussion of other business that might be moving in to share the building with Focal Point.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino, Commissioner Virobik stated that Focal Point on Aging directed clients requesting affordable housing to shared housing possibilities, property management subsidies, roommate situations, churches and ads in the local papers.

There was a discussion of the homeless in Torrance.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Cohen discussed a study which showed that 9 out of 10 people allowed a person purporting to be a representative from the gas company into their home.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that she and her husband's had had their personal information hacked through a federal government site.

Commissioner Virobik reported on two phone scams: one purporting to be the IRs and the other purporting to be an ATT service technician.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported on an email scam.

8. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Kramer noted that the Veteran's program at the Torrance Museum was well received.

Commissioner Virobik wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Commissioner Cohen stated that he had spoken to Senior Recreation Supervisor Kaemerle who had asked the Commissioner to call for a follow up on the reconstruction of the Armstrong Theater.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed wished everyone happy holidays.

Judith McCoy stated that she was happy to have attended the meeting to represent Julie Dojiri, from New Horizons.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported that suicide was an issue for seniors and noted that the Los Angeles County Committee for Health, Nutrition and Long Term Care was trying to locate funding for mental health services for seniors. She added that mental health services were also offered through the County's Genesis Program. She explained that information on mental health services was distributed by the Committee to the 102 nutrition sites.

Commissioner Virobik stated that the SBCCOG would be addressing the topic of mental health and homelessness at one of their upcoming meetings. She added that if she were allowed, she would invite Former Commissioner Griffith to that meeting.

Senior Librarian Coates stated that the Library staff had presented information on senior services and programming to the Library Commission and noted that he would be happy to make the same presentation to the Commission on Aging. He reported that senior services had

also been a topic at the California Library Association meeting. He added that he would be speaking to the Focal Point on Aging staff next year.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kraemer, Senior Librarian Coates stated that the Library was looking into various methods to offer technical training and information to seniors, as currently, there were no funds available for classes.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the YMCA had computer classes for seniors and Commissioner Virobik added that on Mondays there were one-on one computer training classes, tailored to an individual's knowledge level, for seniors at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center. Commissioner Kraemer reported that the South Bay Genealogy Club offered classes on using computers for genealogy research.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:59 a.m., Commissioner Kraemer moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cohen and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval. (Absent Commissioners G. Davis, Miranda and Chairperson K. Davis)

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Approved as submitted January 12, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
