

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2009

BARTLETT SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Craft at 9:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Callen, Cardella, Draper, Kimmel-Dagostino, Kraemer, Thomas, Craft

Staff: Wand

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Kraemer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Cardella provided the inspiration:

"All around us we see people whose lives are in a muddle. Life without a relationship is like a television without the antenna."

Commissioner Thomas added:

"I act with divine wisdom and rise to new heights of understanding"

Quoted from the Daily Word

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Callen moved, Commissioner Thomas seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of April 14, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino moved, Commissioner Thomas seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of March 10, 2009 as read. The motion carried unanimously.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

- Phil Ross, Torrance Public Library
- Lulabetti Parker

7. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. **City Council**

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported the following:

City Council of March 10:

On March 11, Mayor Scotto and Council members Brewer, and Numark are to travel to Washington to request more stimulus money for Torrance.

Councilman Furey said that we are under a West Nile Virus Advisory because dead birds were spotted in Rolling Hills States and Baldwin Hills. Citizens were advised to use DEET and drain puddles where mosquitoes might nest.

City Council Meeting of March 24:

The Katy Geissert Library is scheduled to get more audio/visual equipment valued at \$8,813.

Funds were appropriated for Water Well 9. The City has updated our 12-point Water Ordinance Conservation Policy (20% reduction by 2020). Policy includes the following: No water is to served in restaurants unless requested, no hosing down of driveways, cars must be washed using a bucket, no excessive water flow from sprinklers into street, decorative water fountains must use recirculated water, and no watering of lawns from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

First violation is a written warning and copy of ordinance in mailbox. Five time violators are fined up to \$500 and have water service restricted or terminated. Extreme cases are charged with a misdemeanor, 30 days in jail, and a \$1,000 fine. The three stages of water conservation the city can declare when a water supply shortage exists: reductions of 15%, 30%, and level 3 all irrigation using potable water is banned.

Transit bus security camera updates were approved at a cost of \$115,470.

Torrance is the first local government to stream on-line government.

On the Torrance website, there is a survey for citizens about how they would like to receive information about the City.

City Council Meeting of April 7:

April 12-18 was declared as National Library Week in Torrance.

April is DMV/Donate Life for California Month (www.donateorgan.org).

Appointments were made to the Ethics and Integrity Committee – 1st Meeting is June 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Appointed to 3-yr terms were Martin Gallagher, Keith Montoya, and Charles Payne.

Appointed to 2-yr terms were Linda Gottshall-Sayed and Kay White.

On Saturday, May 23, Senator Jenny Oropeza will host a memorial program to honor those who have lost their lives in the past year while serving in the military. The event is scheduled from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Armstrong Theatre; The City is subsidizing rental fee of \$200 for this event which is open to the public.

Torrance has the 2nd highest number of foreign based companies in LA County.

The Redevelopment Agency authorized the purchase of 1640 Cabrillo Avenue for \$2,830,000 from the Redevelopment Agency's Low and Moderate Housing Fund to make sure affordable housing goals are met. Retail housing will be on the ground floor. Census workers are currently verifying addresses in Torrance.

B. Housing

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the Mobile Home Subsidy Program is currently on hold. She also reported on a recently approved housing project for seniors aged 62 and over in Palos Verdes.

There was a discussion about Section 8 housing.

C. Health

Commissioner Callen reported that the shingles vaccine is currently available at many pharmacies and drug stores.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Thomas reported on the tremendous bus discount available for seniors through Torrance Transit.

E. Cable

Commissioner Callen reported on a currently airing segment:

- "Community Celebration" – recognition of 76 non-profit groups in Torrance

Upcoming segments include:

- "Roaring 90's" – a 70-member Club comprised of individuals ages 90 and over
- "R.S.V.P. Volunteer Recognition Luncheon" – recognition of senior volunteers

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Cardella reported on statistics for the month of March:

- Total number of calls received – 142
- Total number of documented calls – 43
- Miscellaneous calls – 99
- Total number of walk-ins – 31
- Total number of call-backs – 50

Of the 43 documented calls,

- 56% were in regard to Housing
- 16.3% were in regard to In-Home Services
- 9% were questions about Transportation

Commissioner Cardella also reported that Debbie Cortez, representing St. Mary's Low Vision Center, spoke at the March meeting of the Focal Point Volunteers. Those

interested were tested for visual acuity, binocularity, far-sightedness and color perception. She also indicated that Focal Point Volunteers will be networking with Torrance Homeowners Associations to help make them aware of services offered through the Focal Point.

There was a discussion about the history of various fighter airplanes.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported on the top four scams currently occurring locally:

Jury Duty Scam: The suspect calls the victim and tells them that they missed a jury duty assignment and they have been fined and can go to jail unless they pay the fine with a credit card right now.

The Nephew Scam: The suspect contacts an elderly person and pretends to be a nephew/niece who has car problems, lost his/her wallet, or needs money right away. The elder sends the money believing that it is his nephew or niece that needs help.

New Neighbor Scam: The suspect knocks on the door and says he is the new neighbor that lives on the back side of their property. He wants to build a fence and he will pay for everything but needs to look at the back yard. The victim wants to be nice since it is a new neighbor and walks him back to the rear yard. While they are in the rear, his accomplice is in the house removing property, jewelry, currency and credit cards/checkbooks.

Unsolicited Phone Calls: A number of calls have been received from residents stating they are receiving unsolicited phone calls asking for their personal bank and/or credit card information.

Citizens are reminded not to give out any personal information over the phone unless you initiate the contact. Recent incidents of telephone scams have been used to obtain personal information such as criminals posing as creditors (banks/credit card companies) and court officers stating there is a warrant for your arrest from a delinquent jury-duty notice. The bottom line is DO NOT give out your personal information over the phone unless you called the person and are sure of who you are talking to or can verify the validity of the caller by asking for a call back number, then check the phonebook and/or bank statements before calling the number.

8. OLDER AMERICANS MONTH RECOGNITION

Ms. Wand reported that each of the recipients of the Older Americans Award have been notified about their selection. She announced that City Council recognition of the recipients will take place on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m.; LA County recognition will take place on Thursday, May 21 at 10:30 a.m.

9. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Guest Lulabetti Parker voiced her concern about the accessibility challenges associated with the restrooms located near the reception area at City Hall.
- Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino announced that she has recently completed training in CERT and CPR/AED. She also indicated that she had recently volunteered as a Disaster Service worker.
- She announced the following upcoming events:
 - Tip-A-Cop Fundraiser for South Bay Special Olympics; Thursday, April 16 at the Claim Jumper Restaurant.
 - Bunka-Sai Japanese Cultural Festival; Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.
 - Community Safety Training Day; Saturday, April 25 at the Torrance Police Department.
 - Fire Services Day; Saturday, May 9.
 - Senior Faire; Saturday, May 9 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.
 - Armed Forces Day Parade; Saturday, May 16 (Free Navy Band Concerts on Friday, May 15 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.)

Commissioner Thomas announced that Gertrude Baines, a local resident, recently celebrated her 115th birthday, making her the oldest living person in the United States.

Ms. Wand announced that registration for three upcoming “Torrance Travelers” excursions had gone very well; two of the three trips are full with waiting lists. She also reminded Commissioners that the Election of Officers will take place at the May 12 Commission on Aging meeting.

Guest Phil Ross distributed flyers advertising the following events:

- Refurbishment of El Retiro Public Library.
- Travel Fair: Trains, Planes, Automobiles, and More! scheduled for Saturday, May 2 at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.
- Baby Boomer Health and Fitness Fair scheduled for Saturday, May 30 at the Wilson Park Sports Center.
- April 2009 Calendar of Library Events

12. ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m. to the next regular meeting of Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Submitted
 May 12, 2009
 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk