

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order in the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center on April 10, 2007 by Chairman Callen at 9:32 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Breaker, Cardella, Craft, Clutter, Griffith, Virobik and Chairman Callen

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Cardella led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Griffith provided the inspiration:

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong, because someday in life you will have been all these.

George Washington Carver

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved, Commissioner Virobik seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of April 10, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved, Commissioner Virobik seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of March 13, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Enny Chung, Staff Assistant, Transit Department
Claire Coignard, Community Resources and Services Manager,
Torrance Memorial
Jim Mills, Transit Administration Manager
Phillip Ross, Senior Librarian

7. UPDATE ON TORRANCE COMMUNITY TRANSIT PROGRAM

Jim Mills, Torrance Transit Administration Manager, provided an update on the status of the City's Transit Program, indicating that the program is in "good shape" and operating within budget. He reviewed the Senior Taxi and Dial A Ride programs, which has provided over 32,000 trips and covered 165,000 miles in transportation services. He spoke on the changes to the ticket process and the City's assistance in subsidizing costs of same. Manager Mills shared that the boundaries of the program have expanded and now offers transportation to the airport, downtown Los Angeles, West Los Angeles, UCLA, and Long Beach. He explained that the Transit Department routinely reviews information on the taxi cab companies they use to provide services. Those taxis are arriving within 10 to 15 minutes and also now display a sticker which states information on where a passenger should call if he/she has any concerns or issues. Manager Mills also talked on the Bus Buddies Program which is being formulated to educate seniors on the City's transit services. They are currently visiting Senior Centers to recruit volunteers to train other seniors on how to use the transit system and will escort them on rides.

In response to Commissioner Griffith, Manager Mills stated that the Bus Buddies Program will work with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) to provide information on how to also reach their point connections.

Commissioner Virobik received clarification on the ticket process pricing, and that the referenced sticker in the taxi cabs is displayed in a visible location. She talked on the possible designation of a pick up point at Torrance Memorial and utilizing volunteers to assist seniors to that location. Commissioner Virobik also suggested that the Transit Department distribute flyers that indicate the many places and locations the transit program can take someone, sharing that it might inspire a senior to use the services.

Responding to Commissioner Craft, Manager Mills stated that they have met with the taxi cab companies relative to concerns of drivers treating those paying cash different from those with tickets and have relayed to them that all passengers are to be treated the same. In regard to drivers offering assistance to passengers, Manager Mills explained that due to issues of liability, drivers are asked to provide "as much assistance as possible".

In response to Commissioner Griffith, Manager Mills discussed the property at Crenshaw Boulevard and the possibility of the City purchasing the property to be used as a spot on the green line, noting that the discussions are in the conceptual phase. He also stated that a bus stop at Del Amo Mall would be an ideal location and that the department is working on the issue with the mall's new owners.

Noting the high percentage of calls received at Focal Point regarding transportation, Commissioner Virobik commended Manager Mills and his staff for the great job they do. Manager Mills acknowledged Staff Assistant Enny Chung and the tremendous job she does for the department.

Senior Librarian Phillip Ross discussed and distributed flyers for the Library's presentation of "Brain Games for Older Adults" to be held on Saturday, May 5th, 10:00 a.m. at the Walteria Library. He also shared information on the Words on Wheels program which delivers library materials to homebound Torrance residents.

Commissioner Clutter spoke on the courtesy and wonderful assistance he received from library employee Michael George.

Claire Coignard, Community Resources and Services Manager, Torrance Memorial, commented on becoming partner with Life Line and indicated that she will bring further information at the next meeting.

7. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council

Commissioner Griffith reported that the City Council acted on the Environmental Commission's recommendations and adopted a resolution for the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement also known as the Cool Cities program.

Chairman Callen reported that the members from Save Historic Torrance will be in attendance at tonight's City Council meeting regarding a proposal development that involves the demolishing of four original beach bungalows.

B. Housing

Commissioner Virobik shared a real estate advertisement for a new development called "Courtyard Villa Estates", which is offering condominiums for a seniors starting in the high \$600,000's. Noting its location and high price, she talked on the importance of affordable housing for seniors.

C. Health

Chairman Callen reported that the Harvest Health Fair will now be combined with the Health Fair sponsored by the Salvation Army. Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that the date is scheduled for September 15th and she hopes the Commission can help with the promotion of the event.

Commissioner Virobik spoke on an article that claims certain supplements don't slow down aging and may even shorten life span.

Commissioner Griffith also spoke on a recent *Daily Breeze* article relative to the dangers of mixing prescriptions and over the counter medication.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Cardella inquired about the van at Torrance Memorial used for outpatient services. Ms. Coignard, of Torrance Memorial, responded that she will report back to the Commission on the availability and scheduling of the van.

E. Cable

Chairman Callen spoke on his recent attendance and coverage of the Western Museum of Flight, noting that a huge crowd was in attendance for this wonderful display of aviation artifacts.

He also shared that upcoming shows are scheduled for the Salvation Army's Recognition Program and Community Services Director Gene Barnett's retirement.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik reported the following statistics for the month of February:

- Total number of calls received -- 155
- Total number of documented calls -- 63
(Note: 54 follow up phone calls were made to clients)
- Miscellaneous calls -- 92
- Total number of walk-ins -- 16

Of the 63 documented calls,

- 25.3% were in regard to Housing
- 19% were in regard to In-Home Services, and
- 32% were for Transportation

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Virobik stated that she participated in the Torrance Health Department's Health Fair and had two reports of elder abuse.

H. Club Reports

1. Senior Citizens Golf Club

Chairman Callen talked of their efforts to increase membership and thanked Gene Barnett for donating 40 comp tickets to members. He shared that after the videotape presentation showing four of the Club's best golfers putting on a 9 hole exhibition and the assistance of tickets, four new members have joined the Club.

2. Walteria Senior Citizens Club

Commissioner Breaker shared that all is well at the Club.

9. OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand explained that the County's recognition event has been scaled back to the type of event it used to be. She stated that the event, scheduled for May 15th, will be held at the Hall of Administration and will be free of charge. She relayed that she and Cindy Snodgrass will be driving to the event and confirmed that six people will be attending.

Commissioner Griffith read an email she received regarding Ms. Penny Rahmeyer, a Torrance resident since 1951, who has opened up her home to over 140 foster children. Noting her contribution, Commissioner Griffith asked if the Commission would be inclined to nominate Ms. Rahmeyer as a candidate to the City's Recognition Program.

MOTION: Commissioner Griffith moved, Chairman Craft seconded, to nominate Penny Rahmeyer as a candidate for the Older Americans Recognition Program. The motion carried unanimously.

9. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. to Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bartlett Center, Hosler Conference Room.

Approved as Submitted May 10, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
