

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on May 10, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Craft, Kraemer, Robelotto, Virobik and Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino
Absent: Commissioner Draper
Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Craft led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspiration:

A long life makes me feel nearer truth, yet it won't go into words, so how can I convey it? I can't, and I want to. I want to tell people approaching and perhaps fearing age that it is the time of discovery. If they say - "Of what?", I can only answer, "We must each find out for ourselves, otherwise it won't be discovery."

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of May 10, 2011. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Draper)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that in the minutes of April 12, 2011, on page 4, paragraph 5, line 2, the correct spelling was Bunka-Sai.

Phillip Ross stated that there was a typing error on page 5, paragraph 4, line 3 and the correct title was "A Visit from Benjamin Franklin".

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of April 12, 2011, as amended. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Draper)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Former Commissioner Griffith
Phillip Ross, Senior Librarian, City of Torrance

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer noted that Students and Government Day was enjoyable to witness.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the kickoff for the Centennial Celebration would take place at Wilson Park on Sunday, November 6, where participants could purchase and use flashlights to spell out a message to be photographed from the air by helicopter or blimp.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the Torrance Rose Float design was accepted. She reported that the Rose Float Association was contributing an additional \$20,000 to their usual \$10,000 for the float and the City was contributing \$132,000 for a total of \$162,000. She noted that this might be the last float for Torrance due to budget constraints, although the Pasadena Rose Float Association had recently loosened restrictions on commercial support for city floats.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the City Council had approved the change to the senior taxi and dial-a-ride program.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the City Council had elected to keep the transit tickets prices the same, as well as the City subsidy of \$13, but had reduced the number of tickets from 16 to 12.

There was a discussion whether the change would be enough to allow the program to continue financially, as well as various methods that could be used to verify the income levels of those that use the program.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that she had suggested transit presentations at the library and the Bartlett Center to offer ideas for carpooling, combining tickets and alternative ways to get around Torrance.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that she had received phone calls and comments from people thanking her for speaking at the City Council meeting on the proposed changes to the senior taxi and ride program.

B. Housing

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported on a proposed senior apartment complex where proposed rents ranged from \$4000 a month for a 300 square feet apartment to \$7000 to \$8000 per month for larger units. She noted that the rent would include a panic button system and a hot meal. She stated that the developer was going before City Council to appeal the rejection of the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Robelotto stated that she was still working on the shared housing concept. She noted that she was investigating the types of co-op housing that the Alternative Living for Seniors had developed.

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik reported on articles about a growing shortage of geriatric specialists and a Medicare regulation that would reward hospitals that provided high-quality care.

There was a discussion of ways that people could become better informed about medical care and options.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the Successful Aging Expo would be held on May 14 at the Torrance Marriot.

D. Transportation

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Transit department had printed the new bus book schedule and it was available in the libraries.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that Torrance had been awarded \$18.1 million by the Federal Government to help fund the new transit center and park and ride facility.

E. Community Programs

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Senior Fair would be held on May 14 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center from 9:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. She noted that Focal Point, CERT and the library would have tables at the event.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that a "Seniors Don't be Scammed" program would be presented at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library on May 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Armed Forces Day Parade would be held on May 21 at 1:30 p.m. and that free tickets would be available for pick up on Wednesday for two concerts on Friday, May 20 by the Army National Guard band. She added that the exhibits of the equipment from the parade would be available for viewing at the Del Amo Mall on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported that the Torrance Symphony would present the Torrance Symphony Idol on Saturday evening, May 21.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Fire Department would be holding open houses on May 21, Fire Safety Day.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported that there was a downtown Farmer's Market held on Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the corner of El Prado and Sartori Avenues. She noted that the market was being held on a 6 month trial basis to determine its viability.

F. Focal Point Program

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

April 2011

Total number of documented calls: 54	Total number of callbacks: 20
Miscellaneous calls: 95	Total number of walk-ins: 27
Total number of calls received: 149	

Of the documented calls:

18.5% were in regard to transportation	44.4% were for housing
30% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik also reported that Focal Point did four presentations for senior groups. She noted that she had difficulty finding resources for a client who wished to relocate to Pasadena, as Pasadena did not have a centralized list or directory available for persons searching for senior services, as Torrance did.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the series of programs on scams targeting seniors, presented by the Police Department, were well attended and very informative.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino asked for nominations for officers.

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to nominate Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino to serve as Chairperson and Commissioner Kraemer to serve as Vice Chair. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Draper)

OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that she would be at the City Council meeting on May 10 to accept the proclamation for Older Americans month.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that the nominee Dee Hardison would be recognized at the May 10 City Council meeting.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that May 25 was the Recognition Day for the Los Angeles County award. She added that she would contact those that had expressed an interest in attending, and inform them of the time that she planned to drive to the event.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Virobik noted that the final lecture in the scam series for seniors would be on telemarketers/internet fraud and be held on August 19.

Senior Librarian Ross distributed flyers for the Torrance Public Library May Calendar of Events which included: the Author and Artist Faire, discussions by author Jenny Cho of *Chinatown and the China City in Los Angeles* and Dr. Tricia Toyota, author of *Envisioning America: New Chinese Americans and the Politics of Belonging* on May 14. He noted that at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library on May 18 at 7:00 p.m., the South Bay Cities Genealogical Society would present *Torrance Historical Newspaper Archives Then and Now*.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the Sister City Association: had developed a citizen's fund to raise money for disaster relief for displaced persons in Kashiwa, were accepting donations and had scheduled Wednesday night fund raisers at local restaurants. She noted that it was necessary to bring the fund raiser flyer to the participating restaurant.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the Japanese students from the Sister City Association would still come to Torrance in August, but that the local students were not going to Japan this year, but would be eligible to go to Japan next year.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported that the local students from the Sister City Association had been offered the opportunity to be part of the Torrance delegation that would travel to Kansas City to take part in the selection for All American City.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reminded the Commission that the June meeting was cancelled and the next meeting would be July 12, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Submitted July 12, 2011 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
--