

July 9, 2013

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on July 9, 2013 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, Kimmel-Dagostino, G. Davis, Kraemer, Robelotto, Virobik* and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

*Commissioner Virobik arrived at 9:35 a.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Patti Fuchs, Torrance Woman's Club, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Chairperson K. Davis provided the following inspirations:

The longer I live the more beautiful life becomes.

Frank Lloyd Wright

Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, But beautiful old people are works of art.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

Mark Twain

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Kramer moved and Commissioner Robelotto seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of July 9, 2013. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent *Commissioner Virobik)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a discussion of the new Omnilore classes in Torrance. Commissioner Robelotto noted that those who wished to participate would need to attend one of the two orientation meetings scheduled for June or August 2 at 10:00 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Kramer moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of May 14, 2013. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent *Commissioner Virobik)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Britt Huff, Executive Director, H.E.L.P.

Kay Ujimori, Librarian from El Retiro Library

Patti Fuchs, Torrance Woman's Club

Farrah Benedict, Home Instead Senior Care

Jennifer Dunay, Home Instead Senior Care

Britt Huff, Executive Director, H.E.L.P. stated that the program had just completed their fundraiser and thanked those Commission members and the City Council members who had attended the event. She distributed pamphlets and the H.E.L.P. newsletter.

PRESENTATION- "Update on the McMaster Park Improvements"

Recreation Services Manager Brunette presented the report and preliminary plans on the McMaster Park and the Herma Tillim Senior Center improvements which will occur during the next year. He noted that the Senior Center and the child care program would be closed during the construction and alternative locations were being arranged.

In response to a question from Commissioner Virobik, Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that the improvement was being funded with a mixture of federal block grants, state grant money and general fund money. He noted that the project had been on the City's capital improvement list for a time.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino suggested placing some computers in the center, which would allow seniors to gain knowledge and training on the use of the equipment.

Commissioner Virobik suggested that a grant could be written for a company to sponsor the computer equipment.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that the department would be returning to the Commission for their ideas and suggestions for uses for the rooms once the facility plans had been finalized.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that the department had met last month with the seniors at the Herma Tillim Senior Center to update them on the improvement plan. She added that the seniors were enthusiastic about the plan, even though it would mean that they would be in another location during the renovation.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that the construction was estimated to take a year and noted that it was an almost a complete rebuilding of the facility. He added that the new buildings would accommodate approximately the same footprint as the old buildings.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that there would be a public hearing on the plan.

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that on Friday, July 19, there would be a giveaway in the front of City Hall between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. She explained that in exchange for 10 plastic bags, you would receive either a pet waste bag dispenser or a shopping bag.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the City was conducting a feasibility study for a medium sized conference center and a new hotel in Torrance.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the Del Amo Mall renovation was beginning and that the food court remodel should be completed by the holidays.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that four Commission vacancies had been filled. She added that the City Council had listed the designated cooling centers in the City, with the Bartlett Center as one of the centers.

Commissioner Kraemer distributed information on the City and the City budget.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the City was going to award the design agreement for the services for new Transit Center at the July 9 meeting.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that there had been complaints about a change in a bus route that resulted in the bus going through a residential area and added that the Transit Department was trying to resolve the problem.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that there had been discussions at the City Council on the potential diversion of Prop R funds, but noted that diversion had been averted.

B. Housing

Commissioner Virobik presented information on the Meta Housing Corporation apartments at 1640 Cabrillo Avenue which would be for large families, seniors and at-risk housing types and noted that the developer received tax credits that he could pass on as a subsidy to the renters. She added that there were 22 one bedroom, 8 two bedroom and 14 three bedroom units and that the rent could be as low as \$466 per month, including utilities.

Commissioner Robelotto stated that she would invite Carol Kitabayashi from the Westchester Playa Village to speak at the August meeting.

C. Health

Chairperson K. Davis reported on health articles in the Daily Breeze and in the AARP magazine.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the Transit Department was installing an automatic vehicle locator system on buses, as part of the Strategic Plan. She added that the Department was also getting a new bus wash and vacuum system and would soon receive ten more compressed gas (CNG) buses.

Chairperson K. Davis reported that Former Commissioner Griffith had sent an email to the Commission noting her concerns regarding: the need for more bicycle rider lanes and parking, as well as additional charging stations for electric vehicles, and sidewalks that were in need of repairs or ramps.

E. Community Programs

Commissioner Craft reported that there was a "Seniors, Don't Be Scammed" seminar on August 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

Chairperson K. Davis announced that Torrance Historical Society's "Rock around the Block" would be held on July 18 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino added that Torrance Historical Society's would also host the 2nd Annual Summer Stroll on August 8 at 6:00 p.m., which was a walking tour of historic restaurants in the downtown area.

F. Focal Point Program

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

June 2013

Total number of documented calls: 34	Total number of callbacks: 8
Miscellaneous calls: 50	Total number of walk-ins: 12
Total number of calls received: 84	

Of the documented calls:

21% were for transportation	44% were for housing
21% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik noted that the Focal Point office was still having a problem with the doorbell being stolen. Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand suggested that Commissioner Virobik have staff talk to General Services for a solution.

There was a discussion on the disposition of the building housing the Focal Point office with regard to the former Redevelopment Agency and on a possible tenant for the Focal Point building.

In response to a question from Chairperson K. Davis, Commissioner Virobik stated that each year, Focal Point volunteers called all of the entities that were listed in the directory to update the information for the listing.

Commissioner Virobik distributed the Focal Point on Aging Annual Report.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Craft reported that there were still groups coming to homes, posing as construction company employees, and trying to gain access to the home.

Chairperson K. Davis reported on an article on problems with long term insurance.

There was a discussion on long term insurance and long term insurance providers.

SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

Commissioner Robelotto stated that she and Commissioner G. Davis had met with Rhonda Thomas, who works as a case manager for Beach Cities Health District. Commissioner Robelotto noted that Ms. Thomas had informed them that there were many difficulties and liabilities involved with putting a shared housing project together, especially, if it was without the umbrella of another entity.

Commissioner Robelotto explained that Torrance had at one time, many years ago, had the opportunity to join the Beach Cities Health District, but did not.

Farrah Benedict, Home Instead, noted that the Keep Safe Coalition was trying to develop a plan in which neighborhoods could reach out and get to know their neighbors. She stated that she would follow up with the Coalition and bring information back to the Commission.

There was a discussion on the "Map your Neighborhood" program.

There was a discussion on how to find a partner to cover the liability of a shared housing program or outreach program.

ANNUAL REPORT

Commissioner Kraemer requested the following corrections:

- Add her name to page 3 of the Report, as attending the South Bay Cities Genealogical Society's presentation on September 19, 2012.
- Add her name and Commissioner's G. Davis's to the first paragraph on page 4, "completed an active two-year term to the ExxonMobil Citizens Advisory Panel"
- Add the following information to page 4 "On December 27, 2012, Commissioner L. Kraemer served as a volunteer to decorate the float."
- Add her name to page 4, paragraph 7, as attending the mandatory ethics training.
- Remove her name from page 4, paragraph 10, as attending pancake breakfast.

- Add her name to page 5, paragraph 1, as a volunteer usher for the May 17, 2013 for the Armed Forces Day concert.

Commissioner Robelotto requested the following corrections:

- Add her name to page 4, paragraph, as being on the bus.
- Add her name to page 4, paragraph 7, as completing the ethics training on line.
- On page 5, paragraph 5, change to the volunteer coordinator.

Commissioner Virobik requested the following corrections:

- Add her name to page 4, paragraph 7, as completing the ethics training on line
- Add to page 6 that there were a total of 1208 calls to Focal Point for the year and that the volunteers met monthly to address problem solving and to host speakers.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would send the total number of participants who received a vaccination during the Flu Clinic to Chairperson K. Davis to be added to the report.

Chairperson K. Davis noted that she would make the changes to the Annual Report and bring the report to the next meeting for approval.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION: Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino moved and Commissioner Robelotto seconded, to nominate Chairperson K. Davis as Chair. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Chairperson K. Davis thanked the Commission for the privilege.

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to nominate Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino as Vice Chair. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Farah Benedict announced that Home Instead would be moving their office to the other side of Hawthorne Boulevard. She noted that she would report to the Commission after her next meeting with the Keep Safe Coalition.

Chairperson K. Davis stated that the Torrance Woman's Club had assisted the Torrance Memorial Medical Center with their golf tournament, H.E.L.P. with their fundraiser and would assist at the "Rock around the Block" event.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that she had won one hour private luncheons with both Assemblyman Muratsuchi and Representative Waters and requested that the Commission forward any items that they would like to have discussed at the meetings.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that next weekend was Old Fort Mac Days at Fort MacArthur in San Pedro and stated that it was an enjoyable event.

Chairperson K. Davis shared a note from Toni Sargent thanking the Commission for the honor of the Older Americans Recognition.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

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Approved as amended August 13, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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