

August 10, 2010

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on August 10, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Cardella, Craft, Draper, Virobik and Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: Commissioners Kraemer and Robelotto

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

**MOTION:** Commissioner Craft moved to approve the excused absences of Commissioners Kraemer and Robelotto; motion was seconded by Commissioner Draper. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners Kraemer and Robelotto)

**FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Virobik led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INSPIRATIONAL**

Commissioner Cardella provided the following inspiration:

*Thank you for those who share their dreams and inspire the world.*

**ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Craft moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of August 10, 2010. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioners Kraemer and Robelotto)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Draper moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of July 13, 2010. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioners Kraemer and Robelotto)

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Former Commissioner Griffith

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center

**SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS**

**A. City Council Activities**

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino presented Commissioner Kraemer's report on City Council activity for the period of July 13 through August 3, 2010. Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the contract for senior excursions with Main Street Tours was renewed, not to

exceed \$113,400 for fiscal year 2010 through 2011. She noted that cooling stations had been set up in the Bartlett Center and the Katy Geissert Library.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the City Council had authorized Torrance's participation in the Los Angeles County Community Development Block Grant Program next year, with the money to be used for capital projects such as rehabilitation of housing for seniors and handicapped.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the City Council had appointed Bea Virobik to fill the vacancy on the Commission on Aging.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reminded the Commissioners that a Commissioner Certification Training session would be held on October 27, 2010.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the Mayor requested that the City Manager establish a system for posting salaries and perks on the City website, in response to the disclosures from the City of Bell.

## **B. Housing**

Commissioner Virobik reported that an apartments in the Carson City Center, on Avalon, that would be available for rent to seniors next spring. She stated that the apartment complex would take subsidies and that they were now taking applications. She also noted that Focal Point on Aging received calls from developers, but that the rent from the developers was \$1500 per month and not affordable for seniors.

## **C. Health**

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that there was a concern that the health club benefits paid by Medicare Advantage might be reduced or eliminated. She noted that California members had not yet been notified as to the changes.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cardella, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that there were some fee-based exercise classes at the Bartlett Center which were co-sponsored with the Torrance Adult School.

Vickie Hershberger stated that Torrance Memorial Hospital had classes at Lomita Parks and Recreation Center for an average of \$2.00 per class.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported that the Torrance Unified School District was experiencing a shortage in its self-funded health insurance plan and teachers would now have to pay for any dependents.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the layoff of younger teachers had adversely affected the insurance plan costs.

Commissioner Virobik reported that a bill, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act had passed in the House, which would require companies to adopt measures to enhance the use of their services and devices by the disabled.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported that bisphenol A had been found on thermal receipt tapes.

## **D. Transportation**

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported on the Artesia Transit Center in Gardena and the Silver Line schedule.

**E. Community Programs**

Commissioner Virobik noted that the program “Seniors-Don’t be Scammed” would be presented on August 17 at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that Life Planning Classes sponsored by H.E.L.P. would be held at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library on Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., August 11, 18, 25 and September 1, 8 and 15.

In response to a question from Commissioner Craft, Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that she did not know how it would be possible to determine the effectiveness of any seminar, without incurring costs to conduct a follow up.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that there were Police Department pamphlets in the library on how to be safer as a senior and that the Police Department would offer a Community Safety Workshop on burglary prevention on August 11 at 6:00 p.m. at the Police Department.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the Police Department had an e-notify system which one could sign up for and receive email notifications on subjects of interest.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that the Torrance Travelers trips were going very well and all the current trips were filled. She announced that the upcoming trips would be to: Spirit of Hollywood, Lawrence Welk Theater and Newport Harbor Christmas parade, with tickets for those trips going on sale on September 10.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the trips were self supporting and successful, due to a revamping of the entire program.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated there had been an Earthquake Preparedness program at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library on Saturday, August 7. She announced that CERT would be simulating a disaster drill on August 18 at the Henderson Library.

**F. Focal Point Program**

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

**May 2010**

Total number of documented calls: 32	Total number of callbacks: 19
Miscellaneous calls: 80	Total number of walk-ins: 30
Total number of calls received: 112	

Of the documented calls:

22% were in regard to in home services	28.1% were for housing
19% were for legal	

Commissioner Cardella also reported that Focal Point participated in four health fairs and gave a presentation to the Torrance Hospital Independent Physicians Association (THIPA).

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

**June 2010**

Total number of documented calls: 29	Total number of callbacks: 20
Miscellaneous calls: 55	Total number of walk-ins: 22
Total number of calls received: 84	

Of the documented calls:

41.4% were in regard to in home services	48.3% were for housing
31% were for legal	

Commissioner Cardella stated that the Focal Point on Aging Annual report would be attached to the minutes.

Commissioner Virobik stated that the number of calls to Focal Point have dropped due in part to the distribution of Senior Services directories which serve as an additional and valuable resource for the community.

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

**July 2010**

Total number of documented calls: 48	Total number of callbacks: 17
Miscellaneous calls: 92	Total number of walk-ins: 23
Total number of calls received: 140	

Of the documented calls:

33.3% were in regard to in home services	33.3% were for housing
8.3% were for legal	

Commissioner Virobik reported that Focal Point had been working on methods to increase incoming calls to the agency and outreach to the community. She stated that Focal Point volunteers were distributing literature and directories at senior apartment complexes, smaller senior centers, and churches, as well as, scheduling presentations at those facilities with meeting rooms. She added that Focal Point had seven presentations scheduled with four more pending and had given two presentations in July.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cardella, Commissioner Virobik stated that Focal Point had met with Homeowner’s Associations, but that there were only four active associations in Torrance.

Commissioner Virobik reported that Focal Point had a good outreach partnership with Torrance Hospital Independent Practice Association (THIPA).

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the Focal Point Senior Services directory was a great tool, with the online directory increasing the number of people with access to the information.

Commissioner Cardella suggested that Focal Point information could be included in the Torrance Memorial Medical Center Newsletter.

Former Commissioner Griffith volunteered to take a directory to Los Angeles County Commission on Aging.

Vickie Hershberger noted that Torrance Memorial Medical Center used the service directory in their phone room.

**G. Elder Abuse/Fraud**

Commissioner Virobik announced that the House had passed the Senior Financial Empowerment Act, which would help protect seniors from mail, telemarketing and internet fraud.

Commissioner Craft reported on a scam asking for money to help relatives in trouble and discussed the dangers of Facebook accounts.

## **JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL --RECAP**

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reviewed the joint meeting with City Council. She stated that she had presented the Focal Point on Aging statistics on affordable housing requests. She reported that the City needed at least an acre of land to build a senior complex, and that the project might take three years to accomplish.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the Mobile Home Space Rental Subsidy Program, begun in 2009, still had money in the budget, as there were only 45 people in the program budgeted for 100.

In response to a question from Commissioner Virobik, Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the Mayor publicized the subsidy when he attended homeowner and mobile home park meetings and that the people enrolled in the program also helped to pass on the information.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported Commissioner Robelotto had presented her shared housing program information at the joint meeting, where it was suggested to use a service such as Craig's List.

Commissioner Virobik noted that she had contacted Love, Inc., a roommate matching service, to see if they were still active but she stated that they were no longer doing the program. She suggested that there be a liaison on the City Council for the shared housing program.

Former Commissioner Griffith suggested using the questionnaire and housing agreements developed by the National Housing program. She stated that the shared housing program could help keep people in Torrance.

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino distributed the draft of the annual report for the period of July 2009 through June 2010 to be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting in September. She stated that the Focal Point Annual Report would be attached to the Commission on Aging Annual Report.

In response to a question from Former Commissioner Griffith, Commissioner Virobik stated that American Board of Home Care had strict guidelines governing home health worker agencies. She stated that the agencies needed to charge clients rates that would cover the cost of their liability insurance, but that \$10 per hour was the rate paid to most health home care workers.

Vickie Hershberger stated that Torrance Memorial Medical Center had a list of prescreened and approved home health care agencies available for referrals.

Commissioner Virobik noted that Torrance had established the guidelines for approving health care agencies that were now also in use in Redondo Beach and at Torrance Memorial Medical Center.

## **ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vickie Hershberger of Torrance Memorial Medical Center distributed the Vim and Vigor Magazine, Health Links newsletter, and information on the Miracle of Living lectures, Women's Health 101, Planning Ahead for the Needs of an Aging Parent and a workshop for cancer survivors and loved ones.

Commissioner Cardella reminded everyone that there would be changes to the exits, entrances and parking at Torrance Memorial Medical Center in September.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that Karen Fitch had shared information on a free dial up service called fastfreedialup.com.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that her interview for the California Citizens Redistricting Commission would be on August 31 in Sacramento and available online at: wedrawthelines.gov.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that there would be two propositions on the November ballot: one to abolish the citizens' redistricting commission and the second to add redistricting for California's United States Senate, House of Representatives seats and the Board of Equalization to the Redistricting Commission's duties.

Former Commissioner Griffith announced that she was the Chairman of Health, Nutrition and Long Term Care for the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging. She stated that the County Supervisors had approved the bylaws of the newly formed Commission, but the Commission had not yet approved the bylaws.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Submitted September 14, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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