

**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 September 11, 2007 by Chairman Craft at 9:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioner Callen

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Griffith led the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the following inspirations:

"You don't have to attend every argument to which you are invited."

Unknown

*"It's the heart afraid of dying, that never learns to dance;
It's the dream afraid of waking, that never takes the chance;
It's the one who won't be taken, who cannot seem to give,
And the soul afraid of dying, that never learns to live."*

Amanda McBroom

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Griffith moved, Commissioner Virobik seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of September 11, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Virobik noted that the August 14, 2007 minutes did not include an attached copy of the Focal Point Annual Report, as indicated in the subject minutes under Item F - Focal Point Program.

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved, Commissioner Clutter seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of August 14, 2007, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Enny Chung, Staff Assistant, Transit Department
Jim Mills, Administration Manager, Transit Department
Phillip Ross, Senior Librarian

7. UPDATES ON SENIOR BUS AMBASSADOR AND SENIOR TAXI PROGRAMS – JIM MILLS AND ENNY CHUNG, TRANSIT DEPARTMENT

Administration Manager Jim Mills 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 63,000 trips to the 4,300 active participants, with the most popular trips being to LAX, Long Beach, West Los Angeles, and downtown Los Angeles. He reviewed the changes made to the ticket process which involve the creation of one dollar tickets, a cap to the issuance of additional tickets, and a review process. He reported that informational stickers now displayed in the taxi cabs has been helpful in addressing complaint situations which average two to three complaints per cab per month. Administration Manager Mills further stated that the Department is working with representatives from Access Services to improve the pick up situation at Torrance Memorial and medical facilities.

In response to questions from the Commission, Administration Manager Mills and Staff Assistant Enny Chung clarified that a memo was distributed announcing the availability of the new one dollar tickets; that anyone needing additional tickets should contact Ms. Chung; that approximately 15 to 20% of trips are to LAX and West Los Angeles medical facilities; and that the changes to the ticketing process has been a huge savings measure; that the property next to the Del Amo Center would be an ideal location for a central bus location, and preliminary discussions are underway with the new owners of the property.

Administration Manager Mills stated that the Transit Department is continually looking for ways to increase the mobility of seniors and their quality of life, as well as ways to expand transportation dollars. He explained that the concept behind the Senior Bus Ambassador Program's is peers helping peers and involves recruiting and training seniors (i.e. ambassadors) on the City's transit services, who then assist and teach other seniors on the do's and don'ts, safety rules, reading schedules, and how best to use the City's transit services. He reviewed the program's successful first trip to the Farmer's Market sharing that there were 27 participants with 8 ambassadors identified by red blazers, hats and name tags. The program now has 14 ambassadors and the next trip is scheduled for November 6th. Administration Manager Mills explained that after the second trip is completed and the program is deemed successful, the Department will reach out with more advertising of the program.

8. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council

Noting the Daily Breeze article on the dog that attacked a postal carrier, Commissioner Griffith reported that the City Council is looking into adopting regulations to deal with dangerous animals.

She shared that she observed the first day of students arriving at the Hall Middle School at Levy, and that the drop off went well, but there was a lot of congestion during the afternoon pick up times.

Commissioner Griffith announced that Commissioner Callen was sworn in as a member to the City's Strategic Plan Committee.

B. Housing

Commissioner Cardella stated that a number of seniors are getting "taken" financially and losing their homes.

Noting the current problems with mortgages and foreclosures, Commissioner Griffith questioned the possibility of the City working with developers on liquidating their stock by turning into affordable housing for seniors.

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik commented that there appears to be an increase in the monitoring of additives that are coming from China.

D. Transportation

A discussion was held regarding whether Access has scheduled open meetings as discussed when they appeared before the Commission. Commissioner Virobik stated that she will follow up with Access representatives.

E. Cable

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand read an email from Commissioner Callen indicating that he is working on two segments: The Salvation Army/City of Torrance Health and Resources Fair, and on the Library programs available to seniors and the disabled.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik reported that the Program has two great new volunteers.

Commissioner Virobik reported the following statistics for the month of August noting that 10 families requested assistance with resources for Alzheimers.

- Total number of calls received -- 142
- Total number of documented calls -- 64
(Note: 62 follow up phone calls were made to clients)
- Miscellaneous calls -- 78
- Total number of walk-ins -- 31

Of the 64 documented calls,

- 36.0% were in regard to Housing
- 26.5% were for In-Home Service
- 17.1% % were in regard to Nutrition

Commissioner Virobik distributed a pamphlet on Preventative Medicare Benefits.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Clutter spoke on the importance of educating seniors to prevent them being taken by scams

A discussion was held on the use of the City's cooling stations during the recent heat wave. Senior Recreations Supervisor Wand will look into the participation level and report back to the Commission.

8. JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL

Senior Recreations Supervisor Wand confirmed that the Joint Meeting has been scheduled for October 16, 2007 and asked that the Commission discuss the agenda format and the keys issues that should be addressed. The Commission agreed that it would be appropriate to begin the meeting with Chairman Craft acknowledging and recognizing the City's programs for seniors. Through additional discussion, the Commission also agreed that the two key issues to be discussed with City Council should be Affordable Rental Housing for Seniors and Disaster Preparedness for Seniors and the Disabled.

9. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Craft distributed informational flyers from H.E.L.P.

A discussion was held regarding Commissioner Callen's submitted information on paramedic assistance/transportation costs. The Commission asked that James Duarte, Public Education Officer of the Fire Department, be asked to the November meeting to provide information on same.

Senior Librarian Phillip Ross stated that he will represent the Torrance Library at the Salvation Army/City of Torrance Health and Resources Fair and at the upcoming Health Fair to be held at Golden West Towers. He also announced "Pirate Month" at the Library from September 15th through October.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. to Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bartlett Center, Hosler Conference Room.

Approved as Submitted October 9, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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