

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

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Virobik led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

“Don’t let yesterday use up too much of today”.

Cherokee Proverb

“I’ve learned....That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

Andy Rooney

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik, Commissioner Cardella seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of October 9, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved, Commissioner Griffith seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of September 11, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Phillip Ross, Senior Librarian

7. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council

Commissioner Griffith reported on a proposed 10 to 14 story assisted living facility and the concerns with traffic such a development could generate.

Commissioner Griffith relayed a conversation she had with Senator Barbara Boxer's representative on the Meals on Wheels Program.

B. Housing

None.

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik distributed copies of an article "Reaching Out for Prescription Drug Assistance", sharing that there are a variety of drug programs both private and public to help lower drug costs.

Commissioner Griffith spoke on a recent Disaster Preparedness Expo she attended. She relayed that they depend on Neighborhood Watch Programs to identify seniors in the neighborhood and that such programs are only active in 10% of neighborhoods. Commissioner Griffith voiced her concern with seniors not being informed and located during a disaster, and inquired about City Council addressing this issue.

Commissioner Virobik stated that Disaster Preparedness representatives should work with City Council on this issue.

Commissioner Griffith reiterated the importance of getting information out to seniors on what they should do during an emergency, adding that the issue of stray animals was also discussed and that seniors should have pet carriers on hand.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Virobik reported that she and Commission Griffith attended a recent Access meeting, which was attended by a large audience of disabled persons. She explained that a new contractor will be taking over the West/Central area and Access will be focusing on the Southern region, which should mean better customer service i.e. less waiting time. Commissioner Virobik further stated that Access ticket holders will also have free transportation on busses, Metro and Amtrack.

Commissioner Griffith stated that she was impressed by Access representatives' awareness of their problems and the measures they are taking to improve services.

Chairman Craft spoke on an email from Transit Department Staff Assistant Enny Chung to Access, and confirmed with Commission members that representatives from Access will be invited to make a presentation at the Commission's November 13th meeting.

Cable

Commissioner Callen shared that The Salvation Army/City of Torrance Health and Resources Fair segment is broadcasting currently, and that the segment on the Library programs available for seniors and the disabled is being edited. He reported that the Western Museum of Flight at the Torrance Airport will also be covered in November.

E. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik shared that they attended two health fairs (The Salvation Army/City of Torrance Health and Resources Fair and Costco's) in September and passed out 57 brochures on the Focal Point organization.

Commissioner Virobik reported the following statistics for the month of September

Total number of calls received -- 124

- Total number of documented calls -- 49
(Note: 51 follow up phone calls were made to clients)
- Miscellaneous calls -- 75
- Total number of walk-ins -- 27

Of the 49 documented calls,

- 37.0% were for Housing
- 31.0% were for In-Home Service
- 18.4 % were for Transportation

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Griffith shared information on a Tax/Will seminar she recently attended.

8. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT

Members of the Commission commended Commissioner Callen and staff for the quality and thoroughness of the Annual Report. Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the Report will be submitted at the October 23, 2007 City Council Meeting and confirmed that Commissioner Callen will be in attendance.

MOTION: Commissioner Griffith moved, Commissioner Virobik seconded, to approve the Torrance Commission of Aging 2006-2007 Annual Report. The motion carried unanimously.

9. JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reviewed the agenda and format for the upcoming Joint Meeting with Torrance City Council on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Garden Rooms A and B. She explained that appropriate staff members will also be present at the meeting, which should end by approximately 6:45 p.m.

Through discussion with the Commission, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand confirmed that the meeting will start off with an expression of gratitude from Chairman Craft on the City's programs for seniors. He will then introduce the first topic Affordable Rental Housing for Seniors. Commissioner Virobik will review Focal Point statistics. Chairman Craft will conclude the topic with a discussion on meeting the unmet need for housing, with Commissioner Griffith commenting on the possibility of working with real estate developers in designating unsold assets to affordable housing. Chairman Craft will then introduce the second topic Disaster Preparedness for Seniors and the Disabled. Commissioner Griffith will comment on the use of the Neighborhood Watch program to identify seniors, and Chairman Craft will conclude the meeting with orals and announcements.

9. ORALS

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that those commission members in need of current certification training should have received a letter from City Clerk Herbers inviting them to a session on October 18th.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand confirmed that James Duarte, Public Education Officer of the Fire Department, will be invited to the Commission's December meeting to address questions on paramedic services and assistance and transportation costs to the patient.

Senior Librarian Philip Ross updated the Commission on a number of Library issues.

Commissioner Griffith inquired if copies of the Commission's minutes are available on the City's web site. Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand will verify with the City Clerk's Office and inform the Commission accordingly.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. to a Joint Meeting with City Council on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Garden Rooms A and B.

Approved as Submitted November 13, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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