

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on October 11, 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, Draper, Kraemer, Robelotto, Virobik and Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

FLAG SALUTE

Dr. Bonnie Shannon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

None

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 October 11, 2011. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Robelotto seconded, to approve the minutes, as submitted, of the Commission on Aging meeting of September 13, 2011. The motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Farrah Benedict, Home Instead
Kathleen Davis, Torrance Women's Club
Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center
Dr. Bonnie Shannon, Educational Consultant and Crisis Intervention
Ardis Shubin, Community Services Specialist, H.E.L.P.

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the City Council had approved the conceptual design for the Centennial Plaza at El Prado Park.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the downtown Farmer's Market would be discontinued for the winter months, but would return in the spring. She noted that there had been a discussion on ways to improve the attendance.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that she had attended the September 27th City Council meeting when the Commission on Aging Annual report was approved.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the City Council agendas and meetings are available online and viewable on the City Cable channel throughout the week.

B. Housing

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand had sent out a clarification on the mobile home subsidy program, stating that the City Council had renewed the program for 60 subsidies. Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the program was already close to 60 subsidies, so it was not necessary to further advertise the program, as the funding would not be available for more than 60 subsidies.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would email Housing Administrator Richardson to ask which mobile parks were in the subsidy program.

C. Health

Commissioner Kraemer reported on anticipated cuts for adult daycare facilities. She added that the Providence Little Company of Mary was publishing a health magazine.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that cell phones with a GPS capability were useful in helping to pinpoint your location in an emergency situation.

Commissioner Virobik reported on a study from the AARP Foundation that found that 9 million Americans over the age of 50 were at risk of hunger and that the rate has risen 79% since 2001. She added that increased rate of hunger in the older population was attributed to impacts of the recession on primarily middle class older adults.

There was a discussion on agencies that collect food and other items for the needy, as well as agencies that serve meals.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand distributed information on the free Thanksgiving dinner offered by the Salvation Army on November 24 at the Salvation Army at 4223 Emerald Avenue from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Commissioner Virobik stated that she would include the information on the Salvation Army dinner with any Focal Point mailings.

There was a discussion on possible ways to distribute leftover food from restaurants and grocery stores.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that free flu shots would be given on November 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that Torrance Memorial Medical Center had offered free CPR training classes on October 8.

D. Transportation

None

E. Community Programs

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand distributed information for the Senior Western Hoedown Dance on October 21 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Ken Miller Recreation Center and the Senior Citizens Arts and Crafts Sale on November 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Ken Miller Recreation Center.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the kickoff event for the Centennial would be held on November 6, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Wilson Park.

F. Focal Point Program

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

August 2011

Total number of documented calls: 71	Total number of callbacks: 14
Miscellaneous calls: 76	Total number of walk-ins: 14
Total number of calls received: 147	

Of the documented calls:

21.6% were in regard to transportation	41% were for housing
14% were for in home services	

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

September 2011

Total number of documented calls: 33	Total number of callbacks: 9
Miscellaneous calls: 60	Total number of walk-ins: 23
Total number of calls received: 93	

Of the documented calls:

18% were in regard to transportation	48% were for housing
39% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik reported that in August, Focal Point attended one community fair. She noted that she was interviewed for an article for the Torrance Tribune newspaper.

Commissioner Virobik also reported that in September, Focal Point had one classroom presentation and attended a health fair. She noted that she was interviewed for an article in the City’s Volunteer newsletter.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Kraemer reported on a bill signed by Governor Brown that increased that penalty for financial crimes against seniors.

Commissioner Kraemer reported on an elder rights lawyer, Therese Connolly, who was awarded a \$500,000 MacArthur Grant.

Dr. Bonnie Shannon noted that it was possible to call the Elder Abuse hotline to get advice, without giving the names of the persons involved.

Ardis Shubin noted that there was an article in H.E.L.P.’s online newsletter concerning the donative care act.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that there would be 2 commission appointments on January 24 for the 2 openings on the commission.

Commissioner Craft noted that the Ethics training would be held on November 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the Toyota Meeting Room.

There was a discussion on cancelling the December meeting of the Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to cancel the December meeting of the Commission on Aging. The motion carried.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that there would be an election for El Camino College officials in November.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that she would be judging the Exxon Mobil safety art poster contest.

Farrah Benedict, of Home Instead, distributed information on their “Be a Santa to a Senior” program, which collected gifts to distribute to socially isolated or financially challenged seniors in the community. She stated that Home Instead was hoping to expand to 800 seniors this year. She added for further information to contact 310-542-0563 or farrah@homeinstead.com

Kathleen Davis stated that the Women’s Club would be working with Helping Hands, the Special Olympics and the Pediatric Therapy Network. She added that the Women’s Club would be collecting shoes for foster children.

Vickie Hershberger distributed: information on classes at the Center for Healthy Living, Strength training, Balance Improvement, Fall Prevention, and the Emergency Energy Kit Series for stress reduction. She announced that the Holiday Festival free Senior Day would be December 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Ardis Shubin, announced that H.E.L.P. would have a free 5 week series of Life Planning Classes starting on October 20 at the Redondo Beach Public Library, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. She added that H.E.L.P. was continuing to conduct safe at home classes.

Farrah Benedict, of Home Instead, noted that a legislative bill on licensure had been stalled, but might be up for discussion again next year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Submitted November 8, 2011 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
