

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on October 14, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Cohen, Kimmel-Dagostino, G. Davis, Kraemer, Miranda, Virobik and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed, Community Services Director Jones

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Mayor Furey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffiths provided the following inspiration:

You don't lead people by hitting them over the head. That is assault, not leadership.
Dwight D. Eisenhower

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner G. Davis moved and Commissioner Cohen seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of October 14, 2014. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Miranda moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of September 9, 2014, as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

7. GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR (taken out of order)

Chairperson K. Davis noted that Mayor Furey would present his greetings before the introduction of the remainder of the guests.

Mayor Furey described his duties as Mayor and noted that he was able to devote the time he felt was necessary to the position because he was retired. He stated that he, along with the Chamber of Commerce members, made it a point to try to visit three City businesses of various sizes per week. He noted that he had a meeting scheduled to visit with the new president of Honda and had met with the current president of Toyota.

Mayor Furey added that the City staff had provided him with an appropriate quote from Frank Lloyd Wright, "the longer I live, the more beautiful life becomes". Mayor Furey noted that the Commission on Aging had been instrumental in maintaining and adding services for seniors, such as the Senior Tours, senior taxis and wi-fi in the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

Mayor Furey announced that a national credit company had rated Torrance as the fifth best city in California for retirement, with a growing population of people over 60, great weather and good public safety.

Mayor Furey described his career as a police officer and noted that scams had become much more sophisticated and cautioned the Commissioners to remind seniors not to reveal their personal information to phone callers.

Mayor Furey noted that Torrance had two major hospitals and that the fire department would soon have their own ambulances, which would serve as a backup to the contracted ambulances. He added that he had an upcoming meeting with Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti to coordinate on regional plans for transportation, water issues and emergency services.

Mayor Furey reminded the Commissioners to support Torrance businesses, such as car dealers, where 1% of the sales tax went to the City. He noted that there were new Ferrari and Maserati dealerships coming to Torrance.

Mayor Furey signed the following: the Best Cities for Successful Aging Pledge from the Milken Institute:

To make our city work for older adults, I will take steps to:

- Ensure that the well-being of our aging population is addressed by each department, agency and division in our city government.
- Make our city safe, affordable and comfortable for our older residents.
- Provide older adults access to resources promoting health and wellness.
- Support employment, entrepreneurship, education and other services to make our older residents more financially secure.
- Offer housing options that suit the varied needs of our older population.
- Improve access to transportation and mobility options for our older adults.

To provide opportunities for older adults to work for our city, I will:

- Promote the engagement of older residents in volunteer and paid roles that serve the needs of our city and its residents.
- Call upon higher education and workforce development programs to help older adults refresh their skills, train, and transition to a new stage of work focused on strengthening our city.
- Recognize older residents as an asset for our city and celebrate their contributions to improving lives for all generations.

Commissioner G. Davis presented the details and goals of the Milken Institute Best Cities for Successful Aging Advisory Committee and stated that now that Mayor Furey had signed the pledge, she would send the pledge back to the Milken Institute, who in turn, would recognize the mayor along with all mayors who has signed the pledge, in their publication of 2014 edition of Best Cities for Successful Aging. She noted that the Milken Institute ranked cities on various indicators including: health care, wellness, living arrangements, transportation/convenience, financial well-being, employment/education, and community engagement.

Mayor Furey stated that it would be at least a year before Costco moved their location, but noted that the Del Amo mall renovation was on schedule.

Community Services Director Jones noted that the Commission on Aging had been very engaged in the renovation project at McMaster Park and added that final approval for the construction improvement would be coming before the City Council in November. He stated that

the expansion of the Tillim Senior Citizen Center would allow more senior services and programs to be offered in North Torrance.

Commissioner G. Davis stated that the Commission had been successful in obtaining funding to allow the senior tours to continue for the next few years.

Community Services Director Jones thanked the Commission for all their efforts for Seniors.

Commissioner Virobik thanked Mayor Furey for his support of Focal Point on Aging.

Mayor Furey noted that his goal was to update the Torrance City website so that it would be more user friendly.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cohen, Community Services Director Jones stated that anyone who wished to make a donation to a particular program in the City could request that the funds be put in a donation account for that program area.

Mayor Furey thanked the Commission for their time and provided the following blessing for the Commission: "May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you are going, and the insight to know when you have gone too far".

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS (taken out of order)

Chairperson K. Davis continued with the introduction of guests.

Pat Artman, for South Bay New Horizons

Britt Huff, Executive Director, Healthcare and Elder Law Programs, (H.E.L.P.). She distributed a flyer for the Fall fundraiser and described the classes offered.

Former Commissioner Griffiths, Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA), Chair of Health, Nutrition and Long Term Care Committee

Senior Librarian Deleget, WALTERIA Library

Senior Librarian Coates, South East Library

Pam Sharon, Torrance Woman's Club

Mark Davis, community member

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center (TMMC)

9. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the issue of collection bins had been sent back to staff for further information on such items as: the number of bins in the City, how often they would need to be emptied and a method for issuing and displaying business licenses. She noted that the discussion would be brought back to City Council on October 28, 2014. She added that currently Redondo Beach did not allow the bins and Lomita was considering whether to continue to allow the bins.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the City had approved supporting this year's Rose Float honoring Louis Zamperini. She noted that the Rose Float Association still needed additional funding for the Float.

There was a discussion of ways to raise funds or donate to the float.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that Richard Tsao and Milton Herring were appointed to fill vacancies on the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that there were turf conversion rebates available and added that information was available at bewaterwise.com.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that there would be a discussion at the October 14 City Council meeting on historical preservation of the Old Torrance area.

Former Commissioner Griffiths reminded the Commission that a plan had to be approved by the City before anyone could begin a turf conversion project.

There was a discussion on the definition of cooling centers in the City. Community Services Director Jones noted that there was not a spike in usage of the designated cooling centers in the City during hot weather, as there were also many other air conditioned buildings available for use.

In response to a question from Former Commissioner Griffiths, Community Services Director Jones stated that Proposition P was a tax assessment and would supply funds to Torrance, if passed. He noted that the funds from Proposition P would be 20% per capita and 80% competitive.

Community Services Director Jones stated that he would like to increase the nutrition opportunities for seniors, perhaps by partnering with another organization in the City.

B. Housing

Commissioner Virobik presented an article on HUD awards of \$7.5 million to help seniors and persons with disabilities to live independently by receiving health care, meals and other critical support services.

C. Health

Commissioner Miranda stated that Medicare had open enrollment until December 7, 2014 and noted that benefits had improved, but he added that it was important to study all of the information on the available benefits. He stated that individuals who currently had Medicare/Medi-Cal coverage, would be placed on mandatory managed care starting January 1, 2015 and should attend meetings to understand their options.

There was a discussion on how to compare the cost and coverage of medical plans.

Commissioner Virobik reported that Governor Brown had signed a number of bills that increased protections for residents of California's Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE). She noted that the bills focused on improving RCFE care, empowering residents and providing the Department of Social Services with new tools to ensure compliance.

Former Commissioner Griffiths discussed the concept of person centered care for dementia patients.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that Transit Administration Manager Mills had reported that: the department had received two proposals in response to their requests for bids on a swipe card system for the senior taxi service, the bids were now being evaluated and the Transit Department would shortly recommend a vendor to the City Council. She added that Administrative Manager Mills would attend an upcoming Commission meeting with an update on the progress.

E. Community Programs

Commissioner G. Davis reported that the Public Works Department had extended the traffic light signal timing at the corner of Crenshaw Boulevard and Sepulveda by adding seven seconds, allowing more time for pedestrians. She noted that the Public Works Department had handled the problem quickly and efficiently.

Community Services Director Jones noted that the desired response time by the City to a citizen's concern was 24 business hours. He noted that after the initial response, the problem might be able to be resolved within five days or might become a project based issue that would require more time to complete.

There was a discussion on sidewalk and street repairs.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Senior Holiday Boutique would be held at the Ken Miller Recreation Center on November 8, 2014 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

There was a discussion on the ADA required bumps on sidewalk ramps and the difficulty that they present for wheelchairs and walkers. Community Services Director Jones recommended that if the Commissioners had further questions they should direct them to the Public Works Department.

Chairperson K. Davis noted that the Woman's Club had supported the Historical Society's Home tours and the Holiday Ball for the Pediatric Therapy Network. She added that in November and December the Woman's Club would sell craft and Christmas items to benefit philanthropic organizations, before the start of the meetings.

F. Focal Point Program

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

September 2014

Total number of documented calls: 41	Total number of callbacks: 18
Miscellaneous calls: 70	Total number of walk-ins: 21
Total number of calls received: 111	
Of the documented calls:	
17% were for transportation	61% were for housing
15% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik stated that two Focal Point volunteers did a presentation at a caregivers' class at Torrance Memorial Medical Center. She noted that there was one new volunteer, which brought the total of volunteers to fourteen.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Virobik, Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed stated that she would check on the progress of the installation of the computer in the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

Community Services Director Jones stated that he was able to use the Focal Point Directory to give information to a colleague and noted that the information in the directory was invaluable.

Community Services Director Jones informed the Commission that the two parking spaces behind the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center would need to become handicapped parking spaces and there might be more modifications needed for the door.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

There was a discussion on scams and fraudulent contractors.

Commissioner Cohen distributed a November 10 article from the New Horizon newsletter on scams and noted that the newsletter was available on the New Horizons website at www.nhsb.org.

Former Commissioner Griffiths presented information an article from the Los Angeles Times about a man offering classes on how to make money buying and selling houses.

Commissioner Virobik presented information on an article on a fake IRS phone scam and requested that Recording Secretary Seaman forward the article to Linda Wilson for inclusion in the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center newsletter.

Community Services Director Jones announced that the "Seniors, Don't be Scammed" lecture would be presented on November 18.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed stated that she would check to ensure that there would be a table set up for Focal Point on Aging volunteers at the "Seniors, Don't be Scammed" lecture on November 18.

9. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson K. Davis presented information on an article by Helen Dennis and a book by Paul Irving titled; *The Upside of Aging: How Long Life Is Changing the World of Health, Work, Innovation, Policy and Purpose*.

Commissioner Virobik thanked Commissioner G. Davis for all her hard work to ensure that Mayor Furey was able to sign the Best Cities for Successful Aging Pledge.

Senior Librarian Deleget distributed a Library survey for future planning and added that she would leave copies at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center and noted that the survey was also available online. Senior Librarian Deleget stated that she would be presenting the first of four Brain Boosting programs on October 15 at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center and noted that each program would be presented on the third Wednesday of the month.

Senior Librarian Coates presented information regarding the GET project grant, which was a community family initiative that encouraged health and wellness, and noted that he would be partnering with community organizations such as the YMCA, H.E.L.P., TMMC, Certified Farmer's Market and the Foundation for Wellness Professionals to offer programs for the next nine months. He announced that there would be a fitness class at the Waleria Library on October 18, free flu shots at the North Torrance Library on October 25 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and an Aging Preparedness kit at Waleria Library on November 4, 2014.

Commissioner G. Davis reported that the South Bay Village had applied for their 501(c)(3) status and had submitted their articles of incorporation. She noted that the First Lutheran Church would allow South Bay Village to use their facility to do presentations and added that there would be a presentation to New Horizons on November 4. She noted that the first neighborhood meeting would be on October 20 with more to follow in January. She stated that South Bay Village now had forms, brochures and a website.

Vickie Hershberger, TMMC, presented information on upcoming programs and noted that Dr. Low Dog would be lecturing on October 30 at the Graziadio Wellness Center. Vickie Hershberger distributed the Advantage Newsletter and noted that the free Senior days for the Holiday Festival would be December 3 and 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She stated that the

new Tower would officially open on November 16, 2014 and reported that the TMMC had been nominated for a Top 100 hospital by US News and World Report.

There was a discussion on where to drop off unused or expired drugs.

Chairperson K. Davis read a proposed letter to Mayor Fury thanking him for his visit and his commitment to the citizens of Torrance. The Commission concurred with the proposed letter and initialed the letter.

There was a discussion on possible dates for a joint meeting with City Council. It was decided that the Commissioners would send the dates that they were available in the months of January, February and March 2015 to Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed for compilation.

Commissioner G. Davis announced that Mayor Furey would be signing the Best Cities for Successful Aging Pledge from the Milken Institute again at the Council meeting on October 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. She requested that all the Commissioners attend the meeting, if possible, and noted that invitations had been extended to Steve Napolitano, Supervisor Knabe, Assemblyman Muratsuchi, the Daily Breeze and all of the other Commissions.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

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Approved as amended November 18, 2014 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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