



SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, October 9, 2008
1:30 p.m.

Almaden Winery Community Center
5730 Chambertin Drive
San Jose, CA 95118

(a) CALL TO ORDER

- (1) The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m.
- (2) The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Martha O'Connell.

Present: Connie Langford, Doreen Morgan, Don Blankenship, Michael Davis, Galvin Jackson, Martha O'Connell, Roger Lasson, and Ron Layman

Emeritus: Ron Schwartz, Dr. Nancy Hikoyeda

Absent: Dick Kohl, Elisa Perez-Lindley, Frances Jones, Lawrence Saltman, Bansi Tikku

Staff: Diane Lindberg and Judy Mitchem (Office on Aging), and Meghan Revolinsky, Council Liaison

(b) INTRODUCTIONS

- (1) Guests:
 - Elizabeth Warren, retired M.D., Homeowners Organized to Maintain Equity
 - Frances Grammer, from Assembly member Jim Beall's office
 - Libby Tait, MSN Student at San Jose State University
 - Pam Oliver-Lyons – Private citizen attending to observe the meeting

(c) ADOPTION OF ORDERS OF THE DAY

A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the orders of the day as submitted. (M/S/C Lasson/Morgan)

(d) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the September 11, 2008 minutes, with an amendment to Item I. (1) New Business - the motion names should be corrected to Jackson/O'Connell. (M/S/C: Lasson/O'Connell)

(e) CORRESPONDENCE (Correspondence Binder)

Correspondence is available for review in the Correspondence binder.

(f) OPEN FORUM

Dr. Nancy Hikoyeda gave an update on San Jose State University gerontology program status. Dr. Hikoyeda gave the university over two months notice in January before her retirement. To date, the University has only hired a part-time replacement. Dr. Hikoyeda wanted to apprise the Commission of this situation and possibly enlist their support by corresponding with the University. Chair referred issue to Health & Safety Committee as Parking Lot Item-for subcommittee study.

Frances Grammer announced a Senior Round Table to be held October 23 at Willow Glen Library on Minnesota Avenue from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to give input on potential legislative suggestions that could be introduced over the next two years that affect seniors perhaps in transportation, health, finance or other gerontology issues. (Flyer will be e-mailed to Office on Aging staff for commission distribution.)

(g) CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (Langford)

(1) Chair Langford reported on the Governor's line item veto on the homeowners and renters program. This affects low income and disabled persons in a high cost-of-living area. Considering the overall budget, the money spent on this program is minimal. Seniors were very negatively impacted by this budget and line-item vetoes. Chair Langford announced she has been advocating for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program to sponsor setting up appointments to process applications for the property tax postponement. This is an option homeowners usually do not avail themselves of for various reasons. Some kind of relief needs to be provided for these low income seniors.

(2) Chair Langford announced that on September 26 she and a number of other Senior Commissioners attended the Senior Companion Recognition Luncheon held in the City Hall Rotunda. It was a very nice luncheon.

(h) MAYOR'S OFFICE LIAISON REPORT (Bosco)

No Report.

(i) COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT (Constant)

Ms Revolinsky handed out copies of the Mayor's October Newsletter which includes the 2008-2009 final budget.

On Tuesday the Mayor and Councilmember Pete Constant declared October 4-11 "No Drugs Down the Drain" week. Over 700 lbs. of prescription drugs were collected.

(j) COMMITTEE REPORTS

(1) Health & Safety Committee Report. No Report. Minutes from September 24, 2008 and Agenda for October 29, 2008 are at table.

(2) Housing & Human Services Committee Report. Subcommittee Chair Davis reported the Committee engaged in several actions to specific issues including communication, affordable housing, rent control and mobile homes. The issue of displacements of senior citizens continues to be a major concern of this committee although no actions have been instituted at this point.

Actions at the meeting included inviting a representative from the City Clerk's office to discuss the production of a commission handbook. The committee supports the proviso that the Commission should have representation in providing input in the production of such a handbook.

The Committee is looking into the City of Milpitas' plans to improve mobile home housing conditions. Some of these may contribute to future committee thinking and potential action on this timely topic. Previous objectives from last year include looking at mobile homes as affordable housing option and this has been added to H&HS 2008-2009 goals.

The issue of having all Commission meetings televised over the City's government Comcast channel and web page continues to be a future goal and strategies are pending out of this committee. The committee is taking action for a recommendation to have the committee's reports edited, produced and shown on Comcast and H&HS continues to monitor reports on many issues listed on the Goals and Objectives for this year.

Minutes from the subcommittee meeting and next month's agenda are at-table.

(k) OLD BUSINESS

(1) A draft copy of a letter to the Mayor and City Council requesting their support on making the 15% senior discount on taxi fares become automatic or require notice be posted in the taxicabs' passenger area is in the Outgoing Correspondence Binder for Chair Langford's signature.

(l) NEW BUSINESS

(1) Discussion and potential action on making a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council on ways to improve safety for senior pedestrians.

This issue was referred to Health & Safety Health Committee for further study and to come back to the commission with full recommendations for the Mayor and City Council. Chair Langford suggested their recommendations include signage near senior facilities and expansion of the center median.

Commissioner Lasson mentioned that the City or other agencies would need to engage in assistance from traffic engineers to study and assess the needs; professionals who are trained to make the analysis.

Commissioner Blankenship suggested recommendations be included on dangerous streets such as Stevens Creek Boulevard that don't have enough time to cross the wide street.

Commissioner Schwartz stated the need for Police enforcement and public education.

Frances Grammer from Jim Beall's office stated that the Federal as well as State government are changing their code books to change the font size of signage to accommodate the aging population. Ms Grammer also mentioned that the Traffic Safety Community Network is making changes, through Santa Clara County, to lengthen the extent of time allowed in crosswalks. She suggested a representative from the Commission attend these meetings as they are working on the same issues.

Action: A motion was made to allow the Health & Safety Committee to continue their in-depth study to improve safety for senior pedestrians and report back to the Commission. (M/S/C: Layman/Lasson)

(2) Discussion and action on a recommendation to Mayor and Council that the City Clerk's Office form a working group comprised of representatives of the various Council appointed Commissions to work on developing a standardized Commission Handbook.

Chair Langford brought to the commission's attention that many of the other commissions do not have a handbook. The Senior Commission's handbook is being reviewed and has been deemed very well in some respects by the City Clerk's office. But the City Clerk's office wants to integrate items from another City's handbook into ours. Chair's concern is a lot of work and effort has been put forth to keep the Commission's handbook updated and include issues that come before the Commission. Chair states that if the handbook is going to be revised and then imposed on all the other commissions in the City that there should be a work group with representatives from all the commissions concerned about having input regarding the development of such a handbook.

Commissioner O'Connell made the statement that she made contact with the City Clerk's office regarding the handbook and she was told they had not seen it. She also raised the question on whose authority is the City Clerk's office revising the Commission's handbook? Commissioner O'Connell concurs with the Chair that the Commission should definitely have input into any changes made by the City Clerk's office.

Staff Lindberg clarified that because of the Sunshine Reform and Open Government policy that the City has adopted; there is interest in seeing what each committee/commission had already in place. It was noted that standards of practice varied a great deal and the City Clerk's office was asked to do some standardization. It appears that they want to do a general commission binder that will be given out to all the commissions that will include the basics like Municipal Code 2.08, Council Policy 0-4 and 036 and the Brown Act which all pertain to the operation of a committee/commission. They are gleaning information from all the existing commissions. Lindberg submitted the Orientation binder that Staff Analyst Cathy Noonan developed in 2005 to the PRNS Work Team who is working with the City Clerks Office.

Action: A motion was made that a letter be sent to the Mayor and City Council recommending that the City Clerk's office form a working group comprised of representatives of the various Council appointed Commissions to work on developing a standardized Commission handbook. (M/S/C: O'Connell/Lasson)

(m) OFFICE ON AGING REPORT

Staff Lindberg reported on the State Impact to the Home Owners Renters Assistance Program. The Program still exists; there is just no funding for this year.

The senior commission “out to lunch bunch” schedule for the year is in the at-table packet. Also at-table is a flyer for free flu shots at Willows for ages 19 and over.

Willows kitchen is scheduled to re-open from the fire damage in April 2009. Carolyn Mosby, Gerontology Supervisor at Willows has retired after 45 years of service. Mary O’Meara is transferring to Willows as the new Supervisor effective October 20th.

The posting for Nutrition Cook closed on October 5th and candidates for the four openings will be interviewed and selected.

(n) LEGISLATIVE REPORT

- A. California Senior Legislature/Congress of California Seniors. Chair Langford reported on Council on Aging Advisory Council’s Ad Hoc Legislative Committees report on 60 items of legislature that Council on Aging could pursue to the California Senior Legislature. Some of the bills included: Sunset Date-Financial Reporting Act, Disaster Preparedness, Elder Economic Security Index, Nursing Home Privacy, Crosswalk/Sidewalk Safety, and Federal Legislature for Tire Safety and Senate Medicare Coverage.
- B. The 28th Annual Session of the California Senior Legislature will be held October 20-22, 2008 in the State Capitol, Sacramento.

(o) COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS

(1) Updates on Senior Centers/Programs:

- Alma Senior Center (Blankenship): Parking lot is completed adding 5 new spaces.
- Almaden Community Center (Morgan): Torie O’Reilly was promoted to Supervisor at Almaden thereby leaving Gerontology Specialist position vacant.
- Berryessa Community Center (Perez-Lindley): No report.
- Cypress Senior Center (Blankenship): Ron Schwartz reported that Cypress Advisory Council needs \$5,000 to incorporate and unless an attorney or CPA comes on board to provide pro bono services they will not be able to acquire non-profit status.
- Evergreen Community Center (Jackson): Issues between the Bingo Committee and the Advisory Council are being resolved.
- Gardner Community Center (Lasson): No report. Next meeting is October 14.
- Hank Lopez Community Center (Saltman): No report.
- Iola Williams Senior Center (Jones): No report.
- Kirk Community Center (Davis): No meeting held during renovation.
- Southside Senior Center (Layman): Impressed with level of activity and holiday planning. Bingo gave \$3600 to Council from proceeds. Staff Diane Lindberg to meet with Council to go over policy and framework for Advisory Councils at their request.
- St. James Senior Center (Langford): No report. Next meeting is October 14.

John XXIII (O'Connell): Eleven of their Board members did not know about the 15% senior discount on taxi fare. Board needed a computer and commission O'Connell secured one for them. Board also reported a parking issue with SJSU students and Commissioner O'Connell contacted Department of Transportation.

Willows Senior Center (Kohl): No report.

RSVP Advisory Group (Saltman): No meeting. They are recruiting a new member of advisory group to act as Secretary.

Senior Companion/Older Adult Resource Program (Saltman): The SCP recognition luncheon was reviewed. Proceeds from the silent auction raised \$1,950.

B. Agency/Other Commission Liaison Reports:

CreaTV: (Blankenship): Channel 15 Studio looks great. Day long retreat held to finalize policy and procedures. Need volunteers to instruct on use of equipment/film. Need to raise City's consciousness of what the Centers do.

Aging Services Collaborative: (Cristina): Staff Diane Lindberg reported that on November 12 at the All Comers Collaborative meeting they will be finalizing information on the new work plan and revised structure of the collaborative.

Committee for Transit Accessibility: (Langford): Chair Langford reported Legislation effective in 2009 prohibits text messaging while driving. Bill was passed by the Governor. Uplift Program provides rides for homeless people. Passes are given to Social Services for distribution. New ticket vending machine prototype was viewed. Commissioners shared stories of hostile encounters using VTA. Chair announced that the Sergeant of Security at VTA, Mike Brill, said to report any incidents to him. Phone: 408-835-2731

Council On Aging Advisory Council: (Langford): Board of Directors meeting discussed budget cuts. More information will be given at next meeting. Ombudsman program took 50% cut, COA going to other cities to request funds, LUMETRA lost 1/3 of its funding to help with hospital releases, COA cannot contribute \$10,000 to the Health Trust this year to support the work on the Aging Services Collaborative.

County Senior Care Commission: (Tikku): No report.

Disability Advisory Commission: (Layman): No report.

Disaster Preparedness Task Force (Lasson). At September 30 Disaster preparedness Task Force discussed protecting children separated from their parents in disaster; how to handle the situation safely and make it less traumatic for them. On October 8th, CADRA Conference was held at City Hall. Main focus is to help ensure people with disabilities are taken care of in time of disaster.

Family Domestic Violence Task Force (City of San José) (Morgan): Intervention Collaborative Workshop will be held tomorrow, October 10 from 9am-4pm. The 11th Annual Walk Against Violence will be held October 17, 2008, starting at 11am at San José City Hall.

Housing & Community Development Advisory Commission (HCDAC) (Davis): Commissioner Davis to attend meeting this evening since Commissioner Jackson has a conflict in schedule.

Parks and Recreation Commission: (Jones): No report.

Youth Commission: (Perez-Lindley): No report.

Greenprint Strategic Plan: (Langford/Kohl): Chair Langford reported there is no meeting in October. The Greenprint Plan was provided to members and will be reviewed at the November meeting.

IRA Ruskin's Senior Advisory Committee: (Layman) No report.

Mobile Home Advisory Commission (O'Connell): Increased Commission by two members. A special meeting will be held this month covering charge, scope and mission of Commission. Deadline extended for application process.

Facility Re-Use (Schwartz): Emeriti Commissioner Schwartz reported that 21 vendors bid on 16 of the facilities. Contracts are currently being negotiated with agencies expecting to move in by January.

16. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS/PARKING LOT ITEMS (Mitchem)

A. Action Items:

A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the orders of the day as submitted. (M/S/C: Lason/Morgan)

A motion was made to accept the September 11, 2008 Minutes with amendment to Item (I) (1) New Business, correcting motion approval to Jackson/O'Connell. (M/S/C: Lason/O'Connell)

A motion was made to have the Health & Safety Committee continue their objective of an in-depth study of senior pedestrian safety and bring their recommendation back to the full commission. (M/S/C: Layman/Lason)

A motion was made that the Senior Commission make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council that the City Clerk's Office form a working group comprised of representatives of the various Council appointed Commissions to work on developing a standardized Commission Handbook. (M/S/C: O'Connell/Lason)

B. Parking Lot Items:

Recommend that the Health and Safety subcommittee study the San Jose State University Gerontology program Status.

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 17th Annual Adult Services Resource Faire and Senior Forum on Preventing Elder Financial Exploitation on Friday, November 14, 2008 from 10:00-2:00 at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Flyer distributed last month at commission meeting.
- Commission O'Connell announced that for the first time, the AARP Conference will have a workshop "track" on LGBT community (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender).
- Commission Davis announced the new ADA Reform law passed on September 25th.

18. NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, November 13, 2008 - 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Office on Aging
Almaden Winery Community Center – Multi-Purpose Room 1**

**5730 Chambertin Drive
San José, CA 95118**

19. ADJOURNMENT

**The Commission Meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.
(M/S/C: Lasson/Morgan)**

Submitted by Judith Mitchem, staff