

City of San José Senior Commission
Housing and Human Services Committee
Minutes of October 22, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Present: Chair Michael Davis. Don Blankenship, Martha O'Connell.

Staff: Diane Lindberg.

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m.

The agenda was approved. (M/S/C: Blankenship/O'Connell.)

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.

Minutes of 9/24/08 approved as written. (M/S/C: O'Connell/Blankenship.)

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blankenship announced that a forum for public comment on Affordable Housing would be held on October 23, 2008, from 6pm to 8pm in Rooms 119/120, Wing, City Hall.

Lindberg announced that the recommendations for Universal Design from the Senior Commission in concert with the Disability Commission have been approved by the City and are being provided to contractors for new housing. She also advised that a Vietnamese-American Community Center would be opening in the George Shirakawa Center.

Davis announced that the Americans with Disabilities Reform Act of 2008 was signed in September 2008 and housing would be impacted. There will be a more focused move to push for accommodations. Mobilehomes will be included and new housing codes are in the works.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Goals and Objectives for Housing

Mobilehome issues:

O'Connell reported that a full Mobilehome Advisory Commission is expected to be seated by January 2009. O'Connell's written report on Mobilehome Parks in San Jose will be included in the at-table packet for the full Commission.

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Establish Leads:

Continue having a senior commission liaison to Housing and Community Development Advisory Commission. Lead: Davis.

Continue monitoring and supporting the option of “Granny Units” within the City of San Jose. Lead: Jackson.

Continue monitoring the ongoing provisions and changes to the “Consolidated Plan” as it pertains to senior housing. Lead to be established.

Continue to revise, as needed, with the Disability Advisory Commission, the “Universal Design” recommendations for the Planning Department. Lead: Davis.

Continue having a senior commission liaison to the County Housing Authority. Lead: Blankenship.

Study and monitor “inclusionary zoning (% of units that are affordable to lower-income households and make recommendations as needed to the Senior Commission. Lead: Davis.

O’Connell to attend the Housing Conference: “Reclaiming the Right to Affordable Housing” on October 25, 2008, 9:30 – 1:00 pm, First Christian Church, 80 S. Fifth Street, San Jose. Davis asked her to report back to the Sub-Committee with a special interest in Section 8 vouchers.

Human Services:

Keep the committee and commission informed as needed on the progress of the Re-Use Facility Task Force as it relates to protecting senior programs and services.

Lead: Blankenship. A reuse report from Rudy Navarro will be distributed to the full Commission at the next meeting.

Create a “cheat sheet” for senior commission liaisons that outlines what educational workshops are available each month by center, time and topic. Lead: Staff.

Invite speakers to update the committee on the home delivered meal options available to seniors. This is complete and will be deleted from the list.

b) Priority Issues

Authority of Commission to pass resolutions that do not go directly to City Council – Lindberg announced that a memo would be forthcoming from the Office of the City Attorney to all Commissions regarding their authority and scope.

O’Connell stated that a report on all Commissions is expected to be released around the end of October 2008 and that it will potentially impact all City Commissions. Its recommendations will go to City Council.

Modification of the defining construction year for apartments –

Blankenship suggested that in order to make apartment rent control more viable, the year of construction that places a building under rent control be moved up so that more units of affordable housing are created.

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O'Connell will attend the November 2008 meeting of the Advisory Commission on Rents.

Milpitas plans to improve mobilehome housing conditions –
Discussion tabled until next meeting.
CreateTV –

To study the feasibility of having Commission meetings and the activities of Senior Citizen Centers televised by CreateTV. M/S/C Blankenship/Davis.

To establish as a goal the lobbying of City Council to televise and stream all Commission meetings over its government Comcast channel and web page.
M/S/C Davis/Blankenship.

6. CURRENT ISSUES

- A. Current Issues – no report.
- B. Policy/Legislation Update – no report.
- C. Older Adult Resource / Senior Companion Updates – Lindberg reported that a flyer will be distributed to all Commissioners announcing a November 8, 2008 workshop on “Money Matters.”

7. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 19, 2008
10:30am-12:00 Noon
Note: change in regular meeting date due to holiday
San Jose City Hall – Room T-747
200 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am. (M/S/C Blankenship/O'Connell.)

Minutes submitted by Commissioner Martha O'Connell.