



**SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION**

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***DRAFT MINUTES***

Thursday, January 8, 2009  
1:30 p.m.

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

**(a) CALL TO ORDER**

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- (1) The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.
- (2) The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Roger Lasson.

Present: Connie Langford, Dick Kohl, Doreen Morgan, Don Blankenship, Michael Davis, Galvin Jackson (departed 3:40), Martha O'Connell, Roger Lasson, Elisa Perez Lindley, Frances Jones, Larry Saltman, Bansi Tikku (arrived @1:45pm and departed at 3:20), Patrick Hall and Bob Gill

Absent: Ron Layman

Staff: Diane Lindberg and Kathy Carrillo (Office on Aging), and Meghan Revolinsky, Council Liaison

**(b) INTRODUCTIONS**

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- (1) Guests:
  - Xavier Campos, Office of Supervisor Shirakawa
  - Lee Price, City Clerk, City of San José
  - Frances Grammer, Office of Supervisor Beall

**(c) ADOPTION OF ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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**Action:** The Commission approved the orders of the day as submitted.  
(Lasson/Morgan)

**(d) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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**Action:** The Commission approved the December 11, 2008 minutes as corrected.  
(Kohl/Hall)

**(e) CORRESPONDENCE** None.

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**(f) OPEN FORUM**

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Frances Grammer gave a summary of the Senior Legislative Round Table held October 23, 2008. Issues included senior pedestrian safety, transportation and the Senior Economic Security Act of 2009.

**(g) CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (Langford)**

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Chair Langford reported on the Infrastructure Funding Freeze Impact:

- Effective immediately the State plans to freeze spending on 2,000 projects across the state halting funding of \$3.8 billion to offset the budget shortfall.
- Mayor Reed stated that this decision will impact millions of dollars in critical projects in Silicon Valley.
- Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services Department will take more than \$5.6 million dollar hit in total grant funding.

Chair Langford also reported on the Aging Services Collaborative:

- The expanded executive committee will engage both the Aging Services Collaborative members and the broader community in determining priority areas and projects for the 2009 Aging Services Collaborative Work Plan.

**(h) MAYOR'S OFFICE LIAISON REPORT (Nguyen)**

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No Report.

**(i) COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT (Constant)**

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Ms. Revolinsky reported that the Mayor's State of the City will be held on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

District 10 will have their Westfield Oakridge Senior Walk on February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Oakridge Mall from 8:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m.

Ms. Revolinsky distributed Councilmember Constant, District 1 monthly office hour's flyer "Bringing City Hall To You".

**(j) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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**(1) Health & Safety Committee Report.**

Chair Kohl reported on the highlights of the December 17, 2008 minutes:

- No committee member has stepped forward to work on the objective concerning the City of San José leasing buses from the Valley Transit Agency to supplement transportation needs for seniors. Committee members believe the new VTA "community buses" have addressed this issue.
- Commissioner Saltman is working on a survey about transportation desires/needs for seniors who no longer drive, he is expecting approximately 1,400 responses.

**(2) Housing & Human Services Committee Report.**

Committee Chair Davis reported on the minutes of the December 17, 2008 meeting:

- Committee working on objective to televise Commission meetings on CreaTV.
- Commissioner Davis attended the meeting of the Housing and Community Development Commission. They have passed a recommendation supporting Inclusionary Housing. The construction of affordable housing units in the draft

proposal has dropped by 30%, from 14,000 to 9,700 and more cuts may be forthcoming as the Ordinance is fine-tuned.

**(k) OLD BUSINESS**

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- (1) "Out to Lunch Bunch" Report. No Report
- (2) Budget 2009-2010. Staff member Lindberg reported that the 2009/10 projected shortfall to the City's General Fund is estimated at \$65 million. Police and Fire have been asked to submit reduction proposals from 1%-5%. All other Departments, including PRNS, have been asked to submit budget reduction proposals from 17.4%-21.7%. PRNS current General Fund budget is \$59 million. The proposed reductions to PRNS are between \$9 and \$12 million. PRNS Department strategies include focusing on our priority (core) services and maximizing revenues.
- (3) Discussion of the Memorandum from City Clerk Price on Structural Improvements to the City's Boards and Commissions Program and possible action. Chair Langford introduced City Clerk Price to the Senior Commissioners. Chair Langford asked City Clerk Price if the City's Boards and Commissions Program will replace the Senior Commission Handbook. City Clerk Price stated that there is no plan to revise or replace the Senior Commission handbook.

The goal is to create a standardized handbook for all Boards and Commissions. Standardizing the handbook would assist new Commissioners, Board members and those interested in serving on a Commission or Board to further understand the policies and procedures of the City and also be an informational resource for them. The handbook would be an additional resource to the Senior Commission's handbook.

**Action: No Action taken. (Langford/Gill)**

Discussion on the Motion that was made at the December 2008 Commission meeting that the Executive Committee appoint two representatives from the Commission to attend the City Clerk's Focus Groups in February. It was decided that the two appointed Commissioners, Chair Langford and Commissioner Blankenship, along with the two additional Commissioners (O'Connell and Lasson) would also attend the February Focus Group.

**Parking Lot Item:** Discussion and Action on role of the Executive Committee and Bylaws to be Agendized for February's Commission meeting. (Lasson)

**(l) NEW BUSINESS**

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- (1) Discussion and possible action on Senior Commission taking part in the City's holiday parade.

**Action: The Commission recommended that Commissioner Perez-Lindley ask the Youth Commission to help in decorating a float for the Senior Commission to participate in the 2009 Holiday Parade. (Jones/Jackson)**

(2) Discussion to allow Volunteers to help where needed within the City's facilities without interference or roadblocks from the City.

**Action: The Commission recommended that the Commission Liaisons advise their Advisory Council on the process to have volunteers work on their facilities. (Blankenship/Gill)**

(3) Discussion and possible action on recommendation to the Mayor to support restoring funding to the Ombudsman Program.

**Action: The Commission recommended to ask the Mayor and City Council to write a letter to the Governor to restore funding to the Ombudsman Program. (Blankenship/Lasson). Recused from vote (Hall).**

(4) Discussion and action on having February through June 2009 Senior Commission meetings at City Hall.

**Action: Move the San Jose Senior Citizen's Commission Meetings to San Jose City Hall, Wing 120 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. (Galvin/Lasson)**

**(m) OFFICE ON AGING REPORT**

Staff member Lindberg reported:

- Directional "Senior Services" signage going up on Blossom Hill at Chambertin Drive
- Announced upcoming educational workshops
- Announced new partnerships with Foundation for Wellness ("Lunch and Learn" program) and Generations Wellness ("Spring Chickens" fitness program)
- Announced hiring updates on gerontology related opening
- Announced new 2009/10 "Senior Service" Directory will be distributed late January to all Centers and Commissioners
- Distributed revised sections (Edition 5) to the Senior Commission Orientation Binder/Handbook

**(n) LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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- (1) California Senior Legislature Report for January at-table.

**(o) COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS**

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**(1) Updates on Senior Centers/Programs:**

Alma Senior Center (Blankenship): Commissioner Blankenship reported that Councilmember Madison Nguyen attended the Advisory Council meeting and discussed the 2009-2010 Budget.

Almaden Community Center (Morgan): Commissioner Morgan reported on activities.

Berryessa Community Center (Perez Lindley): No Report.

Cypress Senior Center (Blankenship): Commissioner Blankenship reported that the Cypress Senior Center will be moving to the Presbyterian Church and that the Advisory Council was discussing who owned Senior Net equipment. Also reported on activities.

Evergreen Community Center (Jackson): Commissioner Jackson reported that some Bingo issues have been brought to his attention and he will attend a Bingo meeting. Reported on activities.

Gardner Community Center (Lasson): No Report.

Hank Lopez Community Center (Saltman): No report.

Iola Williams Senior Center (Jones): Commissioner Jones reported on activities. The Center received an accommodation from the City of San José.

Kirk Community Center (Davis): Moving operations to Camden Center February 9<sup>th</sup>. Reported on activities.

Northside Center (Lasson): No report.

Southside Senior Center (Layman): No report.

St. James Senior Center (Langford): No report.

John XXIII (O'Connell): No Report.

Willows Senior Center (Kohl): Commissioner Kohl reported that the kitchen should be completed by July 2009.

RSVP Advisory Group (Saltman): No Report.

Senior Companion/Older Adult Resource Program (Saltman): No Report.

**(2) Agency/Other Commission Liaison Reports:**

CreaTV: (Blankenship): Commissioner Blankenship reported that CreaTV members attended Prospective Producers Meeting for Channel 15. Planning Grand Opening in late February at the Penthouse in an apartment building at Julian and Coleman.

Aging Services Collaborative: (Cristina): Chair Langford reported that Commissioner Lasson volunteered to be the new Liaison. ASC newsletter at-table.

Committee for Transit Accessibility: (Langford): CTA subcommittee came back with a mission statement that included expanded language to include senior disabled, seniors and economically disadvantaged under the Para transit program. The uplift program will issue bus passes to the homeless, the passes will be valid for 3-months.

Council on Aging Advisory Council: (Langford) Chair Langford reported that Wanda Hale was able to obtain \$50,000 in funding through the efforts of an Ombudsman volunteer.

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

Disability Advisory Commission: (Layman): No report.

Disaster Preparedness Task Force (Lasson) No Report.

Family Domestic Violence Task Force (Morgan): No report.

Housing & Community Development Advisory Commission (HCDAC) (Davis): No Report.

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

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

Greenprint Strategic Plan: (Langford/Kohl): No Report.

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

Mobile Home Advisory Commission (O'Connell): Commissioner O'Connell reported that Councilmember Nguyen is no longer the liaison; she has been replaced by Councilmember Chu.

Facility Re-Use (Schwartz): No report.

**(p) REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS/PARKING LOT ITEMS (Mitchem)**

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(1) Action Items:

**Action:** The Commission approved the orders of the day as submitted.  
(Lasson/Morgan)

**Action:** The Commission approved the December 11, 2008, minutes as revised.  
(Kohl/Hall)

**Action:** The Commission recommended that Commissioner Perez-Lindley ask the Youth Commission to help in decorating a float for the Senior Commission to participate in the 2009 Holiday Parade. (Jones/Jackson)

**Action:** The Commission recommended that the Commission Liaisons advise their Advisory Council on the process to have volunteers work on their facilities.  
(Blankenship/Gill)

**Action:** The Commission recommended to ask the Mayor and City Council to write a letter to the Governor to restore funding to the Ombudsman Program.  
(Blankenship/Lasson). Obstain (Gill).

**Action:** The Commission approved moving the San José Senior Citizen's Commission Meetings to San Jose City Hall, Wing 120 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. (Galvin/Lasson)

(2) Parking Lot Items:

To be Agendized for February: Discussion and Action on role of the Executive Committee and Bylaws. (Lasson)

**(q) ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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The 2009 Community Breakfast and Mayor's State of the City Address is on Wednesday, January 14, 2009, at 7:45 am (doors open at 7:30am) at the McEnery Convention Center, Ballroom A.

City-wide Inclusionary Zoning Proposal will be discussed at the Rules Committee meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2009, at 2:00pm, City Hall, Wing-Room 118-119.

January "Out to Lunch Bunch" will be held on Friday, January 23, 2009, 11:30am at the Berryessa Community Center, 3050 Berryessa Road, San Jose, (Bus Line #64) – 251-4581

February "Out-to-Lunch Bunch" will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 11:30am at Yu-Ai-Kai, 588 No. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, San Jose (Bus Line 22) – 297-4979

**(r) NEXT MEETING**

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Thursday, February 12, 2009 - 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
At City Hall Wing- Room 120  
200 E. Santa Clara Street

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**San Jose, CA 95113**

**(s) ADJOURNMENT**

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**The Commission Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.  
(Lasson/Perez-Lindley)**

Submitted by Kathy Carrillo, staff





