

City of San José Senior Commission
Housing and Human Services Committee
Minutes of January 28, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Present: Chair Michael Davis. Don Blankenship, Bob Gill, Frances Jones, Connie Langford, Martha O'Connell.

Staff: Diane Lindberg.

The meeting was called to order at 10:36 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved. (M/S/C: Blankenship/Jones.)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.

Minutes of 12/17/08 approved as written. (M/S/C: Blankenship/Jones.)

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barbara Jordan

Davis announced that one of the City Attorneys, Barbara Jordan, will be present at the next meeting and all Commissioners will be invited to attend.

Proposed Ordinance on Fee for Plastic Bags

O'Connell announced that a public forum on the proposed ordinance to charge customers .25 cents for each plastic shopping bag will be held at 2pm today in the Council Chambers. O'Connell will attend and expressed concern about disparate impact on seniors and low-income folks.

Frequently Called Numbers

Langford announced that the City has a new handout "Frequently Called Numbers." She expressed concern that the Office on Aging was not listed. Item placed on agenda for next month's meeting.

Increased Fees for Senior Center Membership

Blankenship stated that there is a possibility that for an additional membership fee, memberships may be for all Senior Centers, not just individual ones.

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Senior Citizen Commission Participation in City Parade

Blankenship stated he might be able to donate the use of an antique car for the Senior Citizen Commission's participation in the City Parade. Davis has access to a horse drawn carriage but it is located in Arizona and would have to be transported here.

Presidential Inauguration

Davis and Gill attended the Presidential Inauguration. Participation by Senior Citizens was highly visible.

"Keep a heart in the budget" Campaign

Langford announced that the California Alliance for Retired Americans has launched a "keep a heart in the budget" campaign to encourage citizens to write their legislators. Templates of the form letter were distributed.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Televised Commission meetings and senior center activities/strategies/action

Diane Lindberg announced that this issue was moving into the Rules Committee, but no date was given. O'Connell asked if Commissioners could be advised when our items were to be discussed in Rules so that they could go to testify in support before a vote was taken.

To form a Steering Committee of the Housing and Human Services Subcommittee composed of Sub-Committee members and an Office on Aging Representative to develop a work plan for creating telecasts of Community Center and OOA activities. (M/S/C: Blankenship/O'Connell.)

Blankenship stated that he is on the Board of Directors of Crea TV and may have to recuse himself from votes on this issue in the future. O'Connell asked if his position had a monetary compensation and he replied that it did not.

Mobilehome Issues

O'Connell has received an email from a member of the Milpitas City staff advising her that the open hearings for a proposed change in the Mobilehome Ordinance will be in late February or early March. When the date is firm, she will advise the Sub-Committee.

O'Connell reported there is still no quorum for the Mobilehome Advisory Committee; that the Project Diversity Committee has turned down qualified applicants and that recruitment is still ongoing until 2-27-09.

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Lindberg stated that her Department Director had asked for more information about the letter containing the recommendation of the Senior Commission to change the wording of "neutral" in the MAC ordinance in case he was asked for more information at the Rules Committee. No date for this matter at the Rules Committee has been given that would enable members to testify before a vote is taken.

Inclusionary Housing Issues

No report.

6. CURRENT ISSUES

PROS Response

Lindberg reported that the matter of the Senior Commission's response to the PROS presentation is at Rules Committee. No date provided has been provided that will enable Commissioners to attend and testify before a vote is taken.

PRNS Proposal

The Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services proposal to move toward a fee-based structure will be at table for the full Commission at the February meeting.

Free of Information Act

Davis reported that there is apparently recognition within the new federal administration that information needs to be more readily available from governmental agencies to citizens.

Policy/Legislation Updates

No report.

Older Adult Resources/Senior Companion Updates

Lindberg announced that the non-mandated County nutrition program is funded through June 30. Seniors are encouraged to express support and gratitude for this program to the County Board of Supervisors.

7. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 25, 2009
10:30 – 12:00 Noon
San Jose City Hall – Room T-747
200 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA.

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8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am. (M/S/C Langford/O'Connell.)

Minutes submitted by Commissioner Martha O'Connell.