



SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION

Draft MINUTES

Thursday, February 12, 2009
2:00 p.m.

City of San José – Wing Room 120
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

(a) CALL TO ORDER

- (1) The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.
- (2) The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ron Schwartz.

Present: Connie Langford, Dick Kohl, Doreen Morgan, Don Blankenship, Michael Davis, Galvin Jackson, Martha O'Connell, Roger Lasson, Elisa Perez Lindley, Frances Jones, Larry Saltman, Bansi Tikku, Patrick Hall, Bob Gill (departed at 2:30pm), Ron Schwartz and Marilou Cristina

Absent: Ron Layman

Staff: Diane Lindberg and Judy Mitchem (Office on Aging), Meghan Revolinsky, Council Liaison, and Khoa Nguyen, Mayor's Aide

(b) INTRODUCTIONS

- (1) Guests:
 - Frances Grammer, Office of Supervisor Beall
 - Stephen Baxter, Almaden Resident Newspaper
 - Dan Wax, Division Manager, PRNS
 - Mary O'Meara, PRNS, Recreation Supervisor, Dist. 6

(c) ADOPTION OF ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

(d) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: The Commission approved the January 8, 2009 minutes with a correction. Item (o)(1) John XXIII should read "No action items." (O'Connell/Lasson)

(e) CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence binder circulated at table.

(f) OPEN FORUM

Frances Grammer invited members to a Hearing on Poverty to be held in Sacramento on February 24, 2009 from 10am until Noon.

(g) CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (Langford)

Chair Langford reported on the Aging Services Collaborative:

- Full Aging Services Collaborative is Wednesday, March 11th from 2:00pm until 4:00pm at the Sobrato Conference Center on Parkmoor Avenue in San Jose. The Chair invited Commission members to be active participants in the Aging Services Collaborative. Commissioner Morgan reported there were two work group meetings held this past week on Aging in Place and Health and Wellness.

Chair Langford reported on the California Alliance for Retired Americans:

- Currently CARA is campaigning to "Keep the Heart in California's Budget." Chair Langford provided the Commissioners with heart-shaped colored paper handouts for each person to submit with their names to both California Legislator and Senator in support of this endeavor.

Chair Langford and Vice Chair Kohl's meeting with Councilmember Constant.

- Councilmember Constant stated that letters sent by the Commission to the Mayor and City Council are not distributed to each City Councilmember. They are placed into a correspondence file and unless someone brings it to the attention of the City Council – no one is aware of it. Pete Constant did pull the letter the Commission wrote in respect to the PROS Presentation and took it to the Rules Committee. As a result of going to Rules Committee, a copy of the letter with the attached Elder Economic Standard Index has been distributed to each member of the City Council. Staff stated that all letters the commission sends to the Mayor and City Council are also went to each Council person and that they include all attachments.

Commissioner O'Connell stated the Commission has not been informed on an ongoing basis when letters written by the Commission are being posted as public record.

Commissioner O'Connell requested this item be placed on the March agenda so the particulars involved may be in attendance to voice their opinions and support. Chair Langford directed this as a parking lot item.

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

Mr. Nguyen announced important dates for the upcoming budget process and will provide them e-mail to staff to forward to all Senior Commissioners.:

Mr. Nguyen emphasized there will be changes in the coming months due to the City's \$65 million dollar deficit. The Mayor flew to Washington D.C. this week and is diligently working with Congress and other agencies to acquire funding.

(i) COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT (Constant)

Ms. Revolinsky reported Councilmember Constant has been working closely with the Mayor to help strategize keeping public safety a number one priority in the budget process. Councilmember Constant created an additional committee to focus on budget issues and keep senior needs in the forefront.

Ms Revolinsky announced Councilmember Constant's Senior Walk will be held on Friday, April 17th at Valley Fair (Westfield Mall). Arrangements may also be forthcoming to include a prescription drop-off at this event.

(j) COMMITTEE REPORTS

(1) Health & Safety Committee Report.

Chair Kohl reported on current status of Health & Safety Committee objectives:

- Gerontology Department reorganization at San Jose State still under advisement.
- A survey for transportation needs of seniors will be mailed in the RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) newsletter sometime this week.
- Field work is completed on the crosswalks issue.

(2) Housing & Human Services Committee Report.

Committee Chair Davis reported on subjects discussed at the January meeting:

- Steering Committee (Ad Hoc Group) formed to review a strategy to eventually produce TV programs on Comcast cable and CreaTV. Program content is still under discussion. Primary focus is to portray senior activities at Centers.
- Commissioner Davis announced that Inclusionary Housing Hearings continues tonight in City Council Chambers.
- Mobile Home Advisory Commission issues with regards to selection and authority still remain.

(k) OLD BUSINESS

(1) "Out to Lunch Bunch" Report.

Commissioner Lindley reported there were over 100 participants at the January 23 Berryessa Center lunch. Seniors were friendly and welcoming and are happy with the food and staff. One concern expressed was the need for more Senior Citizens Commission pamphlets to be displayed in the lobby.

(2) Budget 2009-2010. Staff member Lindberg reported:

Directions were given to all departments from the City Manager's office to prepare for reductions. Police and Fire are to prepare for 1%, 3% and 5% reductions and all other departments, including PRNS, are to prepare Tiers 1, 2 and 3 that range from 17% to 23%. As reported last month, Community Services Division is at a 2.9 million dollar reduction. PRNS has submitted its proposal to the Budget Office to address this shortfall. One of the strategies is to provide revenue enhancement to offset the reductions being made. Every program and every service is being looked at. Once the budget message is released by the Mayor in March there will be a better understanding of the direction and the Senior Commission will have opportunities to engage.

(3) Mayor's Community Breakfast

Staff Lindberg received some feedback from several Commissioners on the process of signing up for the breakfast and opened up the floor for discussion on this topic. Commissioner Davis stated he feels any speech given by the Mayor should be open to the public and should not have a cost associated with it. Mr. Nguyen, Mayor's Aide, clarified the cost of the breakfast and the procedure for disbursing the tickets. Commissioners Davis and Saltman stated the service at Will Call was disorganized. Commissioner O'Connell suggested the Mayor have the speech first, followed by the breakfast, for those wishing to attend and pay the fee. Mr. Nguyen thanked the Commissioners for their feedback and said he will submit these suggestions for next year's plan.

(1) NEW BUSINESS

(1) Information Item: Report on PRNS Draft and Code of Conduct

Dan Wax, PRNS (Parks Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department) introduced Mary O'Meara, Recreation Supervisor for District 6, whose responsibility it has been to develop a Code of Conduct/Suspension Policy geared towards peace and safety of participants PRNS facilities. This policy describes disruptive behavior guidelines that may be grounds for removal from, and denial of access to PRNS facilities and programs that are otherwise open to the public.

Mr. Wax and Ms O'Meara presented a power-point review summarizing the six parts of the Suspension Policy including definitions of a One-day Suspension, Multi-day Suspension; Notice of Immediate Multi-day Suspension; Request for Hearing; and Hearing Determination Letter. Handouts of this presentation were provided to Commissioners.

(2) Senior Commission Code of Conduct for Discussion and Action:

Chair Langford presented a history behind the Senior Commission Code of Conduct stating it was brought about from an incident at the Senior Commission that occurred about 3 years ago. A committee was assigned to work on a code of conduct. As a result, the present document was adapted to meet the needs of the Senior Commission and is supposed to be presented, and signed, by each new Commissioner at their orientation. The Executive Committee decided to bring this Code of Conduct to the Commission today for review. Chair Langford read the Code of Conduct.

Several Commissioners voiced their opinions on language and interpretation of several items of the Code. Chair Langford recognized these as valid suggestions and referred this issue to the Housing and Human Services Committee for revisions. Staff Lindberg stated this would tie-in nicely since City Attorney, Barbara Jordan, will be at the next Housing and Human Services Committee meeting. Committee Chair Davis invited all interested Commissioners to attend this meeting on Wednesday, February 24 from 10:30am-Noon at City Hall, Tower Conference Room 747.

(3) Discussion and Possible Action on the City's Proposal for a 25 cent fee by retailers on plastic/paper bags.

Chair Langford and Commissioner O'Connell attended a focus group on this issue and stated there were many advocates for it, especially business people, but few to express concerns of the private citizens. This was an issue Vice Chair Kohl and Chair Langford discussed with Councilmember Constant who stated he is also opposed to this proposal.

Commissioner O'Connell pointed out several issues/facts regarding this proposal including: a current lawsuit filed in Los Angeles against such an ordinance, no prior environmental impact study has been done, the effect these fees could have on the poor, low-income and elderly, and money raised from this ordinance will not to be used for any kind of recycling program. A discussion of pros and cons continued on this issue by several members of the Commission.

ACTION: Commission approved to make a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council opposing the City's proposal for any fee or tax by retailers on the use of plastic or paper bags. (O'Connell/Blankenship)

(4) Discussion and possible action on the Role of the Executive Committee as defined by the By-Laws.

Commissioner Lasson recommended that the Chair appoint a subcommittee to review the By-laws. Commissioner Lasson would like to recommend Commissioner O'Connell be on the committee, as well as himself, and any other interested individuals. A discussion ensued on the timeline of the annual By-Laws Committee and its official appointment. Staff Lindberg read the subject paragraph from the Senior Commission Orientation Binder for clarification.

Action: Commission approved the motion to form a By-Laws Review Subcommittee. (Lasson/Davis). Chair asked for interested members to serve on this subcommittee. Commissioners volunteered to serve: Roger Lasson, Martha O'Connell, Mike Davis, and Patrick Hall.

(m) OFFICE ON AGING REPORT

Staff member Lindberg gave a hiring update on all Gerontology vacancies and announced several pending retirements including the Gerontology Specialist at St. James and the RSVP/Senior Commission Senior Office Specialist.

Information on the PRNS Department's Pricing and Revenue Project was provided and commissioners were reminded to encourage seniors to attend one of the two community input meetings especially designed for seniors: Monday, February 23 from 1:30-2:30 at Hank Lopez or Thursday, February 26 from 1:00-2:00 at Willows. Commissions requested staff research what criteria was used on the fact sheet's 4 comparable city comparisons for cost recovery.

An update on the County's nutrition budget outlook for 2009-10 was provided. City sites should expect to see some reduction such as 1-5 days less per year of meal service.

Staff Lindberg announced that there will be 5 vacancies on the Commission as of June 30th. One is for a termed out commissioner and 4 are current commissioners who can re-apply for a 2nd 3-year term. These commissioners have received their letter form the Clerk's Office.

(n) LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(1) California Senior Legislature Report for February mailed in packet.

Commissioner Morgan spoke with Senior Legislator, Anne Mack, who wanted to remind all Commissioners that the Senior Legislature only survives through donations. Chair Langford gave directions on where this contribution can be made on income tax forms.

(o) COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS

(1) Updates on Senior Centers/Programs:

Alma Senior Center (Blankenship): Meeting cancelled.

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

Berryessa Community Center (Perez Lindley): Commissioner Lindley reported on activities and sidewalks.

Cypress Senior Center (Blankenship). Commissioner Blankenship reported an item discussed at the Advisory Council meeting was a proposed PRNS membership dues increase and a all-centers membership fee. (Chair Langford directed this as a parking lot item.).

Evergreen Community Center (Jackson): Commissioner Jackson reported on issues around how the free bread is distributed at the Center and other activities.

Gardner Community Center (Lasson): Commissioner Lasson reported on activities.

Hank Lopez Community Center (Saltman): No report.

Iola Williams Senior Center (Jones): Commissioner Jones reported on activities and announced Supervisor Carolyn Johnson will be retiring in March 2009.

Kirk Community Center (Davis): Commissioner Davis reported Kirk has moved to Camden Center during their renovation - business as usual.

Northside Center (Lasson): No report.

Southside Senior Center (Layman): No report.

St. James Senior Center (Langford): No action items to report.

John XXIII (O'Connell): No action items to report.

Willows Senior Center (Kohl): Commissioner Kohl reported work had begun on refurbishing the kitchen. Kitchen should be operational by July 1st.

RSVP Advisory Group (Saltman): Meeting next week.

Senior Companion/Older Adult Resource Program (Saltman): Commissioner Saltman announced the SCP Recognition Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, September 24, 2009.

(2) Agency/Other Commission Liaison Reports:

CreaTV (Blankenship): Commissioner Blankenship reported on the acquisition of more equipment and invited Commissioners to visit the studio.

Aging Services Collaborative (Lasson): Next meeting is March 11.

Committee for Transit Accessibility (Langford): Commissioner Saltman reported all subcommittees he serves on are functioning together. The meetings have been changed from evenings to daytime. Chair Langford interjected that the Chair of the CTA, Aaron Morrow, is a disabled person and he is developing a list of how, when and why

disabled people use transportation and working with VTA on providing public transportation to disabled persons. Chair Langford asked the Commissioners to do the same study for seniors and requested they glean information from outside sources and present feedback to Chair and Commissioner Saltman. Commissioner Saltman reiterated that some of this information will be forthcoming from the survey mailed in this month's RSVP Newsletter .

Council on Aging: (Langford) Commissioner Morgan covered this report and Chair Langford handed out the information on taxes.

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

Disability Advisory Commission: (Layman): No report.

Disaster Preparedness Task Force (Lasson) Next meeting is March 24.

Family Domestic Violence Task Force (Morgan): Commissioner Morgan stated the need for more public awareness and announced hot-lines are being set up for men, veterans and their families, with special focus on children.

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

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

Youth Commission: (Perez-Lindley): Commissioner Lindley reported on upcoming events and announced Teen Week will feature a "Battle of the Bands" for 12-18 year olds.

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 there still is no quorum for this Commission. Commissioner O'Connell encouraged Commissioners to read the excellent analysis on project diversity from Mike Davis which is at-table.

Facility Re-Use (Schwartz): Commissioner Schwartz reported last October the Re-use Panel received 21 applications to use 16 City-owned facilities. Applicants were narrowed to 14 and PRNS is negotiating contracts for these non-profits agencies. Hopefully all contracts will be signed and agencies moved in by the end of March 2009.

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

(1) Action Items:

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

**Action: The Commission approved the January 8, 2009, minutes with correction.
(O'Connell/Lasson)**

Action: The Commission approved to make a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council to oppose the City's proposal for any fee or tax by retailers on plastic or paper bags. (O'Connell/Blankenship)

Action: Commission approved a motion to form a By-Laws Review Subcommittee.

(Lasson/Davis).

(2) Parking Lot Items:

Agendize item for discussion and action on the City's process for acknowledging/referring/letters received from the Senior Commission and the date they are placed on public records. (O'Connell)

Agendize item for discussion and action on the Human Rights Commission proposal regarding Proposition 8. (O'Connell)

Agendize discussion and action on proposed membership dues increase from senior centers and city-wide membership options as reported at the Cypress Advisory Council meeting. (Blankenship)

(q) **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

March "Out to Lunch Bunch" will be held on Friday, March 27, 2009, 11:30am at the Alma Senior Center, 136 W. Alma, San Jose, (Bus Line #63) – 288-8758

(r) **NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, March 12, 2009 – 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
At City Hall Wing - Room 120
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

(s) **ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission Meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.
(Hall/Lindley)

Submitted by Judy Mitchem, staff