



SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES

**Thursday, April 9, 2009
1:30 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 1:36 p.m.
- (2) The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Larry Saltman.

Present: Connie Langford, Dick Kohl, Don Blankenship, Michael Davis, Galvin Jackson, Doreen Morgan, Martha O'Connell, Roger Lasson, Elisa Perez Lindley, Frances Jones, Larry Saltman, Bansi Tikku (left at 3:00), Patrick Hall, Bob Gill and Marilou Cristina, Emeritus

Absent: None

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

(b) INTRODUCTIONS

- (1) Guests:
- Gerald Clodius, Almaden Senior Center
 - Lien Nguyen, Outreach (STAR Program)
 - Dennis Hawkins, Assistant City Clerk, City of San José
 - Lori Andersen, The Health Trust

(c) ADOPTION OF ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

(d) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**ACTION: The Commission approved the March 12, 2009 Minutes as written.
(Jones/Hall)**

(e) CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence binder circulated at table.

(f) OPEN FORUM

Jerry Clodius stated he is currently active with the Almaden Senior Association and the Advisory Council. Mr. Clodius is a candidate for Senior Commissioner and is especially interested in advising seniors on the acceleration of fraud and scams perpetrated on the senior community.

(g) CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (Langford)

Chair Langford expressed concerns with regard to the direction the Senior Commission has taken over the past year. Chair Langford stressed the importance of commitment and serving the senior community by ensuring the goals and objectives developed in the Senior Commission August retreat are enacted at the sub-committee levels and that dire current events impacting seniors are not ignored or lost sight of. These important issues are, but not limited to, in-home supportive services, scams/frauds, senior pedestrian safety, State budget/Welfare reform, affordable housing resources development, legislation, City budget, City's aging services, transportation, mobile home issues, crime prevention and homeless seniors. Chair Langford stated she truly hopes the future leadership of the Commission will be cognizant of these needs and remain a loyal advocate for the health and well being of seniors within our community.

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

- Aide Nguyen announced the budget deficit has increased by about 15 million dollars
- Layoffs in the City are unfortunately necessary
- The Mayor had a conference yesterday on housing foreclosures which truly affects the whole community.
- The City has a one-stop center to assist residents seeking assistance with employment and training services. One-Stop San Jose Center is located at 1290 Parkmoor Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126
- Mayor has initiated "Bank on San José" to encourage residents of ethnic communities to deposit their money in the security of banks, rather than keeping cash "on hand" which can be stolen.

(i) COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT (Constant)

Ms. Revolinsky announced the PRNS pricing policy will go to City Council on April 21. The report and staff recommendations will be out tomorrow. Ms Revolinsky hopes to see the Commissioners at the Annual Senior Walk on April 17th at Westfield Mall (aka Valley Fair).

(j) COMMITTEE REPORTS

(1) Health & Safety Committee Report

Chair Kohl reported on the status of three remaining objectives of the committee: determining if the reorganization at San José State University, relative to the gerontology department, is going to be a detriment to the senior community; distribution of a questionnaire to seniors on the important issue of transportation (Commissioner Saltman is

working on this task); and whether or not the crosswalks at senior centers/community centers were adequate or even existed. This last objective has been completed and a recommendation will be made to the Commission next month.

(2) Housing & Human Services Committee Report

Committee Chair Davis reported the committee has been very involved in looking at various council policies, City's code of conduct and the PRNS code of conduct. Some concerns have been aired and the committee is seeking clarification on these matters. Concerning future endeavors, Chair Davis stated he hopes that progress will be made in various areas that must be addressed if senior citizens in this city are going to have any kind of equality in the rough times ahead.

(3) By-Laws Committee Report

Commissioner Lasson stated he would like to follow Roberts Rules of Order approach in the discussion of the by-law amendments, covering each item and making necessary motions. Lengthy discussion on proposed amendments and motions were made on: meeting location, time and place of regular and special meetings, time frame for notification of special meetings, quorum for city commission, commission code of conduct, annual retreat, executive committee, chair persons' authority/responsibility in relation to executive committee, self nomination and secret ballots. Final revisions will be reviewed and adopted at the June Senior Commission Meeting.

(k) OLD BUSINESS

(1) Budget 2009-2010.

Staff Lindberg reiterated again that property taxes are down so projected revenue is not coming in which adds to the overall deficit. The Mayor will release the 2009-10 proposed operating budget on May 1. This will be the first look at what the Mayor is proposing services to look like for the next fiscal year and the impact it will have on the senior community, as well as other programs and services. Staff Lindberg reminded the commissioners of upcoming community budget meetings.

(2) Out to Lunch Bunch

Commissioner Morgan reported lunch at Alma on March 27 was fine. No one had any problems. The table conversation turned to domestic violence and she was able to provide some contact advice to one of the participants. No one attended the lunch visit to Salvation Army.

(l) NEW BUSINESS

(1) Discussion and Action on forming an Ad Hoc Committee to assist CreaTV in organizing the filming of activity programs from community and senior centers for televising.

Commissioner Blankenship reported that the Housing Committee formed an ad hoc work group to study the feasibility of producing a 30 minute monthly show on senior programs, activities and services through the community CreaTV. The work group meets the first Monday of the month at the Office on Aging at 9:30am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

This task will require dedicated volunteers and some funding in order to sustain such a ambitious endeavor. The Council of Presidents will be approached in May to receive a briefing and to gage interest in providing funding in return for promotion of their center and its activities.

ACTION: The Commission approved creating an Ad Hoc Committee to continue exploring the television endeavor in partnership with the Office on Aging. (Blankenship/ Jones)

(2) Aging Services Collaborative Presentation

Lori Andersen, Director of Healthy Aging Initiative, with The Health Trust, presented some information on the Aging Services Collaborative. Handouts were provided to each Commissioner with an overview of the Aging Services Collaborative timeline, planning history, structure, workshop projects, mission statement, refined focus, strategic direction, executive committee roles, leadership and coordination, other teams and a diagram of the ASC infrastructure. Ms Andersen stressed that ASC is about serving the needs of older adults in this County and accomplishing this by working together as a group with other agencies. Ms Andersen stated over the next month a work plan will be put together to share with the community. She encouraged Commissioners to attend the meetings listed on the handout and to also get on the mailing list. ASC has a website for information and Ms Andersen stated other regular meetings of teams/groups working on specific projects meet on different days than the regular ASC meeting. Ms Andersen is interested in receiving any comments or feedback from the Senior Commission.

(3) Appointment of a Nomination Committee

Chair Langford asked if there is anyone who would like to serve on the Nominating Committee. A total of 5 members are needed. Commissioners Lasson, Hall, Morgan, Blankenship, and Saltman volunteered for the committee. Commissioner O'Connell will be an alternate. The nomination committee will present their slate of candidates at the May meeting and the election will be held at the June meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the June meeting.

(m) OFFICE ON AGING REPORT

Staff member Lindberg reported that Project Diversity had interviewed new commissioner candidates this week and would be making their recommendation which goes before the Rules committee at the end of April and then to Council for appointment in May.

Commissioners were reminded that May is Older American's Month and the Proclamation will be declared at Tuesday, May 5th's Council Meeting held at 1:30. All commissioners are invited for a cake reception at 1:00 PM followed by the Proclamation in Council Chambers at the beginning of the meeting (under ceremonial items). All commissioners will be invited to go up to the podium to receive the Proclamation from the Mayor and Council member Constant.

Lindberg also reminded the commissioners about the Office on Aging Annual Health and Wellness Festival on Friday, May 15th at 9:00 at San Jose History Park. Approximately 700 seniors will enjoy fitness and wellness activities including the 1-mile walk, cumba dancing, vendor fair and lunch. Free registration at all senior centers.

(n) LEGISLATIVE REPORT

- (1) **California Senior Legislature Report for April mailed in packet.**

(o) COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS

(1) Updates on Senior Centers/Programs:

Alma Senior Center (Blankenship): Commissioner Blankenship announced that a staff member from Councilmember Nguyen's office stated the proposed merchant fee for paper/plastic bags is expected to go before City Council without the recommendation that the fee for seniors be waived. Councilmember Nguyen will ask for that to be done at the council meeting (date of meeting unknown).

Almaden Community Center (Morgan): Commissioner Morgan reported on activities. Volunteer recognition event will be held on April 19.

Berryessa Community Center (Perez Lindley): No report.

Cypress Senior Center (Blankenship). Commissioner Blankenship reported the PRNS pricing revenue plan was discussed at length in their last meeting. Seniors are concerned there will be an increase in fees for programs and services.

Evergreen Community Center (Jackson): Commissioner Jackson reported the center has a new supervisor. Some of the seniors have been calling Commissioner Jackson with different issues and he has referred them to appropriate sources.

Gardner Community Center (Lasson): No report.

Hank Lopez Community Center (Saltman): Commissioner Saltman reported the center is always active and some new kitchen equipment has been acquired.

Iola Williams Senior Center (Jones): Commissioner Jones reported the senior program received a plaque from the Mayor, City Council and City Clerk congratulating them on Black History Month.

Kirk Community Center (Davis): Commissioner Davis reported on May and June activities.

Northside Center (Lasson): Meeting was cancelled.

Southside Senior Center: (Vacant): Commissioner Morgan reported the main project at Southside has been acquiring bids for lighting and sound for the stage used by the drama group, plus video cable installation for bingo.

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

John XXIII (O'Connell): Commissioner O'Connell reported that in order for more parking spaces to be provided, this issue needs to be resolved by Catholic Charities and the City of San José.

Willows Senior Center (Kohl): Commissioner Kohl reported the planned firehouse that is to be built on the existing property will take away some of the parking spaces (advisory council to meet with City on other possible accommodations); new election of officers is next month; and the kitchen is finally going to be finished in mid-June.

RSVP Advisory Group (Saltman): Meeting is the end of April.

Senior Companion/Older Adult Resource Program (Saltman): Meeting adjourned to the HP Pavilion where some of the companions and staff attended the “Get Motivated” Seminar.

(2) Agency/Other Commission Liaison Reports:

CreaTV: (Blankenship): Commissioner Blankenship reported Channel 15 is going to be streamlining its programming. You will be able to watch the programming on your computer when it is actually being telecast. However, this will only be available for a 24-hour period.

Aging Services Collaborative: (Lasson): Commissioner Lasson reported he did not attend the last meeting. The next meeting is May 13.

Committee for Transit Accessibility: (Langford): Commissioner Saltman reported the Committee for Transit Accessibility has changed its name to Committee for Transit. Copies of their mission statement were distributed to Commissioners. Commissioner Saltman announced several items the Committee was working on including task force priorities, status and progress of the advisory committee, police security on light rail and buses, and the introduction of new fare boxes.

Council on Aging: (Langford) Chair Langford stated COA formed a nomination committee and had a very informative speaker whose subject was male health issues. A Public Hearing followed for Council on Aging’s three year plan. COA originally expected to impose a 10% funding cut on their programs, but are now able to supply funding for all their current programs with the possible exception of the Ombudsman Program.

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

Disability Advisory Commission: (Vacant)

Disaster Preparedness Task Force (Lasson) Commissioner Lasson reported he attended the fourth annual conference on March 24. A meeting at the Red Cross yesterday covered selection of acceptable sites regarding accessibility for the handicapped, as well as other necessities for housing vulnerable populations in the event of a disaster.

Family Domestic Violence Task Force (Morgan): Commissioner Morgan reported statistics have decreased to only three deaths in the County this year due to domestic violence. Commissioner Morgan stated there is a new law which permits police to actually put in a 30-day restraining order in severe cases in order to provide protection for persons refusing to place a restraining order. The task force is also working on a domestic violence hotline for men.

Housing & Community Development Advisory Commission (HCDAC) (Davis):

Commissioner Davis stated affordable housing development in San José is at a standstill. The areas of special needs that the Housing Department is looking at with existing funds is anything that supports senior and disabled, day care, recreation fitness and nutrition, care taker support and services, and transportation. Research of how non-profits approach housing for these people will also be explored.

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: (Vacant)

Mobile Home Advisory Commission (O'Connell): Commissioner O'Connell reported no meeting, no quorum. However, interviews of candidates are being held and we hope to have an appointment and a meeting in June.

Facility Re-Use (Schwartz): No report.

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

(1) Action Items:

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

**Action: The Commission approved the March 12, 2009, minutes as written.
(Jones/Hall)**

**Action: The Commission approved creating an Ad Hoc Committee to continue studying the television endeavor in partnership with the Office on Aging.
(Blankenship/ Jones)**

(2) Parking Lot Items:

Agendize approval of revised By-Laws (Lasson)

(q) ANNOUNCEMENTS:

May "Out to Lunch Bunch" will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 11:30am at the Willows Senior Center, 2175 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose, (Bus Line #64 or 26) – 448-6400

Fourth annual West Valley Senior Walk is April 17 at Valley Fair at 8:45-10:15am. You can sign up at the walk. No need to pre-register.

Annual Older Americans Month cake reception and Mayor's Proclamation is Tuesday, May 5 at City Hall.

Annual Office on Aging Health and Wellness Walk will be on Friday, May 15 from 9:00am to 1:00pm at the San Jose History Park. Information flyer and registration forms are at the back table and at all senior centers.

(r) NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, May 14, 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

Chair Langford adjourned the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Submitted by Judy Mitchem, staff