



**SENIOR AFFAIRS
COMMISSION**



City of Dallas

Senior Affairs Commission

Monday, June 20, 2016 – 12:00 p.m.

Dallas City Hall, Conference Room 5ES

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Trini Garza, Chairman
Lydia Simpson (Dist. 2)
John Johnson (Dist. 3)
Johnny Rodriguez (Dist. 5)
Cannon Flowers (Dist. 7)
Minister Chiyoko Douglas (Dist. 8)
Mary Ann Sparks (Dist. 9)
Armand Christopher (Dist. 10)
Irwin "Bill" Gart (Dist. 11)
Marlene Cohen (Dist. 12)
Syl Benenson (Dist. 13)
Sara Wick (Dist. 14)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carmen Arana (Dist. 1)
Barbara Record (Dist. 4)

GUESTS

Jeri Baker
Janice Thomas
Susan Williams

SENIOR SERVICES STAFF

Ana Camacho, Caseworker
Myckycle Hart, Caseworker
Lynn Jenkinson, Caseworker

CALL TO ORDER

Trini Garza, Chair, called the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Syl Benenson made a move to approve the previous minutes. John Johnson seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved with no corrections.

SAC PROPOSED FY 2016-2017 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Commissioner Benenson presented copies of the FY 2016-2017 budget recommendations. Under Emergency Home Repair, Mary Ann Sparks noticed a typographical error: An increase in the Emergency Home Repair by 25% or \$195,151, from \$780,604 to \$975,755 (not \$195,151). Ms. Benenson listed talking points and suggested that the Commissioners make appointments with their City Council person as soon as possible.

Bill Gart referred the Commissioners to the Senior Emergency Minor Home Repair Pilot Program and announced a potential partnership (contract) between the City of Dallas and Rebuilding Together of Greater Dallas. The Commission is requesting \$300,000 for this program to help qualified homeowners who are not able to receive assistance through the Emergency Minor Home Repair Program to fill the funding gap in service delivery. With this

partnership, an additional 55 to 60 people will be served. The Home Reconstruction Program is asking for an additional \$200,000 to build and reconstruct new homes.

Cannon Flowers applauded the budget committee for their work on the budget recommendations and wanted to know what happens next.

Cobbie Ransom will correct the typographical error on the worksheet, provide copies to all of the Commissioners and send the budget recommendations to the Office of Financial Services and the City Manager's Office. The City Council will vote on the Consolidated Plan budget on June 22nd. Voting on the General Fund budget is scheduled for September. If the Commission votes today to approve this budget as the Senior Affairs Commission's recommendations, the proposal can move forward as the Commission's formal recommended budget request. Mr. Ransom recommended that the Commissioners provide copies of the SAC budget request to their prospective Council members.

Minister Chiyoko Douglas made a motion to approve the proposed budget. Marlene Cohen seconded the motion. The recommended budget was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Age-Friendly Communities

Susan Williams provided an update on the Age-Friendly Communities (AFC) project. She expressed her appreciation for the Commissioner's support at the meetings with City Council members about the Age-Friendly Communities project. The purpose of the meetings is to ensure that Council members are aware that AARP is working on the Age-Friendly Communities initiative and to ask for their future support. Ms. Williams shared AARP's survey results and informed Council members that AARP is working with the University of North Texas to conduct supplementary surveys within the Hispanic Latino community to ensure inclusiveness. She received a positive response from the Council members who shared specific issues within their Council Districts that needed to be addressed.

Ms. Benenson asked Ms. Williams: What is the expectation of the City? Ms. Williams stated that she would be working with Mr. Ransom, the Commissioners and many other community partners on developing a formal plan built around the eight domains of livability.

Mr. Ransom wants to make sure that the City is aware of the Age-Friendly Communities plan as they implement the Neighborhood Plus process and the two plans are supporting each other.

Committee Reports

Minister Douglas reported on the Mayfair event. Over 1,200 people attended. Seats were added the day prior to the event to accommodate additional guests. She thanked Armand Christopher who helped everyone get situated, stay focused and keep on schedule. There were 55 to 60 vendors. With only four months to raise funds, the committee was able to secure \$33,000 in cash and another \$4,000 in in-kind services. This event provided seniors with an extraordinary day of fun and entertainment. Ms. Douglas exclaimed that Mayfair was a success!

Armand Christopher shared information about an event he attended on May 26th. One of the prosecuting attorneys in District 10 conducted a wills clinic at Hamilton Park Recreation Center. The Legal Aid of Northwest Texas provides free legal service throughout the City. Ms.

Benenson added that the Southern Medical University (SMU) Legal Clinic also provides free legal services.

John Johnson reported that the lead attorney at the Texas Legal Service Center was at his meeting this morning. He talked about a law passed last year, effective September 1st of 2015 called Transfer-on-Death (TOD) Deed, a free service for people who make less than \$2,500 per month. For those who receive Medicaid from the state, the property (deed) can be transferred without paying the state fees for nursing home services or other facilities.

Bill Gart announced that the SAC Housing Committee will meet at C.C. Young on June 21st and invited all of the Commissioners.

Office of Senior Affairs

Myckycle Hart reported on the outreach events attended by the Senior Affairs staff and thanked Commissioner Flowers for giving him the opportunity to provide information at two events in District 7. The staff is working diligently to get the resources out to the community.

Mr. Flowers presented a summary of the SAC's annual report and work plan for 2016. The Commissioners can go to the City Council and substantiate the SAC's budget recommendations based on the research data that AARP is providing. Sara Wick is the Commission's AFC liaison whose responsibility is to report back to the SAC.

As AARP develops the work groups along the eight domains of livability, Ms. Williams would like to invite the Commissioners to participate.

Mr. Ransom stated that the City staff is in the process of writing a citywide age-friendly plan that is consistent with and supports the Neighborhood Plus Plan. We can use this opportunity to reinforce the work that we are all doing, to make sure that our goals and objectives align with and support the eight domains of livability and with the items approved during the last retreat.

Ms. Williams offered to teach the Commissioners how to use a valuable online tool called the Livability Index at the SAC meeting in September.

Mr. Ransom will email a link to the Neighborhood Plus Plan to the Commissioners and invite a representative from the neighborhood vitality group to brief the Commission on the Plan. At the September meeting, Susan will speak on the Livability Index.

Mr. Ransom asked the Commission to vote on a date for the SAC Annual Planning Retreat, offered to search for a venue and work with the Commission to develop an agenda.

Age Well Live Well

No report was provided.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hart will prepare the July calendar for the Commissioners by the end of the month. No commission meeting will be held in July.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Janice Thomas reported that MayFair was fantastic! She requested more space, changing the venue next year to accommodate more people. The Transfer of Death Deed presentation was interesting. She believes that terrorism is no joke and that it's time to prepare ourselves,

however we deem necessary. The Age-Friendly Communities plan is important. She would like to know what is best for her and to share her knowledge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Benenson reminded the Commissioners to please call their Council members this week. If they have any questions, we would like to answer them.

Mr. Ransom will make corrections to the talking points and send them to everyone.

The budget committee is scheduled to meet at 2:00 p.m. today.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.