



SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Monday, August 15, 2016 – 12:00 p.m.

Dallas City Hall, 5ES Conference Room

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Trini Garza, Chairman
Carmen Arana (Dist. 1)
Lydia Simpson (Dist. 2)
John Johnson (Dist. 3)
Johnny Rodriguez (Dist. 5)
Cannon Flowers (Dist. 7)
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)

VACANCIES

District 4
District 6

GUESTS

Jeri Baker
Mandrell Drakes
Jearldine McDaniel
Cortney Nicolato
Joli Robinson
Ruthilen Robles
Janice Thomas

SENIOR SERVICES STAFF

Cobbie Ransom, Manager
Valencia Hooper Alexander, Manager
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 12:01 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF COMMISSIONER FELIX LOZADA

Mr. Garza plans to frame an article about Felix Lozada as a gift to his family.

CORTNEY NICOLATO, PRESIDENT & CEO, THE SENIOR SOURCE

Cortney Nicolato is a native New Englander. She has been living in Dallas for 11 years, working at the American Heart Association National Center. The number of older adults is rising exponentially. The Senior Source is working on developing a strategic plan to triple the number of people they serve between now and 2020. Ms. Nicolato is focused on bridging the gap between generations and educating the community on aging.

Ms. Nicolato stated that the Senior Source's Senior Employment Program is rising in the number of older adults who are seeking employment. Statistically, throughout the United States, twenty percent of adults over 65 are seeking full-time employment so the need for a Senior Employment Program is critical for older adults.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION FY 2016-2017 BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Benenson presented an update on the 2016-2017 budget recommendations and suggested that the Commissioners attend the public hearing before the Council on August 24th at 1:00 p.m. This meeting will be the Commissioners' last opportunity to thank the City Manager and to urge the Council to approve the City Manager's recommended budget.

Cobbie Ransom provided an update on the Senior Medical Transportation Program: As currently operated, the program cost per ride is very high. The City of Dallas can provide medical transportation more efficiently by contracting out the service. A request for proposal (RFP) will be announced in the next few weeks. The City will also provide DART Paratransit coupons, monthly fare cards and training on how to ride DART trains and buses to existing clients enrolled in the program.

Cannon Flowers announced that a senior transportation task force was formed by the transportation committee. The task force has been working closely with DART and My Ride. They have identified 4,000 to 6,000 people in District 5 and 7 who have zero access to transportation. In the next 30 days, DART plans to send a transportation survey directly to the homes of those individuals who live in zip codes 75217 and 75228. As part of DART's overall planning for 2040, they have considered partnering with other transportation providers such as Lyft or Uber.

Sara Wick requested data to support her budget request for next year (number of people served and cost of service).

Ms. Benenson requested that the SAC approve the City Manager's budget. Marlene Cohen moved that the SAC support the City Manager's recommended budget for senior services for the fiscal year 2016-2017. Chiyoko Douglas seconded the motion. The budget was unanimously approved by the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Age-Friendly Communities

Susan Williams was absent today and plans to return in September. She has scheduled Age-Friendly Communities task force meetings around the eight domains. Mr. Ransom will provide the SAC members with a schedule of the task force meetings and a copy of the Neighborhood Plus Plan. The City staff will inform the City Council that the Age-Friendly plan is in process.

Committee Reports

Ms. Cohen passed around voter registration cards and provided forms for voters who want to mail in their ballots.

Mr. Flowers thanked Mr. Ransom and his team for their progress on updating the SAC website page and links. The Communications and Technology Committee (CAT) plans to publish a newsletter, once a quarter. Mr. Flowers requested ideas or stories from each of the Commissioners to be included in the newsletter.

Mr. Johnson reported that the Elder Safety and Awareness Committee had a meeting this morning. The speaker from the Internal Revenue Service addressed senior scams. A citywide Coffee with Cops event will be held on September 2nd at the McDonald's in your neighborhood.

Bill Gart announced that the Housing Committee will meet on August 16th at 1:00 p.m. in 5ES. Michelle Dickson from Dallas Area Agency on Aging will be speaking to the committee.

Office of Senior Affairs

Mr. Ransom reported that:

- Any requests for Coffee & Conversations will be forwarded to Valencia Hooper Alexander.
- The event calendar will resume in September.
- Call the Help Desk at 214-670-1234, Option 4, for assistance with email issues.

Age Well Live Well

Lydia Simpson sent out special invitations to everyone involved with Age Well Live Well to attend their meeting on August 17th from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the Senior Source to decide how to proceed with Age Well Live Well.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ransom deferred to Sara Wick to provide an update on the upcoming SAC retreat. Commissioner Wick put together a proposed work plan for the 2016-2017 retreat.

Proposed discussion items:

- Review and evaluate the progress of the 2016 goals
- Develop a standard format for all committees to include
- Align or redefine SAC committees along AARP's eight domains of livability
- Consider having committee members participate in committee activities of other commissions or community resources

Minister Douglas made a motion that the workshop (retreat) be held on October 31, 2016. Mr. Flowers seconded the motion. Ms. Douglas made an amended motion for the workshop to be held on October 20, 2016 at C. C. Young from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mr. Flowers seconded the motion. The date was unanimously approved by the Commission.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Jearldine McDaniel, Former Senior Affairs Commissioner, held up a DART Paratransit card and agreed that the new transportation program is a good idea and will provide more services.

Janice Thomas wanted to know if the employment service at the Senior Source is comparable to or affiliated with AARP. Ms. Benenson stated that they work together. Ms. Thomas said that the sale of the building on the 3600 block of Martin Luther King is pending. Regarding the Ms. Senior Texas America Pageant, she believes that Celebration Magazine is very important for seniors.

ADJOURNMENT

Trini Garza made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Carmen Arana seconded the motion.