



Senior Affairs Commission Report

Monday, September 24, 2018

Agenda

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of August 20, 2018 Minutes

- A motion was made by Commissioner Austin to approve the August 20th minutes as written. Commissioner Raines seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Welcome Guest Speaker

- Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance Interim Chief Operation Officer, Diana Romagnoli, gave an overview on the services the St. Jude Center provides to homeless seniors.
- St. Jude Center is a collaboration between Catholic Charities and the Catholic Housing Initiative to address homeless seniors ages 55 and older.
- St. Jude Center gets homeless seniors off the streets immediately.

5. Chair Report

- Listening Sessions
 - Commissioner King (District 7) held the 1st listening session of the new round.
 - Nice turnout and staff did a great job coordinating.
 - Commissioner Gart supported Commissioner King by attending.
 - Chair Fein suggested Anna send out listening session schedule again.
- Project Sign Up
 - Chair Fein requests commissioners to sign up if they are interested in working on a 2019 Senior Affairs Commission project with the Office of Community Care Senior Programs.
 - This project will develop something that is theirs that they can join with other departments on moving into 2019.

6. Senior Affairs Commission Committee Reports

- Health & Safety Report – Commissioner Raines
 - Reviewed the September 7th meeting with the Texas Health Care Association (THCA) President and CEO, Kevin Warren, to discuss numerous issues around nursing homes staff and background checks. As a result, they will discuss next steps for a partnership.
 - Today, Dallas County Department of Health & Human Services presented at the subcommittee meeting over preventatives for the Flu and West Nile Virus.
- Budget Report – Commissioner Benenson
 - Covered the quarterly report which provided updates on how much money was spent thus far and the number of clients served. Over half the funds have been used for dental. Medical transportation is just getting started under the new contract terms. The number of clients served has already exceeded for the Senior Ombudsman program.
 - Jessica Galleshaw, Managing Director, would like to present how much is spent through the year and also the fiscal year, so everyone can get a better understanding of what is actually going on.
 - Almost nothing in May is in the report.
 - Report reflects up till June 30th.
 - Recommended budget for FY18-19 was approved on September 18th. CM Felder allocated \$20K more CDBG funds to senior services. Most of the funds will increase outreach and engagement to find better ways to serve clients.
- Social Needs Report – Commissioner Sparks
 - Subcommittee discussed strategies to achieve the goals of improving socialization among seniors. Strategy this year is to collect information about isolated seniors and the services available to them with the inclusion of other City departments.
 - Speaker tomorrow is a DPD officer on what a police officer encounters when they come across an isolated senior.

- MayFair Survey asked how seniors got questions about social events and programs that the city provided. Received more than 700 responses. The questionnaire was revised and the hopes is to distribute at all the listening sessions. Every comment mentioned they want senior centers. It was suggested to distribute the questionnaire at hospitals.
- Housing Report – Commissioner Gart
 - Met with the Housing Director, David Noguera, on September 5th to go over the home repair application. Discussed how difficult it is for a person to get ahold of the application. Commissioners suggested placing the application in recreation centers and libraries.
 - DPD Officer, Mark Lutz, is putting together a new program in the North Central region so he asked Commissioner Gart to be on the taskforce to focus on the shut in and forgotten. Commissioner Gart wants to incorporate what Commissioner Sparks learned about socialization and isolation into this program.

7. Retreat Update

- Commissioner Gart went over the details of the first draft agenda of the SAC 2019 Retreat.

8. Office of Community Care / Senior Services Announcements

- Jessica would like to hear ideas from each subcommittee on how to increase and enhance outreach engagements and services that the commission might be able to provide.
- OCC is moving forward to bring on a new senior services program manager since Valencia retired.
- OCC team has started a cross-functional, departmental meeting with departments within the City of Dallas that work with or touch seniors in some way. So far, they have identified one project which will cover hoarding behaviors and seniors. DFD, DPD, OCC and Library are just a few of the departments involved.
- Moving forward all agendas and postings need to be more thorough and say more than just “chair reports”.
- A two-week notice reminder will be sent to subcommittee chairs to provide their topics to the chair.

9. Farewell to Valencia Hooper-Alexander

- Chair Fein presented Valencia Hooper-Alexander, former Senior Programs Manager, with kind words and gifts.
- Valencia gave brief words of expression on her gratitude and plans for the future.

10. Citizens’ Comments

- Barbara Herron, Director of Children, Family & Senior Services at Catholic Charities Dallas, gave more detailed information of the services provided at the St. Jude Center.
- Organization previously worked with homeless in different capacity but never in a homeless facility where people can live. City and County helped to bring this idea to fruition on August 21st and now they have 50 residents.
- Work with Dallas County Jail Diversion Program, hand-in-hand with MDHA and other programs to address the highest need population of individuals 55 years and older, been homeless at least 3 times and have substance abuse.
- Center provides living space, essentials and also wrap around services.
- Outside of the above-mentioned services they provide bingo, activities, events celebrations, life skills and employment opportunities.
- They also help the homeless individuals sign up for state benefits to receive food.

11. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

Sharyn Fein, Chair

Senior Affairs Commission