



SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Monday, February 13, 2017 – 12:00 p.m.

Dallas City Hall, 5ES

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Trini Garza, Chairman
Carmen Arana (Dist. 1)
Lydia Simpson (Dist. 2)
John Johnson (Dist. 3)
Julia Suarez-Macias (Dist. 6)
Cannon Flowers (Dist. 7)
Mary Ann Sparks (Dist. 9)
Jeri Baker (Dist. 10)
Bill Gart (Dist. 11)
Marlene Cohen (Dist. 12)
Syl Benenson (Dist. 13)
Sarah B. Wick (Dist. 14)

VACANCIES

District 4
District 5
District 8

GUESTS

Robin Bentley
Jearldine McDaniel
Terry Ryan
Kristine Schnope
Heather Silver
Shanee Weston

SENIOR SERVICES STAFF

Cobbie Ransom, Administrator
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.

INTRODUCTION OF JERI BAKER, ROBIN BENTLEY AND HEATHER SILVER

Cobbie Ransom, Office of Senior Affairs, introduced the new Commissioner, Jeri Baker, representing District 10; Robin Bentley, Senior Assistant City Attorney for the Housing Dept. and Heather Silver, Senior Affairs Commission Liaison and Senior Assistant City Attorney.

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT BUDGET PROCESS

Kristine Schwope, Chair, Community Development Commission presented an overview of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process for budgeting consolidated plan funds.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Johnson made a motion to approve minutes with one correction: Commissioner Julia Suarez-Macias represents District 6. Marlene Cohen seconded the motion.

UPDATES ON SENIOR PROGRAMS

Mr. Ransom updated the Commission on the Office of Senior Affairs (OSA) programs:

- City Council approved the Senior Medical Transportation Program on February 8th. March 1st is the target start date. The transportation contract was awarded to Real Time Transport Co. Real Time has a fleet of 110 vehicles. Nearly half of their vehicles are wheelchair accessible. The caregiver can ride free of charge. The program will include expanded hours of transportation service.
- The Senior Dental Program is projected to begin within the next few weeks.
- The Senior Ombudsman Program contract has been executed.
- An informal bid for the Senior Employment Program will go out today.

UPDATES ON SENIOR INITIATIVES

Senior Affairs Commission Committee Reports

Mr. Johnson reported on the Elder Safety Awareness and Health Committee. A guest speaker talked about home medication care, a monitoring program to help seniors stay on the correct medications.

Mr. Ransom reviewed the first quarterly report of the OSA Senior Services Program.

Syl Benenson attended a meeting at the Dallas Area Agency on Aging. She shared copies of a flyer for free eyeglasses for people over age 55. North Dallas Shared Ministries provides dental services and housing assistance if the person is unable to work.

Sarah Wick stated that at the last Communications and Technology Committee meeting, the members decided to change the name to the Communications Committee. She plans to attend the Age-Friendly Communities Plan meetings on March 2nd and 17th.

Bill Gart met with the CEO of the Senior Source and with employees at Jewish Family Service. The housing committee is planning to visit City Square to view the 400 square foot cottages for the homeless and learn more about the Permanent Supportive Housing Project.

Cannon Flowers reported that the Transportation Committee has been working with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) on the transportation surveys mailed to registered voters 60 and above in zip codes 75228 and 75217. He hopes that the other Commissioners will also work with DART to gather the same information in their districts regarding gaps in transportation.

Lydia Simpson reported that Age Well Live Well is scheduled to meet again on February 14th. The committee has been working on a web page and participated in Senior Day.

OFFICE OF SENIOR AFFAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Ransom announced that Commissioner Johnny Rodriguez had to forfeit his seat because of attendance, three absences in a row, excused or unexcused.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Jearldine McDaniel believes that seniors should automatically qualify for DART Paratransit.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:33 p.m. Ms. Wick seconded the motion.