



**SENIOR AFFAIRS  
COMMISSION**



## **SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

Monday, September 18, 2017 – 12:30 p.m.

Dallas City Hall – LIFN Auditorium

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:** Monday, September 18, 2017

**Convened:** 12:30 p.m. **Adjourned:** 1:43 p.m.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Trini Garza, Chairman  
Carmen Arana (Dist. 1)  
Lydia Simpson (Dist. 2)  
John Johnson (Dist. 3)  
VACANT (Dist. 4)  
VACANT (Dist. 5)  
Julia Suarez-Macias (Dist. 6) Absent  
Cannon Flowers (Dist. 7)  
VACANT (Dist. 8)  
Mary Ann Sparks (Dist. 9)  
Jeri Baker (Dist. 10)  
Bill Gart (Dist. 11)  
Marlene Cohen (Dist. 12)  
Syl Benenson (Dist. 13)  
Sarah Wick (Dist. 14)

#### **GUESTS:**

Renee L. Karp  
Lynda Ender  
Caren Edelstein  
Jearldine McDaniel  
Eddie Morgan  
Janice Thomas  
Monica Alonzo  
Jerome Garza

#### **CITY OF DALLAS STAFF**

Cobbie Ransom, Administrator  
Valencia Hooper-Alexander, Manager  
Heather Silver, SAC CAO Liaison  
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 12:30 p.m.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes were approved with corrections. Commissioner Simpson made a correction on page 2 paragraph 5 from City's recreation centers to "designated senior centers" .... from Grapevine to "Grand

Prairie". A motion was made by Syl Benenson to approve the August 21, 2017 minutes with the corrections noted above. The motion was seconded by Marlene Cohen.

#### **Determination, Inc. Initiative:**

Presented by **Renee L. Karp & Caren Edelstein, Co-founders.**

This initiative seeks to utilize a "village" approach in caring for seniors and allowing them to age in place. The initiative is currently being piloted in the Preston Hollow neighborhood.

Commissioners would like to see programs like this across the City and in all neighborhoods. Questions were raised about the costs to the senior and how that affects Medicare benefits. Ms. Hooper-Alexander explained there is a pilot program in Texas through the Area Agency on Aging called PACE for the lower income senior. The Commission encouraged the presenters to continue working on their project.

#### **Senior Affairs Commission Committee Reports**

SAC Chair Garza requested committee reports be tabled for the next month due to time restrictions.

#### **Office of Senior Affairs Announcements:**

Presenter: Senior Affairs Commission Meeting Schedule, Cobbie Ransom, Administrator

- There was discussion on the date and time of the SAC meetings as it may conflict with the Human and Social Needs Committee meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month. Ms. Cohen made a motion that the SAC meetings remain on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month. The motion was seconded by Syl Benenson.
  - Mr. Ransom will request on behalf of the SAC that issues affecting seniors be presented on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday or at the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday meetings.
- Mr. Ransom announced that the Office of Senior Affairs will resume Coffee and Conversation community meetings but they will now be "Listening Sessions" for seniors to express their concerns and issues. Office of Senior Services staff will coordinate with Commissioners for time and place of these meetings. Staff will handle notifications and other details.
  - Ms. Sparks commented on the successful Coffee and Conservation meeting she held at Highland Hills Senior Apartments. It was well received by the seniors and they expressed their concerns.
- Mr. Ransom made the following announcements:
  - Senior Source Job Fair is Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at the Skillman Church of Christ from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
  - Elder Financial Safety Center: Financial Empowerment & Protective Summit, September 28, 2017 from 9:00 – 12:00 noon at the Curtis Culwell Center in Garland

- SAC Commissioner Simpson announced that Age Well Live Well will have a presence at the State Fair on "Senior Days" -Thursdays, October 5, 12 & 19, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. There will be 20 minute presentations on pertinent issues to seniors. They will be utilizing college students from University of North Texas-Dallas to help seniors maneuver the State Fair admission.
- Chairman Garza presented Commissioner Flowers with a certificate of appreciation from the Commission for his two years of service on the SAC.

#### **Tribute to Trini Garza**

The Mayor's Office presented a proclamation to Mr. Garza for his years of service. Vice Chair John Johnson presented Mr. Garza with words of encouragement and a gift from the SAC. It was announced that following the SAC meeting there would be a reception with cake for Mr. Garza. Mr. Garza provided words of appreciation to the SAC and staff for the honor to serve and gifts.

#### **Citizens' Comments:**

Ms. Monica Alonzo gave words of appreciation to Mr. Garza for his years of service to the SAC and community. Ms. McDaniel also thanked Mr. Garza for his years and their friendship. Ms. Thomas also thanked both Mr. Cannon & Mr. Garza for their service. She stated that she wanted to be an advocate like Mr. Cannon at some point. Ms. Benenson thanked Trini for their 40 years of working together in the community at DISD on senior issues and as Texas Silver Haired Legislators.

A motion was made by Marlene Cohen to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Syl Benenson. The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

APPPROVED BY:

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Trini Garza, Chair  
Senior Affairs Commission (SAC)