



City of Dallas

## Senior Affairs Commission

Monday, February 8, 2016 12:00 p.m.

Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla Street – Auditorium L1FN

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Trini Garza, Chair  
Carmen Arana (Dist. 1)  
Lydia Simpson (Dist. 2)  
Barbara Record (Dist. 4)  
Johnny Rodriguez (Dist. 5)  
Felix Lozada (Dist. 6)  
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)

#### **GUESTS**

Max Wells  
Susan Williams  
Jann Horswell

#### **SENIOR SERVICES STAFF**

Cobbie Ransom, Manager III  
Valencia Hooper-Alexander, Manager  
Ana Camacho, Caseworker II  
Myckycle Hart, Caseworker II  
Lynn Jenkinson, Caseworker II

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Trini Garza, Chair, called the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from previous meeting will be approved at the beginning of the next SAC meeting after the Commissioners read them and provide corrections to Cobbie Ransom.

#### **PRESENTATION by Honorable Max Wells, Park & Recreation Board Chair**

Mr. Wells presented a plaque to the SAC to thank the Commission for their assistance in helping to secure funding for senior programming. Last year, senior participation in the Park and Recreation Department was Mr. Max Wells’ number one priority. With the assistance of the SAC and the Senior Source, Park and Recreation received \$400,000 in funding last year. In addition to \$400,000, \$150,000 to \$200,000 in funding has been committed for this year. Every year, Chairman Wells will try to increase the funding amount.

Mr. Wells stated that meetings will be held throughout the city to talk with seniors to determine their highest priorities. Crystal Ross, the new Director of Operations, is in charge of the meetings. Mr. Wells wants to make the Park and Recreation Department's senior initiative a great program to build on.

### **DISTRICT REPORTS:**

Mr. Garza asked the Commissioners to share their comments and concerns in their district for four minutes each.

**District 1** – Commissioner Arana stated that there are ongoing efforts in her district to work on providing dental services to seniors. Thirty seniors on Jefferson are receiving the service. She wants to reach as many seniors as possible to continue the service. Ms. Arana partnered with a private dental association and a university to cover the expenses.

Ms. Arana was invited to the Minor Home Repair meeting on January 27, 2016. She indicated that the meeting was very interesting and educational.

**District 2** - Ms. Simpson reported that Wilma with Crime Watch has been afflicted with Alzheimer's. Therefore, Ms. Simpson and Linda Blaze are continuing the Crime Watch program. They have had two meetings. Ms. Simpson referred Ms. Cunningham, a 92 year old individual, to the Senior Services Program for assistance. Ms. Alexander's team responded to her needs by making a home visit. She is now receiving Meals on Wheels.

On Jan 19th, Ms. Simpson was asked to represent Councilman Medrano at the Artists United for Christ Luncheon for senior citizens. She provided an update on the activities of the SAC and Age Well, Live Well Dallas. The State is looking for Dallas to be the leader of Age Well, Live Well.

**District 3** - Mr. Johnson was absent due to illness. Ms. Alexander reported on the Senior Safety Awareness Committee meeting. Councilman Casey Thomas promoted Steps to Protect in his district newsletter. Steps to Protect is a pamphlet on user-friendly phone numbers for seniors being developed by the Office of Senior Affairs. World Elder Awareness Day is on June 15, 2016. The City of Dallas partnered with the Senior Source to promote a countywide awareness of elder abuse and how to combat it. Ms. Alexander also stated that legislators in Austin had approved the Elder Justice Act.

**District 4** – Mr. Garza welcomed Ms. Barbara Record, the new District 4 Commissioner. Ms. Record thanked Ms. Sparks for inviting her to a meeting in District 9 about fraud, scams, and senior safety.

**District 5** - Johnny Rodriguez reported that Transportation Committee members talked to Mr. Jodi Hildebrand with the City of Dallas Senior Transportation Program. Mr. Rodriguez plans to attend the Senior Health and Caregivers Conference on Saturday, March 12, 2016 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Eastfield College. Mr. Flowers told Mr. Rodriguez that he is interested in serving on the transportation committee because transportation for District 7 is a real issue.

**District 6** – Mr. Lozada indicated that for personal reasons he has not been able to visit area senior centers.

**District 7** – Mr. Flowers stated that his committees are focused on the priorities set in the annual planning retreat which is to bring awareness to the Commission itself and to bring awareness to residents of the City of Dallas, 55 years of age and older. The City's Public Information Office (PIO) is interested in creating specific and unique information packets on what each SAC committee does. These packets can be used for commissioners and council members when they go out into the community. The PIO is willing to create videos of the committee's work and upload those videos to the City's website. Jeffery Clapper, a Public Information Officer, has been assigned to work directly with the SAC. Mr. Flowers asked the Commissioners to send all announcements to the Communication and Technology Committee. The committee will then forward the information to Mr. Clapper who will share with all of his social media sources and on the City's website. Mr. Flower's committee will be working on a SAC flyer to let people know how to access the SAC broadcast. He invited a branding expert, Ms. Jasmin Brand, Chief Executive Officer for Brandpointe, to the Communications & Technology meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup> to talk about how to rebrand aging. Mr. Flowers thanked the City Staff for providing business cards and emails and stated that he had created a PowerPoint presentation on the SAC. Mr. Flowers worked with voter registration to obtain a list of all the residents (60 year of age and above) in District 7 and offered to provide the same information to the other Commissioners regarding the seniors in their districts. Mr. Flowers is interested in doing personal outreach to the residents. He requested help from the City Staff with the City website. Mr. Flowers indicated that he had created a Facebook page for the SAC. Mr. Flowers is trying to keep the page updated by posting pictures, events, and contact information. He offered to post the final report on the aging conference in Washington. Mr. Flowers said that guidelines for the Facebook page could be agreed on by the Communications and Technology Committee. He asked the City to provide to each Commissioner a map listing all Park and Recreation Centers, libraries, and places of worship in each district.

**District 8** – Minister Douglas visited the Mongolian Senior Living Center last Thursday. Her first Conversation and Coffee at the Singing Hills Recreation Center is scheduled for February 18, 2016 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. She attended the Chinese New Year Festival with Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Wilson. She also met with the Zan Holmes Community Outreach Center. They would like to do a senior computer program in Mr.

Flower's district. The MayFair Planning Committee is scheduled to meet on February 16th at 11:00 a.m. All of the Commissioners are invited. The Deputy Mayor Pro Tem would like for each Councilmember to nominate one senior adult within their district for recognition. The MayFair planning committee meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. in 6DN. This year, the Office of Senior Affairs will promote the MayFair event. Ms. Cohen suggested that that the SAC could increase their visibility by supporting the MayFair event by using the SAC logo.

**District 9** – Ms. Sparks joined the Housing and Communication committees and attended the Minor Home Repair meeting. She has a very active group in her district called the Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI). FRI has been a catalyst for a lot of improvements made along the Ferguson Road Corridor, north of I-30. Their major project is to obtain \$35 million in funding for a combination recreation/community center. She attended the neighborhood exchange between D9 and D4 held at the bath house at White Rock Lake. Presentations were made by the fire and police departments. Their theatre group offers discounted and free tickets for low-income seniors to come to these cultural events targeted to seniors. Ms. Alexander gave a Coffee and Conversation presentation at the Primrose Senior Apartments. Ms. Sparks met with Code Compliance and a Community Prosecutor to discuss illegal dumping in her neighborhood. She attended the first senior round table meeting by the Park and Recreation Department. Their presentation outlined the goals of their senior programming at the recreation centers. They handed out questionnaires to seniors to find out what activities were of greatest interest.

**District 10** – Mr. Christopher reported that he attends all of the monthly Northeast Government Action Team meetings. On January 12<sup>th</sup>, they discussed crisis, code enforcement, and issues with trash and crime. He will learn about the Park Rangers Program at the meeting tomorrow. On February 4<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Christopher attended the Housing 101 committee meeting. They discussed the agenda, keynote speakers, and break-out sessions. The Housing 101 Workshop will be held on April 29, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Center for Community Cooperation. Mr. Christopher also serves on the committee for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day which will be held on June 15, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Five Star Senior Living Community is having a Fraud Watch Network presentation on Feb 9, 2016.

**District 11** – Mr. Gart plans to meet with Dennis Luellen from Rebuilding Together on Wednesday. He asked Mr. Ransom for a list of people who attended the Minor Home Repair meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Gart shared information about a six week Alzheimer's program called Work Your Brain, a Golden Awakening Program. He has a Housing meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

**District 12** – Ms. Cohen stated that the Health Committee met at Hatcher Station Health Center, one of Parkland's newest health clinics. Jane Hunley, Director of

Geriatric Services at Parkland, spoke to the committee about the clinic and needs within the community. Many of their patients are uninsured. Through the Hunger Initiative and Community Navigators, they want to increase SNAP participation. Ms. Cohen is also involved in the Senior Hunger Task Force. They are working on increasing SNAP participation in the Ferguson Road area.

**District 13** – Ms. Benenson serves on the Health Committee. She is planning to promote the 12 COPC clinics and needs a list of the clinics with phone numbers to share with seniors. She attended the Vickery Meadows Action Team meeting. Her district has the most seniors of any district. She plans to attend the Parks and Recreation meeting this week to find out about their needs. The Budget Committee is meeting this afternoon. She will find out which libraries have programs for seniors and those that do not. Ms. Benenson requested the balance of each line item from Mr. Ransom to determine how much money to request from the City Council for next year. Mr. Ransom told her that he will have those numbers for her.

**District 14** – Ms. Wick asked her Councilman to invite or include her in any conversations or meetings that he has regarding seniors. She discussed two ad hoc committees with Mr. Ransom. They talked about changing the ad hoc committees to action items as an efficiency measure. They also discussed how to streamline the monthly SAC meetings, making them more productive, and possibly looking at a Parliamentarian to be part of the SAC.

Mr. Flowers asked Ms. Wick if she would recommend inviting Ms. Susan Williams with AARP to present to the commission on a regular basis. She said, yes. Mr. Flowers made a recommendation to invite Ms. Williams to present to the Commission on a regular basis. Ms. Williams was in the audience and indicated that she would be happy to do so.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Susan Williams, Associate State Director for AARP in North Texas, stated that she is working with the City of Dallas on community projects. An AARP member survey was conducted in the City of Dallas. She will share the results at one of SAC's future meetings and agreed to provide written reports.

Jann Horswell, a Silver Sneakers Instructor, Dallas Fitness Consultant and Entrepreneur, stated that she has been volunteering with AARP for 13 years and serves on the Age Council. She loves the SAC meetings because she learns so much. Ms. Horswell has been working with Ms. Williams on the Age Friendly Community Initiative.

### **OFFICE OF SENIOR AFFAIRS REPORT**

Ms. Alexander gave an update on Senior Services initiatives. The Senior Services Program staff outreached to approximately 98 unduplicated seniors in January 2016.

The most pressing need in January was the request for assistance with home repairs, especially gas lines. The staff received 434 phone calls this past quarter from seniors and reached out to over 2,289 seniors through various outreach activities. The staff attended a training with AARP to help people learn to live longer, live stronger and listened to a presentation on chemical dependency and the elderly. The staff is continuing to plan for the MayFair event, Southwest Conference on Hoarding, Navigating Senior Housing, the Kinship Program, outreach in the Hispanic community, minor home repair options, and a minor home repair guide. The staff continues to do Coffee and Conversations and the DART Health Fair on May 5, 2016. Mr. Gart asked Ms. Alexander how many calls she gets from people needing minor home repairs. Ms. Benenson stated that the budget committee needs that information to request an increase in funding based on the number of people served.

Mr. Ransom handed out maps of libraries, places of worship, and recreation centers to each of the Commissioners and announced that the GIS department is currently working on demographic information for their respective districts.

Mr. Ransom had the opportunity to speak with many of the Commissioners. A number of different concerns and issues came up. At the March SAC meeting, he would like the opportunity to present some of these findings. Mr. Garza suggested that Mr. Ransom visit with as many of the Commissioners as possible to get their input and concerns so that he will have a comprehensive understanding of the Commission as a whole.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Mr. Garza would like to incorporate the retreat items into the agenda and discuss how the SAC can strengthen their partnership with the Senior Source. He would also like to express his appreciation to Mollie Bogen for her services.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.