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CITY SECRETARY  
DALLAS, TEXASSENIOR AFFAIRS  
COMMISSION

City of Dallas

## Senior Affairs Commission

Monday, March 21, 2016 – 12:00 p.m.

Dallas City Hall, 5ES Conference Room

### MEETING MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Trini Garza, Chair  
Carmen Arana (Dist. 1)  
John Johnson (Dist. 3)  
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

Mollie Bogen  
Michael Bostic  
Gwendolyn Davis

#### SENIOR SERVICES STAFF

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

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Trini Garza, Chair, called the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meetings in January and February 2016 were approved.

#### PRESENTATION TO MOLLY BOGEN, Former President & CEO, The Senior Source

Chairman Garza and Valencia Hooper-Alexander presented a plaque to Molly Bogen to show their appreciation for her outstanding service and contribution to seniors in the City of Dallas.

#### COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Syl Benenson reported that the Budget Committee meets on March 21, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. She requested input from the Commissioners regarding the unmet needs of seniors living in each of their districts in considering funding for the following year. The Budget Committee met with a representative from the Dallas Public Library who provided a map of all of the libraries located in the City of Dallas and current services for seniors.

Marlene Cohen reported that the Health Committee meets on an as needed basis. She passed around a map and a listing of all the locations of all of the Parkland Clinics. She

stated that the Senior Hunger Eating Well Program did a dry run at the Senior Source. The first presentation will be held on March 24, 2016.

Bill Gart met with Patrick Jackson, Manager, City of Dallas Emergency Home Repair Program. Mr. Gart listed the number of people assisted in each district. The budget for emergency home repairs is \$787,000 this fiscal year. All funding has been committed.

Mr. Cannon Flowers, Communications & Technology Committee Chair, talked about two approaches to communicating with seniors: through the newsletter and website updates. The Public Information Office (PIO) will publish a story on the Dallas City website once a month, the second week of every month. Mr. Flowers requested stories from the Commissioners. The newsletters will be distributed at all of the recreation centers and public libraries. He has the names of every registered voter 60 years of age and over in each district and offered to provide these names to Commissioners who want to get the word out to their constituents.

Ms. Cohen suggested using the mail system to get information out to all seniors.

Mr. Gart believes that the SAC should learn the City system and start communicating better with the department heads before branching out into the community.

Mr. Flowers stated that the committees need to be working closer together and understand the budget better.

John Johnson had a 10 a.m. meeting on March 21, 2016 and reported on the Safety & Elder Abuse Committee. June 17, 2016 is National and International Elder Abuse Day. He attended a committee meeting at the Senior Source where they discussed how to show support for Elder Abuse Day. Carmen Arana plans to attend a very interesting APS (Adult Protective Services) seminar tomorrow which may give the committee some ideas about what they can do on Elder Abuse Day.

Cobbie Ransom responded to Mr. Gart's request for a calendar. Mr. Ransom and Ana Camacho will update the website. One of the links on the website will be to a citywide calendar which would be updated externally. Mr. Ransom suggested creating an internal calendar just for the Commissioners. Calendars can be mailed to those people who do not have a computer. The SAC calendar will include dates for City Council committee meetings and briefing days, SAC Committee meetings and other events or activities. Mr. Ransom will set up deadlines to submit events to post on the calendar. He will provide a link to a global community calendar.

Mr. Flowers suggested distributing calendars at the recreation centers and libraries. He stated that training on computer technology is needed to learn how to access the calendar. Ms. Cohen requested that a calendar of events be emailed to the Commissioners each month along with the meeting agenda.

Sara Wick reported on a shareholder's meeting she attended. Susan Williams with AARP shared the results of the livability survey sent out to 50+ AARP members last year. The three most important community features according to the survey responders were transportation, health and wellness, outdoor space and building including housing.

Minister Douglas stated that seniors at the Singing Hills Recreation Center are eager to get more programs for seniors. The seniors at the Janie C. Turner Recreation Center feel like they have been forgotten. Ms. Douglas reported that the MayFair event's program is in place. The

MayFair Committee has raised approximately \$20K, to date. Seniors are looking for an outlet to socialize.

Mr. Ransom stated that the MayFair is being undertaken by the Office of Senior Affairs this year. Next year the Commission will have a discussion about its participation with the MayFair event.

Minister Douglas extended an invitation for everyone to ask their council member to nominate a senior for recognition at Mayfair.

Bill Gart would like to improve communication between the Commission and the City staff.

### **COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS**

Minister Douglas indicated that the Dallas Leadership Foundation provides grants for senior veterans and plans to begin to take applications on April 16, 2016.

Carmen Arana has a written report on the different activities.

Mr. Ransom stated that events such as Housing 101 should be updated through the housing committee and program updates reported to the full commission. Updates should be reported to the respective committees.

Johnny Rodriguez reported on the Transportation Committee. Members of the committee attended a meeting with ITN America.

Mary Sparks will submit a written report of her activities. On March 17th, she went to the C.C. Young living community in District 9. They provide services to any citizen of Dallas who is 50 years of age or older. They have restaurants and cafes on the campus. They offered free use of their meeting rooms or restaurants.

Armand Christopher indicated that his Councilman sets up events and notifies him of all of his events and what he is planning. His Councilman is involved in the community and notifies him of all of the events that he should be attending. Commissioner Christopher attends these events and distributes materials.

### **OFFICE OF SENIOR AFFAIRS – PROGRAM UPDATES**

Mr. Ransom introduced Michael Bostic with the City Attorney's Office who has been working for the City of Dallas for 19 years. He asked Ms. Bostic to attend some of the meetings to act as a Parliamentarian.

Ms. Alexander passed out Housing 101 flyers and provided an update on the Housing 101 and the MayFair events. She also passed around Senior Housing flyers and asked Commissioners to share the information with their constituents. She talked about the seminar. We plan to come out with two brochures for seniors: Senior Housing Options in the City of Dallas & User friendly Home Repair Programs in the City of Dallas.

She reported on some initiatives: The MayFair is a day of entertainment. Thirty tables have been sold. The objective is to provide socialization to seniors. The event is advertised in the Celebration Magazine and in the Senior Voice. The Office of Senior Affairs staff has been trained by AARP to do Living Longer, Living Stronger, a program dedicated to increasing awareness among seniors about the benefits of life long planning. The senior services staff is working closely with the Senior Hunger Initiative and helping people learn about SNAP. The

staff has been working with Commissioner Rodriguez, on the Diabetes Initiative. Ms. Alexander invited the Commissioners to attend Compassion Fatigue, a free workshop on April 1, 2016 about mind, body, soul, and rejuvenation for caregivers. Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is having an event for Older American Month on May 5, 2016 at Centennial Park, open to all seniors. The Mother's Day Luncheon will be held at the Convention Center on May 6, 2016.

Cobbie distributed copies of the 2015 annual report. To better organize the process, Mr. Ransom suggested supplying notebooks including agenda, minutes, and handouts. Susan Williams is tentatively scheduled to report on the livability survey at the SAC meeting in April. Lynda Ender is confirmed to attend the meeting.

Mr. Ransom proposed an open workshop from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. to discuss SAC meeting and committee operational matters. The Commissioners voted on the date of the meeting; The majority (seven) of the Commissions favored April 11<sup>th</sup>. Absence from the meeting will not count against attendance. Mr. Ransom stated that he has about 20 items to discuss and will request input from the Commissioners.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Gwendolyn Davis, a Dallas Texas Artist, stated that her organization, Artists United for Christ, has had the honor of doing fine arts exhibits at Dallas City Hall since 2011. They developed a program called Reflections and Progression, a reception in honor of senior citizens used to kick-off their fine arts exhibits at Dallas City Hall. On June 18, Artists United for Christ will sponsor a parade in downtown Dallas commencing at Dallas City Hall to elevate the minds of senior citizens. She applauded the Commission for the important work they are doing.

Felix Lazada officially resigned from the SAC committee for health reasons and commended the Commission for all the work they are doing. He has asked Deputy Mayor Monica Alonzo, his Councilperson, to find a replacement.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Garza adjourned the meeting at 1:39 p.m.