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SENIOR AFFAIRS
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CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS
City of Dallas

SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Monday, April 16, 2018 – 12:00 p.m.

Dallas City Hall – L1FN Auditorium

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, April 16, 2018

Convened: 12:01 p.m.

Adjourned: 1:41 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Sharyn Fein, Chair
Carmen Arana (Dist. 1)
Lydia Simpson (Dist. 2)
John Johnson (Dist. 3)
Myrtis Evans (Dist. 4)
Carl Raines (Dist. 5)
Jearldine McDaniel (Dist. 6)
Deloris King (Dist. 7)
VACANT (Dist. 8)
Mary Ann Sparks (Dist. 9)
Bill Gart (Dist. 11)
Marlene Cohen (Dist. 12)
Syl Benenson (Dist. 13)
Sarah Wick (Dist. 14)

Committee Members Absent:

Jeri Baker (Dist. 10)

Guests Present

Barbara Barbee
Lynda Ender
Mother B.M. Randolph
Janice Thomas

City of Dallas Staff Present:

Cobbie Ransom III, Senior Affairs Administrator
Valencia Hooper-Alexander, Senior Affairs Manager
Heather Silver, SAC CAO Liaison
Ana Camacho, Caseworker
Myckycle Hart, Caseworker
Lynn Jenkinson, Caseworker

AGENDA:

1. **Call to Order**

Sharyn Fein, Chair, called the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) monthly meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

2. **Approval of March 2018 Minutes**

Carl Raines made a motion to approve the March 2018 minutes. John Johnson seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes with no corrections.

3. **Chair Report** – Sharyn Fein, Chair

Commissioner Fein commended the Commissioners who met with Dennis Coleman, facilitator of the Special Meeting on April 9th to collaborate and create attainable goals for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-2019:

- To strengthen the influence of the SAC
- To advocate for a vibrant environment for successful aging
- To identify and develop a communication network

Commissioner Carmen Arana made a motion to adopt these goals. Syl Benenson seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of adopting the goals.

- The Commissioners will develop strategies to achieve their goals. The Chair of each committee will email the strategies to Commissioner Fein to combine and share with the Commission.
- Ms. Fein invited Commissioner Sarah Wick to Chair the SAC Retreat in October 2018.
- The SAC will take a more active role in the Age Well Live Well Symposium next year.
- Barbara Barbee is the SAC Liaison from Dallas Park and Recreation. She requested that the Commissioners ask their City Council Members not to cut the budget for Dallas Park and Recreation.
 - Commissioner Fein asked each Commissioner to share what is happening in their district:

District 1 – Commissioner Arana: My district is growing by leaps and bounds with a lot of new construction. Roads are being repaired. District One is being spruced up progressively in a steady fashion.

District 2 – Commissioner Lydia Simpson reported that crime is down in District Two. Neighborhood association and crime watch meetings are held in her district.

District 3 – Commissioner Johnson stated that there is a substantial need for street construction in his district and welcomed any City Councilmember (CM) or others to support the need.

District 4 – Commissioner Myrtis Evans received several calls from seniors needing bathroom repairs. She is focused on housing and home repairs in her district, informing people how to apply for these services.

District 5 – Commissioner Raines recently attended a big event with CM Rick Callahan at the Ledbetter Station, toured Southeast Dallas, the Dallas Arboretum, the new gold course, and the Horse Park.

District 6 – Commissioner Jearldine McDaniel: A lot of new homes and apartments are being built in West Dallas. Some seniors are having pest problems. She intends to try to take care of senior needs in District Six.

District 7 – Commissioner Deloris King announced that CM Kevin Felder opened an office in the Martin Luther King Center in South Dallas to reach out to people in the area who do not drive and do not have a way to access resources. The Frazier House, another resource for seniors in District Seven, offers adult education programs, skills training, job placement, and coordinated social services.

District 9 – Commissioner Mary Sparks represents a very diverse district with two senior centers: Harry Stone Recreation Center has limited senior programming - line dancing and playing cards. The senior program at Ridgewood Belcher Recreation Center is very active. The Taste of Northeast, an event sponsored by the Northeast Police Division is a popular event for seniors. Every year, C.C. Young holds a nationwide art and writing contest for seniors. Most importantly, Ms. Sparks attended a briefing where CM Clayton expressed an interest in acquiring senior centers in Dallas.

District 11 – Commissioner Bill Gart, CM Kleinman, the Homeowners Association, and the Chair of the Crime Watch Committee met to talk about the problems in their district. Mr. Gart had the opportunity to speak about his Homeowners Association who has a yearly food and clothing drive. He hopes to bring the district together for a food and clothing drive twice a year, a major project in his district.

District 12 – Commissioner Marlene Cohen participated in a Listening Session at Timberglen Recreation Center. The seniors commented on the lack of transportation and park space. District Twelve has two recreation centers and two libraries. The Campbell Green Recreation Center has an active group of seniors. The library has zero senior programming. Timberglen Library has a lot of successful programs for seniors; however, the Timberglen Recreation Center is not having very much success.

District 13 – Commissioner Benenson has two programs in her district: Marcus Annex Senior Center and Walnut Hill Recreation Center. A Listening Session was held at Marcus Annex in March 2018 with a wonderful turnout. There is one sign in front of the center. She is working with Dallas Park and Recreation to get another sign with an arrow pointing to the Marcus Annex Senior Center. Attendance has decreased at the Walnut Hill Recreation Center. They have some field trips, a breakfast once a month, and unused art supplies. One reason attendance is down is because of the Atmos gas problem. People had to move out of their houses. Another Listening Session will be held at the Preston Royal Library.

District 14 – Commissioner Wick met with Councilmember Kingston's appointee to the libraries, Carol Johnson, who helped facilitate a productive meeting with the three library managers in District Fourteen about programming and reaching out to seniors. She attended a retirement seminar, the opening ceremony of the Senior Games at Fair Park, and an event at the Friends of Lakewood Library where she shared information about senior services. She is working with Lakewood Library to schedule a Listening Session in May.

4. Senior Affairs Commission Committee Reports

- Mr. Raines reported on the Senior Health and Safety Committee: The guest speaker, Chad Jones, Supervisor of the DART Ambassador Program, provided an overview of his program. They discussed World Elder Abuse Day in June. Valencia Hooper Alexander is working on the Senior Safety Summit.
- Ms. Benenson plans to attend the budget hearing in May 2018. If there is a need to request more funding, she will inform the Commissioners by email to ask them to vote on the additional funding.
- Ms. Evans reported that Brittney Tree with My Ride Dallas is scheduled to speak at the Transportation Committee meeting on April 17, 2018.
- Mr. Gart supports the City of Dallas Housing Program. He is concerned about losing the minor home repair program and requested help from the Commissioners in reaching out to their City Councilmembers to make them aware of the need and importance of the minor home repair program. As of today, the total number of requests for home repair is 167 homes. Ten applicants did not qualify. To date, 157 homes are being served. Eighty-nine homeowners have been assisted and contractors have been paid. Sixty-eight home owner applications have been approved and will be served between now and September 30, 2018.
- Ms. Sparks reported that the Socialization Committee is still working on their goal statement. Dennis Coleman, Director of Development, Turtle Creek Chorale, helped her committee create measureable goals. Her committee has been focusing on MayFair. Three SAC members are on the Mayfair planning committee.

- Ms. Simpson reported that the Age Well Live Well Symposium was a success. She plans to meet with staff at UNT Dallas for a recap of the event and to plan for next year. Age Well Live Well Committee's next project is preparation for participation in the Texas State Fair.

5. **Office of Community Care / Senior Services Announcements**

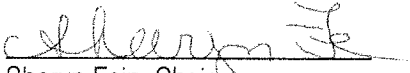
- Ms. Alexander shared a flyer with updates on the activities for Older Americans Month in May 2018. She reported that the Human and Social Needs Committee members were very receptive to Commissioner Sparks' report on MayFair 2018 and understanding of the need to fight senior isolation.
- Cobbie Ransom presented a PowerPoint presentation on MayFair 2018, the rate of participation, revenue, and expenses. Between 2016 and 2017, the cost of MayFair averaged about \$50,000. This year, the cost of MayFair is significantly less (\$37,000) because we are pursuing in-kind contributions and scaling back by securing a room that only accommodates 1000-targeted attendees. The City did not take funds out of the general fund budget for MayFair this year or last year. Next year, the City will be looking at more cost effective locations for the venue.

6. **No Citizens' Comments**

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m. The next SAC meeting will be held on May 21, 2018 in the L1FN Auditorium.

APPROVED BY:


Sharyn Fein, Chair
Senior Affairs Commission (SAC)