



Senior Affairs Commission Report

Monday, June 24, 2019

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CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

Agenda

1. **Call to Order – 12:02pm**
2. **Roll Call (see attachment)**
3. **Approval of May 20, 2019 Minutes**

Commissioner Wick proposed the following changes:

- Commissioner Wick made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Cohen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Discussion: Southern Dallas Food Deserts: A Mobile Market Approach**

- Dr. Kelly Varga from UNT Dallas discussed the southern Dallas food deserts and their mobile market approach.
- The approach will develop a food delivery and education program to the surrounding residents of the University of North Texas at Dallas.
- It will provide access and an understanding of the benefits of making healthy food choices.
- In 2015, it was shown roughly 42 million Americans were deemed as food insecure; 13 million were children.
- Food swamps are high, calorie-rich, unhealthy foods strategically placed in certain neighborhoods.
- Food has taken over as the number 1 killer in America more than lung cancer and cigarette smoking.
- Students put together the maps as an interim research project. This was supported through a scholarship fund from Toyota. Main driver of the grant in support to getting this launched off the ground and biggest support is to provide student tuition for research that drives finding out more indicators on what's behind this problem.
- There are over 141 food swamp options in southern Dallas. This includes convenience stores, gas stations, fast-food and dine-in restaurants.
- A lot of people are interested in the farm to table movement. They would like to get their groceries from less than 50 miles away.
- The idea is the students come from this area, so why not train them, make them successful and give them jobs to go back in their communities to uplift.
- DART donated a bus for this purpose. It will be retrofitted through Cedar Valley's automotive school as an experiential learning project for their students.
- Vision: to develop a food delivery system and an education program for the surrounding residents of UNT Dallas, not only to access healthy food, but understand the benefits of making healthy food choices.
- Mission: to provide a pathway towards social mobility through wholesome living and education.
- No other university in the country is doing this. This is not a mobile project for UNT Dallas, but a mobile project for the community.
- Southern Dallas is surveyed out; the community is tired of people doing a survey and not sharing the data. Whatever data is collected will be represented back out into the community.
- Nutrition and health need to be done for the community.
- The goal is not to have the mobile market there for the next 30 years but would like for others to see there is a problem and it needs to be addressed.
- What makes this program unique is this is the only produce mobile market in Texas offering locally sourced, fresh fruits and vegetables. This concept is the only type in Texas that is tied to a university curriculum with a community-centered focus.
- The Commission can help by providing insight to sustainability, being a voice for the experience population, collaboration and partnership, and volunteering.
- There are few dollars in the budget to hire part-time drivers. Prefer seniors first, then potentially the veteran population. Specifically looking at individuals from the Southern Dallas community.
- Currently, they are working with Friendship West Baptist Church as a site stop and a drop off zone for where the produce will be stored, since it is within a mile.
- Hoping to do a soft launch to get some feedback at the Moorland and Oak Cliff YMCAs between September and November.
- Next year there will be a full rollout from April to November.
- Although no one can get on the bus due to limited mobility for handicap individuals, national research states it is better to have a farmer's market style approach to support community engagement.

- Chair Fein is concerned things like this are normally more than other non-competitive/competitive places.
- Most partners understand the concept, so they are willing to sell at a wholesale or wholesale reduced cost. The concept is not for money making but for self-generating to keep the program going.
- The market will accept SNAP and WIC benefits on-site. Trying to work with the City so they will be able to sign up and receive benefits immediately.
- Commissioner Sparks suggested working with the local police divisions. She thinks each one puts on health fairs that focus on health and wellness. This could be a great way to market introduce yourself to the communities.
- Would like to incorporate a cooking demo that will include 2-3 meals to help sustain until the end of the month.
- Please reach out to Dr. Varga if you have any suggestions for programs that fit the motto. Seniors in the Southern Dallas Community is what they are looking for, but then they plan on going to Veterans.
- They are looking for anybody that has ideas or pathways through grant funding. Also looking for anybody that will like to sit on the assisting ability committee that has experience or anyone from that community that can help.

5. Senior Services Update

- Outreach Activities

Senior Services Manager, Ana Camacho, reported on the past and upcoming outreach activities for staff.

- In May they gave a bilingual presentation at the Mabel Meshack White Manor in conjunction with 311.
- Attended the Senior Mother's Day Luncheon at the Sheridan.
- Took part in the DART Older American's Month Celebration.
- Involved in the ¡Vive tu vida! event at the A+ Academy.
- Presented on the senior service programming at the Prairie Creek Branch Library on hoarding/cluttering.
- The Senior Safety Summit is held at Lakewest YMCA this upcoming Thursday. Registration is closed, but staff needed 3 volunteers to serve food and keep things in order from 9-12pm.
- On July 11th, a hoarding presentation will be done at the Timberglen Branch Library.
- Staff will be at WellMed on July 25th providing social services over wills, trusts, probate and elder law.
- The Seniors Aging in Place Event will be held on August 21st. Ana will send out flyers for all upcoming events.
- Ana thanked Commissioner Baker for attending the Juneteenth event, in place of staff, on June 22nd.
- Commissioner Wick's article for the newsletter has been received. The hope is for the newsletter to come out next month.
- Commissioner Wick questioned the responsibility for uploading correct, non-draft minutes online. The last minutes reflected online were from February.

6. Public Comment

- Attorney Jasmine Crockett is running for State Representative in House District 100. She wants to stay in tune with everyone no matter what age, wants to know what the issues are and what she can do from a state perspective.
- That is the district Mayor Eric Johnson represented. There will be a special election held in November with a possible runoff election in December, but she will not run until March 3rd.

7. Upcoming Events

- There is no Meeting July. The next meeting is August 26th in the auditorium.
- Commissioner Benenson made a budget presentation to Council last Tuesday. Since there were no changes to the last budget subcommittee meet, she cancelled today's meeting. If anyone has any questions, Lupe Rios is available.
- Commissioner Cohen requested the revised budget talking points.
- Chair Fein mentioned the progress of the senior expo was coming along. A meeting will be held during the break to secure a date and finalize details. More information will be given out at the next meeting.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Sharyn Fein, Chair

Senior Affairs Commission



SENIOR AFFAIRS
COMMISSION



City of Dallas

SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES ATTENDANCE SHEET
DALLAS CITY HALL, L1FN AUDITORIUM
THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2019
12:00 PM

Attendance Sheet

Committee Members Present

Sharyn Fein, Chair
Carmen Arana, District 1
Myrtis Evans, District 4
Jearldine McDaniel, District 6
Deloris J. King, District 7
Mary Sparks, District 9
Jeri Baker, District 10
Bill Gart, District 11
Marlene Cohen, District 12
Syl Benenson, District 13
Sarah Wick, District 14

Guests Present

Kelly Varga
Mary Ayeni

Committee Members Absent

Vacant, District 2
John Johnson, District 3
Carl Raines, District 5
Debbie Austin, District 8

Staff Present

Anna Camacho
Myckycle Hart
Jessica Galleshaw
Lupe Rios
Lynn Jenkinson
Zena Palmer

