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CITY SECRETARY  
DALLAS, TEXAS



SENIOR AFFAIRS  
COMMISSION



City of Dallas

*Garza* 160030

## SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Monday, October 17, 2016 – 12:00 p.m.

Dallas City Hall, 5ES Conference Room

### MEETING MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Trini Garza, Chairman  
Carmen Arana (Dist. 1)  
Lydia Simpson (Dist. 2)  
John Johnson (Dist. 3)  
Johnny Rodriguez (Dist. 5)  
Cannon Flowers (Dist. 7)  
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)  
Sarah Wick (Dist. 14)

#### VACANCIES

District 4  
District 6

#### GUESTS

Lynda Ender  
Felecia Foster  
Jearldine McDaniel  
Daryl Quarles  
Ruthilen Robles  
Janice Thomas

#### SENIOR SERVICES STAFF

Cobbie Ransom, Administrator  
Valencia Hooper Alexander, Manager  
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 12:00 p.m.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Johnson made a motion to approve the previous minutes. Syl Benenson seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved with no corrections.

#### PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT SENIOR SURVEY FINDINGS

Daryl Quarles, Senior Division Manager, presented a summary of the senior survey findings conducted by the Park and Recreation Department. The average age of the seniors who responded to the survey was 71 years. The three top choices for classes were painting, music and sewing. Bingo was the number one choice of games. Walking on an indoor track was the most desired physical activity; fitness equipment came in second place; and aquatic activities came in third. Seniors can use the fitness equipment free of charge in all facilities between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. The most desired social programs for seniors include lunches, movies and plays. Movie tickets are free and three new passenger vans are available to transport seniors to the theatre. Recreational center registration has increased by 74%. The cost of membership is \$10 per year.

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**RETREAT PLANNING UPDATE**

Sarah Wick reported on the upcoming retreat at AARP on Walnut Hill Lane on October 20, 2016. Bernadette Mitchell will speak during the opening presentation at 9:00 a.m. Cannon Flowers will review SAC accomplishments during the fiscal year 2015-2016. In the afternoon, Chester Helt will serve as Moderator and conduct a session on conflict management and team building.

**OLD BUSINESS****Age-Friendly Communities**

Commissioner Wick did not have anything new to report.

**Committee Reports**

Commissioner Flowers announced that the Communications and Technology Committee (CAT) will not be meeting today and deferred discussion regarding the future of the committee to the retreat.

Commissioner Johnson reported that the Safety and Awareness Committee met today. The speaker, Michael Cohen, is an Elder Law Attorney who advocates for seniors. Mr. Johnson offered to share information provided by Mr. Cohen to the Commissioners.

**Office of Senior Affairs**

Cobbie Ransom updated the Commission on the status of the dental and medical transportation programs. On Sept 28th, the City Council approved the dental service award to Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry. Dental services will be provided at two locations: North Dallas Shared Ministry and Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry.

Mr. Ransom is working with the purchasing department on senior medical transportation. The bidding process has not begun. Vendors will be required to have wheelchair lifts, expanded hours of operation, provide free rides for caregivers and free service within the City of Dallas. The enhanced medical transportation program will accommodate more clients more efficiently. The City of Dallas partnered with DART Ambassadors to provide transportation training. The new program is scheduled to launch on January 1, 2017.

Mr. Ransom visited with the Senior Source about the Senior Ombudsman Program. The Request for Proposal (RFP) has not gone out.

**Age Well Live Well**

Lydia Simpson reported that coalition members have been taking turns performing on stage at Fair Park on Senior Day at the Texas State Fair.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Carmen Arana described a City of Dallas emergency preparedness training program called CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) offered three Saturdays in a row from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., free of charge. Mr. Ransom will obtain copies of the program for everyone.

Sarah Wick, Mary Ann Sparks, Carmen Arana and Chiyoko Douglas are having problems with City Hall's email. Mr. Ransom will check on the email problem. The Commissioners can call help desk at Dallas City Hall: 214-670-1234.

Lynda Ender asked the Commissioners to continue distributing the petitions for senior centers and talking to the council members.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Felicia Foster with the Dallas Police Department (DPD) Office of Community Affairs invited everyone to "Connecting Seniors Networking" event on November 21, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. The mission of DPD Community Affairs is to connect those serving the senior community. Myckycle Hart distributed Save the Date event flyers.

Janice Thomas talked about diversity and emphasized the importance of hearing everyone's opinion. She is concerned about housing for seniors. A lot of the homeless are seniors. Ms. Thomas believes that buying and selling houses would help to alleviate urban blight. City Square provides single room cottages for people transitioning out of homelessness who are alcohol and drug-free.

Ms. Jearldine McDaniel expressed her concerns about the closing of mental facilities, placing people who are mentally ill in jail and receiving misleading mail by insurance companies.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 p.m. Ms. Arana seconded the motion.