

**SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**REMOTE WEBEX MEETING**

**DIAL IN: +1-469-210-7159 United States Toll (Dallas)**

**DIAL IN: +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll**

**MEETING NUMBER (ACCESS CODE): 146 182 4082**

**MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020**

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

**Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Monday, June 22, 2020 **Convened:** 12:05 p.m. **Adjourned**: 1:08 p.m.

**Committee Members Present**: **Committee Members Absent**: **City of Dallas Staff Present:**

Jan Hart Black, Chair Myrtis Evans (Dist. 4) Ana Camacho, Manager Carmen Arana (Dist. 1) Jessica Galleshaw, Director VACANT (Dist. 2) Myckycle Hart, Caseworker Verna G. Mitchell (Dist. 3) Lynn Jenkinson, Caseworker M. Ja’net Huling (Dist. 5) Heather Lowe, Administrator

Marilyn Daniels (Dist. 6) Barbara Martinez, City Attorney

Cannon Flowers (Dist. 7) Daryl Quarles, Manager

Debbie Austin (Dist. 8) James Ramirez, Caseworker

Beverly White (Dist. 9) Lupe Rios, Administrator

Jeri Baker (Dist. 10)

Bill Gart (Dist. 11)

Zelene Lovitt (Dist. 12)

J. Peter Kline (Dist. 13)

Sarah Wick (Dist. 14)

1. **Call to Order**

Jan Hart Black, Chair, called the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) monthly meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and conducted

a roll call to establish a quorum.

1. **No Public Comments**
2. **Approval of February 24, 2020 Minutes**

Peter Kline made a motion to approve the February 2020 minutes. Zelene Lovitt seconded the motion. The Commissioners

voted in favor of the motion.

1. **City Operations Update due to COVID-19**

Jessica Galleshaw, Office of Community Care (OCC) Director, presented an overview of city operations due to COVID-19 and an update on city services. The City of Dallas Boards, Commissions, and City Council meetings have been on hold since middle of March 2020. Ad hoc committees were created. The City Council began meeting again in May via WebEx and will continue internet meetings as long as the city is under emergency regulations.

1. **City Operations and Services Update due to COVID-19: Library Services**

Heather Lowe, Adult Services Administrator, City of Dallas Libraries provided an update on library services. After most library staff were sent home to work, they began calling senior library users, 70 years of age and older, to check-in with them. About half of the library staff was furloughed. The remaining library employees are planning to implement a phone pal program beginning in July 2020 for homebound seniors and trained volunteers. Next, they will implement an online coffee club and a dial-in reading of a short story. Library staff is also planning to make activities kits for seniors to pick up from the library.

Sarah Wick inquired about audio resources. Ms. Lowe stated that the library utilizes a digital media service called hoopla for access to audiobooks, comic books, movies, and music.

1. **City Operations and Services Update due to COVID-19: Office of Community Care Senior Services Program**

* Update on Received Calls, Changes in Program/Services due to COVID-19

Ana Camacho, OCC Senior Services Manager, presented an update on received calls and changes to senior program services. As of May 2020, Senior Services surpassed all of their goals. Due to COVID-19, all outreach activities have been suspended until September 2020. Senior Services is partnering with other departments to begin virtual outreach. Ms. Camacho is currently working on the summer edition of the newsletter and exploring options to share the newsletter.

* Ms. Galleshaw provided an update on status of city contract services and partnerships. COVID-19 has impacted all of the services. The OCC reached out to contract providers in March to identify possible impacts on programming. The Ombudsman Program made adjustments in the way they provide service. Site visits to the facilities ceased. The Ombudsman transitioned their approach via telephone. OCC received notice from the Senior Employment Program that they were not going to be able to implement the program safely; therefore, the employment program has been terminated. The Senior Medical Transportation Program transitioned to the DART’s Rider Assistance Program (RAP). The Dental Services Program is administered at two sites. Those programs continued but appointments were limited to emergency dental services only. A third site in South Dallas is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2020.

1. **City Operations and Services Update due to COVID-19: Park and Recreation**

Daryl Quarles, Senior Program Division Manager, Dallas Park and Recreation Department provided an update on

the Dallas Park and Recreation Program. The Park and Recreation Department lost 18 part-time staff. Nine or ten

full-time employees transferred to the summer program. Park and Recreation staff partnered with the Dallas Police

Department to call about 2000 seniors to make well-checks. Classes taught by senior program staff are offered on

their website. Greeting cards were sent out for Mother’s Day. Parks assisted other agencies in providing eight thousand meals tor seniors. Bingo games are offered on a weekly basis. Seniors can call in to participate in programs. They also made masks

to distribute to seniors and had a parade for Older Americans Month. They are partnering with the People and

Nutrition (PAN) Program and the Dallas Museum of Arts to arrange virtual tours. They will be mailing out 800 wish cards

for Father’s Day. More activities are planned for July and August. Dance classes are on hold due to increase in

COVID-19 cases.

1. **Funding Priorities Ad Hoc Sub-Committee Meeting Report**

Commissioner Kline reported on the progress of the Funding Priorities Ad Hoc Sub-Committee over the past three months. The committee assembled a list of traditionally provided programs, discussed service priorities, and how the COVID epidemic is affecting seniors. Recommended priorities were set forth in their report, which was emailed the prior week to the Commission for their review.

* **Voting Item: Accept Funding Priorities Report**

Commissioner Lovitt made a motion to adopt the Funding Priorities report. Beverly White seconded the motion. The Funding Priorities Report was unanimously approved and will be transmitted to the Mayor, Council, and City Manager.

1. **Upcoming Events**

* June 24, 2020: Council Meeting to discuss changes to the Home Improvement and Preservation Program (HIPP) followed by a voting item on amendment to Program Statement for the HIPP
* August 24, 2020: Upcoming Senior Affairs Committee meeting via internet
* Sub-committees will resume and be confined to subcommittee members only, due to Covid meeting restrictions and adherence to TOMA requirements. Meetings will likely be by Business Skype or teleconference. Committee Chairs will inform Chairman Black if they want to hold a meeting prior to our August meeting. Meetings will not be posted.

1. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



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Jan Hart Black, Chair

Senior Affairs Commission (SAC)

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