

Trini GarzaSENIOR AFFAIRS
COMMISSION

City of Dallas

SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Monday, January 9, 2017 – 12:00 p.m.

Dallas City Hall, L1FN Auditorium

MEETING MINUTES

RECEIVED
 2017 APR 28 PM 4:42
 CITY OF DALLAS
 EXECUTIVE SERVICES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Trini Garza, Chairman
 Carmen Arana (Dist. 1)
 Lydia Simpson (Dist. 2)
 John Johnson (Dist. 3)
 Johnny Rodriguez (Dist. 5)
 Julia Suarez-Macias (Dist. 6)
 Cannon Flowers (Dist. 7)
 Mary Ann Sparks (Dist. 9)
 Bill Gart (Dist. 11)
 Marlene Cohen (Dist. 12)
 Syl Benenson (Dist. 13)
 Sarah B. Wick (Dist. 14)

VACANCIES

District 4
 District 8
 District 10

GUESTS

none

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 12:13 p.m.

NEW COMMISSIONER WELCOME

Mr. Garza introduced the new board member, Commissioner Julia Suarez-Macias, representing District 10. She is a semi retired dental office manager.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Carmen Arana motioned to accept the previous minutes. John Johnson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

SENIOR PROGRAM UPDATES – Cobbie Ransom, Administrator, Office of Senior Affairs updated the Commission on the dental, medical transportation, Ombudsman and senior employment programs. Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry was selected as the new provider for the dental health care program. The City of Dallas is waiting for the dental contract to be signed. A selection committee will meet on January 11th to select one of two transportation vendors for the Senior Medical Transportation Program. An administrative

action will then be submitted to the City Council to award a contract to the selected vendor. The Senior Source was the only agency that responded to the request for proposal for the Senior Ombudsman Program. A contract has been forwarded to them to sign. The City of Dallas is working with purchasing on sending out the request for proposal for senior employment.

OLD BUSINESS

Age-Friendly Communities

Sarah Wick reported that Age-Friendly Communities continues to meet in the sections of the eight domains of livability. Each of these domains will have meetings throughout the year with their stakeholders. Mr. Ransom is Chair of the housing domain. His goal is to ensure that the Age-Friendly Communities Plan is consistent with and supports the Neighborhood Plus Plan.

Committee Reports

Syl Benenson attended the consolidated plan hearing on January 5th. The budget for the Senior Ombudsman Program was reduced. She advised the Commissioners to ask their prospective City Council members to support the recommended amount of funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Mr. Ransom explained the consolidated plan which includes the CDBG, Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA), Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

Mr. Johnson reported on the Elder Safety Awareness and Health Committee. The guest speaker at the meeting he attended this morning was Ms. Warner from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Ms. Wick, Chair of the Communications and Technology Committee met with the City staff about the newsletter. The first draft of the newsletter will be presented at the Communications meeting today. The committee will work on developing their strategic plan for the year. They are still working with the Public Information Office about televising community education for seniors on City owned television stations.

Cannon Flowers reported that the transportation committee spent the last few months creating a survey to measure the transportation patterns of seniors in East Dallas, Districts 5, 7 and 9. Dallas Rapid Area Transit (DART) created an online survey in English and Spanish. A postcard will be mailed to every registered voter 60 and above in 75228 and 75217 zip codes. A representative from DART will be on call to answer questions about the survey. Once the results come in and transportation needs are identified, DART will propose a solution to the gaps in transportation services for seniors.

Bill Gart reported that the housing committee will meet on January 10th to plan activities for the year. He requested a report by district on how much money has been approved for emergency home repair, October 1st through January 31st.

Age Well Live Well

Lydia Simpson stated that the Age Well Live Well meeting in December was postponed and the trip to Tyler, Texas was cancelled. The next Age Well Live Well meeting will be held on the third Wednesday of January.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Flowers announced that the Senior Games at Fair Park for 2017 will begin in February. Registration is open. The activities are posted on the Dallas Park and Recreation website calendar. Mr. Flowers plans to attend the open ceremony of the Senior Games and hopes that the other Commissioners will join him.

Mr. Gart reported on a project initiated by the homeowners association through the crime watch committee in District 11. Five years ago, they started collecting food. This past year, 700 pounds of food was donated to Vickery Meadows and 50 packages of clothing to Dickinson Place.

Mr. Gart would like to see the Commission create a program to honor past Commissioners. Mr. Flowers would like to recognize the people or organizations in the community who are making a difference in the lives of residents, 55 and older.

NO CITIZEN COMMENTS**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Mr. Ransom announced that CC Young invited the Commission for a tour and lunch on January 24th.
- Marlene Cohen invited everyone to the Anti Poverty Coalition Forum on January 26th.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Garza adjourned the meeting at 1:19 p.m.