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SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSIONCITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

Monday, January 11, 2016 12:00 p.m.

Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla, Auditorium L1FN

MEETING MINUTES**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Trini Garza, Chair
 Carmen Arana, (Dist. 1)
 Lydia Simpson (Dist. 2)
 John Johnson, Co-Chair (Dist. 3)
 Johnny Rodriguez (Dist. 5)
 Felix Lozada (Dist. 6)
 Cannon Flowers (Dist. 7)
Chiyoko Douglas (Dist. 8)
 Mary Sparks (Dist. 9)
 Armand Christopher (Dist. 10)
 Irwin "Bill" Gart, (Dist. 11)
 Marlene Cohen (Dist. 12)
 Syl Benenson (Dist. 13)
 Sara Wick (Dist. 14)

GUESTS

Dr. Theresa Daniel, Commissioner
 Councilman Eric Wilson, District 8
 Janice Thomas

COD STAFF

Bernadette Mitchell, Director Housing
 Karen Rayzer, Assistant Director
 Cobbie Ransom
 Valencia Hooper-Alexander

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Trini Garza, Chair, opened the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) meeting at 12:04 p.m. with a time of prayer (silence).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the December 14, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Ms. Simpson stated the following correction needed to be made: *"stated she conducted research and met with principles then reported to Councilman Medrano at City Hall."* She stated that *Age Well Live Well* will have their website operational by end of month. Ms. Arana stated her activities were not reflected in the minutes and provided staff with a written report to be attached to minutes. Ms. Wick noted Ms. Benenson was not at the meeting (she was in hospital). Ms. Benenson stated her attachment was not provided with the minutes. Mr. Johnson moved the minutes be accepted with the corrections made by Ms. Simpson. The motion was seconded. The minutes were then unanimously passed by all Commissioners present.



Mrs. Mitchell introduced Mr. Cobbie Ransom, as the new staff representative for the Senior Affairs Commission. He will be meeting with commissioners individually to determine their staffing needs. His number is 214-620-3627 and email cobbie.ransom@dallascityhall.com. He will be replacing both Ms. Rayzer and Ms. Alexander, however, staff will be assisting him in the transition. Mr. Garza stated Ms. Mitchell is interested in the Commissioners working as a “team” for the betterment of the senior citizens in Dallas.

Mr. Garza stated the Commissioners were appreciative of the efforts of previous staff (Ms. Rayzer & Ms. Alexander). Ms. Cohen stated she wanted the minutes to reflect how appreciative she was for the work provided by the staff and requested a applause from the Commissioners as a show of appreciation.

Mr. Lozada stated he has seniors in his area who have been trying to get information for home repairs and no one answers the phone. Ms. Mitchell assured him that they will assist those residents with the correct number.

Mr. Garza invited Dallas County Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel to provide comments to the Commissioners. She expressed her appreciation to the Senior Affairs Commissioners and their work. She stated she is open to working with the SAC in partnership in ways to make Dallas better.

Mr. Garza introduced City Councilman Eric Wilson to address the Commissioners. He welcomed Ms. Douglas as the new appointee as he expressed the importance of meeting the needs of seniors and children. He is in support with the initiatives of the SAC, especially Designated Senior Centers and increases in the budget to address needs of seniors. Mr. Wilson stated he is open to discuss any concerns of the SAC.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 1- Ms. Arana stated they are concerned about the condition of the streets and sidewalks. There is a need for additional housing in the Oak Cliff area for seniors. Also, dental issues are necessary for good health.

District 2 – District 2 has concerns about streets as well. Age Well Live Well will be meeting next week at the Senior Source.



District 3 – The Elderly Safety Awareness Committee met this morning. The Elder Safety Financial Center presented information on what the Dallas County Health & Human Services uses for safety information.

District 4 – Mrs. Alexander reported that Mrs. Barbara Record was appointed. We will reach out to her to attend the “Neighborhood Exchange” event on January 21, 2016.

District 5 – Mr. Rodriguez met with seniors at the United Methodist Church and Councilman Callahan to hear their concerns. Mr. Garza stated he attended the MyRide Coalition meeting last week.

District 6- Mr. Lozada expressed concern about the amount of money seniors have to pay to attend the senior center (\$10/year; \$5/month; and \$2/meal). He is supportive of a designated senior center that will be low cost. He also described a situation of a friend who did not have the money to see dentist for dental problem. He wanted to know how to access the Senior Dental Program. Ms. Alexander stated Mr. Lozada could re-direct the citizen to the Senior Services Program for casework.

District 7 – Mr. Flowers will be conducting an outreach project with Councilwoman Young possibly through voter registrations. He shared the full SAC work plan with Ms. Long and she is supportive of the goals. He encouraged all SAC members to begin talking with their councilmembers. Mr. Flowers invited SAC members to attend the February 1, 2016 meeting with Ferguson Road Initiative and their plans for a Recreation center in their area.

District 8- Ms. Douglas reported on her work with the Dallas Leadership Foundation during Christmas season to allow low to moderate seniors to obtain Christmas gifts. She will be meeting with Councilman Wilson regarding the needs he has for seniors in District 8. She has also met with representatives to educate seniors on the Tax Credit benefit. Mr. Flowers requested she discuss a Senior Needs Summit for the unique needs of seniors in South Dallas. Mr. Flowers stated he would send information to Ms. Douglas to be able to discuss with Mr. Wilson.

District 9- Ms. Sparks reported on a meeting she attended with the Ferguson Road Initiative staff, Mr. Flowers and Senior Services Staff regarding their proposed recreation center. She also received about 25 completed questionnaires from residents and will share with the Communication Committee. She reported on an up-coming “Senior Neighborhood Exchange” event with District 4 for 100 seniors to include lunch, transportation and cultural activities at White Rock Lake Bathhouse from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Ms. Sparks will provide information to SAC members when she gets the flyers.



District 10- Mr. Christopher described the Intergovernmental community action meeting he attends once a month regarding issues, crime, and coordination of services in the Northeast area. He stated this is very informative, the next meeting will be Tuesday, January 12th.

District 11- Has been working with three recreation centers in his area: Jewish Community Center, Churchill and Fritz Park to coordinate like services for seniors.

District 12- Ms. Cohen stated she has been busy with developing SNAP presentation and preparing for the first Health Committee meeting.

District 13- Ms. Benenson will be attending the Vickery Meadow Coalition meeting to determine how many seniors are living in that area. **District 14-** Ms.

Wick asked about the Neighborhood Plus Program and how seniors will be affected. Ms. Mitchell explained what the "Grow South" Project entails geographical areas Parkdale, Urbandale and UNT. More information is located on the website. The Mayor is still in the process of operationalizing this project. More information will be provided as it is developed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – STANDING COMMITTEES

Budget: Ms. Benenson reported on the 2016-17 Consolidated Plan Budget hearing meeting held at City Hall on 01/7/16 she attended and encouraged all Commissioners to attend one of the hearings. She stressed the importance of dental health care for seniors. The committee will be meeting after the SAC meeting today to begin developing budget recommendations.

Communication/Technology: Communication/Technology will be holding their first meeting today at 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room on 6BN. This will be a standing meeting on the second Monday of the month.

Mr. Flowers made a motion for the SAC members to approve the logo design through his Committee pro bono by TEGNA MEDIA. After discussion, Ms. Cohen amended the motion for the SAC logo be used with the City of Dallas' logo as it changes. Mr. Flowers restated the motion, it was moved, seconded, and approved by all SAC members. Ms. Alexander will be using the logo on the 2015 Annual Report, if there are no problems though City of Dallas.

Elder Safety Awareness: Mr. Johnson reported on the meeting this morning, they reviewed a home safety brochure developed by the Dallas County Health and Human Services program. This was compared and discussion held as to how that correlates with the Steps to Protect Project. Ms. Alexander pointed out that the card/pamphlet is designed for emergency responders to provide information to seniors and for seniors to have personal information easily available.



Health: Ms. Cohen reported the first meeting will be held at Parkland's Hatcher Street Clinic, 4600 Scyene, from 11: 00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. They will have a presentation on the issues facing seniors and a tour of the facility. Please RSVP if you plan to attend, contact **Cobbie Ransom**. This committee plans to address the issues of hunger among seniors and other health related problems. A presentation is being developed and will be presented in cooperation with Senior Services Staff and North Texas Coalition on Senior Hunger to the Ferguson Road area (75228) – which has a high number of residents needing SNAP benefits.

Housing: He reported the meeting held last month was full of information from Mr. Jackson regarding the Minor Home Repair Program. Within 45 days the entire budget was committed. His department will be writing 169 letters to inform seniors there is no money to meet their needs. He plans to work with Mr. Jackson in the future and request double the funds for the next year budget for home repairs. He plans to develop a presentation for the Budget committee to present to Councilmembers to increase funding. The next Housing meeting will be, Tuesday, January 12th at Norte Dame Court at 1:00 p.m.

Older American's Month: Ms. Douglas stated she will be holding the first meeting January 21, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at City Hall in 6BN conference room. She has met with Ms. Cohen and Ms. Alexander regarding the needs and is excited about the up-coming MayFair 2016! All SAC members are invited to attend.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Age Friendly Communities: No report

SAC Retreat Planning: No Report

Transportation – Mr. Garza attend the MyRide Coalition Meeting, January 7, 2016 at the Center for Community Cooperation.

SENIOR SERVICES REPORT

Mrs. Alexander requested comments and committee reports for the 2015 Annual Report from SAC members. Directions on how to access their email address will be provided after the meeting. Senior Services Program staff will be focusing on outreach with informing seniors on Tax Credit benefits/tax preparations as well as SNAP with the Ferguson Road Initiative. Staff completed staff retreat on 1/8/16 to finalize goals which correlate to the Age Friendly initiatives. Ms. Alexander invited SAC members to the Senior Summit held at Beckley Saner Recreation Center (District 4) on February 11, 2016. It is free and open to the public. The Senior



Services staff is working on several projects for Older American's Month – DART Annual Senior Event, Park & Recreation Mother's Day Luncheon and MayFair. As other events materialize Senior Services Program will provide the information and will work on placing information on website. Staff is planning a "Navigating Senior Housing 101" April 29, 2016 at the Center for Community Cooperation which is free and open to the public.

Discussion

Ms. Janice Thomas discussed the following issues: 1) Calendar for seniors to know what is happening in the City; 2) a vacant building in her community which is deteriorating; 3) crime and senior safety; 4) informing senior living communities/activity directors regarding events for seniors living in their communities; 5) the importance of voting; 6) Medicaid provides prescriptions and dental for those who qualify.

Mr. Garza mentioned that Ms. Wick lost her mother, Mr. Garza lost his sister and Mr. Rodriguez lost his brother recently. Condolences were extended.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:10 p.m.