



City of Dallas

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CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Monday, February 9, 2015 12:00 p.m.

Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla, Rm. L1EN

150030
Trini Garza
Minutes Approved by

3-17-15

Date

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Trini Garza, Chair
Lydia Simpson (Dist. 2)
John L. Johnson (Dist. 3)
Julie Schaar (Dist. 9)
Betty Hooey (Dist. 7)
Irwin W. Gart (Dist. 11)
Marlene Cohen (Dist. 12)
Sylvia L. Benenson (Dist. 13)
Sara Wick (Dist. 14)

GUESTS

Ana Azpura
Armand Christopher
Lynda Ender
Chandra Henson
Jann Horswell
Sonobia Garrett
Tonya Stafford
Frances Rizo
Nellie Tafalla
Janice Thomas
Terry Thompkins
Susan Williams

COD STAFF

Valencia Alexander
Lilia Gonzales

VACANCIES

District 5
District 10

MEMBERS ABSENT

Marty Alvarado (Dist. 1)
Dorothy Willis (Dist. 4)
Felix Lozada (Dist. 6)
Philip Shinoda (Dist. 8)

CALL TO ORDER

Trini Garza called the meeting of the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) to order at 12:03 p.m. The meeting opened with a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After reading the minutes from the January 5, 2015 Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) Retreat, a motion was made by Mr. Johnson to approve the minutes as written with the **exception** of the omission of the closing summary for the retreat. Sarah Wick led discussion on the missing information in the minutes pertaining to two goals that were reached at the Retreat to be accomplished by the Commission in 2015. She stated the commissioners present voted on coordinating with other commissions and boards within the City of Dallas and Commissioners meeting the senior citizens in their districts. Mrs. Alexander stated she would review the notes again to ascertain what was agreed upon. In the meanwhile, Sara Wick, Irwin Gart and Syl Benenson will form a committee to re-create the goals and objectives and present at the next Commission meeting. Mr. Garza appointed Syl as the chair of that sub-committee.

PRESENTATION

The scheduled presenter, Karen Riley, Housing Plus, was ill and unable to make the presentation. Susan Williams, Dallas Area Manager, AARP-Texas, provided an up-date on the progress of Age Friendly Communities Dallas. The first year of the project is primarily information gathering from the community. A copy of the information is attached to the minutes. She assured SAC members that their participation is as a 'Stake Holder', the work of the project is shared with a committee of community stake holders and AARP. Mrs. Alexander reported the Senior Services Program had two 'Coffee & Conversation' events and presented the questionnaire to the seniors at Jaycee Zaragoza and Fruitdale Recreation Centers. Each



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commissioner received a copy of the questionnaire developed by AARP. The information received will be calculated and a report developed by AARP. These questionnaires can be the basis for meeting with the community and a way to start conversations on what seniors want in their community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Committee – Syl Benenson

Mrs. Benenson stated the committee did not meet due to illnesses. A meeting is schedule Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Health Committee – Lydia Simpson

Ms. Simpson reported Age Well Live Well Coalition met Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at the Senior Source. They have a new co-chair, Jon Sanchez-Casas (YMCA), and secretary, Jill Turner (Cooper Center-previous co-chair). They have had a strategic planning meeting with key committee members and are looking forward to a productive year. This coalition serves as the Health Committee for the SAC. A copy of their meeting notes was provided and attached to the minutes.

Housing Committee – Bill Gart

Mr. Gart stated the Housing Committee will be Wednesday, February 18th at 1:00 p.m. in the 6BN Conference Room at City Hall. He has met with Councilman Kleinman for dinner and has shared his desire to help seniors who need minor home repairs. Mr. Kleiman has a possible contact for him when the time is right.

Victimization Committee – John Johnson

Mr. Johnson presented information on a new concept to help emergency responders help seniors in a crisis with medical information. The next step is to present the concept to the paramedics/EMS to get their opinion. The committee plans to meet twice before the next SAC meeting on this issue. This is a free service and could provide life-saving information.

There will be a Senior Health & Safety Breakfast at El Ranchito's on Jefferson March 20, 2015 from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. The event is free and open to the first 180 registrants. Dr. Elba Garcia, Southwest Police Department and AARP will be presenting. Sponsorships are needed for the event. Information was provided to the Commissioners regarding the event.

Mr. Johnson stated the committee will continue to participate and promote Chief on the Beat and Scam Jam's in the community. The next regular meeting will be March 16th, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall, L1EN.

AD-HOC COMMITTEES:

Age-Friendly Communities –

Mr. Garza stated there is not a chair for this ad hoc committee yet, but Mrs. Williams's presentation was a comprehensive report and he hopes to have a chair soon.

Communications/Technology - Betty Hooey

No report was made.

Older American Month Committee - Marlene Cohen

The MayFair 2015 committee is still soliciting sponsorships. We need to raise close to \$70,000 to host 1,500 seniors. We have research Big Band groups and are close to choosing one. We have approximately \$30,000 in pledges but need all SAC members to participate. We will be mailing table forms and have sponsorships and exhibit/vendor forms available. Each commissioner was requested to contact their council person to support the event by purchasing a table at full cost (\$400). SAC members were encouraged to ask their everyday business vendors to participate. The committee will be meeting immediately following the SAC meeting today.

Transportation Committee - Trini Garza

Mr. Garza reported on a presentation he attended which outlined the plans DART has for the future. He plans to have the consultants present to a SAC meeting.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mrs. Esther Davis introduced the concept of "Human Trafficking" and how we need to be "Nosey Neighbors" to help stop the abuse that occurs. She has written a series on this issue and presented a survivor to talk about her plight. A news clipping is attached to the minutes. Those interested in contributing to her cause can do so at 888-373-7888. Ms. Garrett provided a number to contact if you suspect human trafficking.

Frances Rizo discussed **Senior Day at the Capitol** coordinated by Lynda Ender, of the Senior Source. There will be a bus taking seniors and interested others to Austin on February 17th. The cost is \$20 and they will provide snacks and lunch on the bus. The Texas Senior Advocacy Coalition, AGE and AARP legislative issues were made available for the Commissioners to review and discuss with their legislators.

Mrs. Rizo shared information on a seminar on parliamentary procedures to be held Saturday, March 14, 2015. A copy is attached to minutes and made available to commissioners.

SENIOR SERVICES REPORT

Mrs. Alexander stated the staff had been very busy with Coffee and Conversation meetings, Age Friendly Communities, planning the Health and Safety Breakfast (March 20th), and workshop on housing options for seniors (April 17th) and MayFair (May 22, 2015). Interviews for the caseworker II position will be held on February 27th, hopefully a new person will be in place in March.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Schaar made a motioned to dismiss and Mr. Johnson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.