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CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXASSENIOR AFFAIRS
COMMISSION

City of Dallas

SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Monday, September 19, 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)
Sara Wick (Dist. 14)

VACANCIES

District 4
District 6

SENIOR SERVICES STAFF

Cobbie Ransom, Manager
Valencia Hooper Alexander, Manager
Ana Camacho, Caseworker
Myckyle Hart, Caseworker
Lynn Jenkinson, Caseworker

GUESTS

Jeri Baker
Martha Blaine
Patricia Blasquez
Gwendolyn Davis
Josephine Devadoss
Lynda Ender
Jearldine McDaniel
Cecie Moreland
Karen Riley
Janice Thomas

CALL TO ORDER

Trini Garza, Chair, called the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

SAC PRESENTATION TO MARTHA BLAINE, FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF GREATER DALLAS

Mr. Garza presented a plaque to Honorable Martha Blaine as an award of appreciation and recognition for her leadership and 22 years of service to seniors. Ms. Blaine has two wishes: housing for seniors and intergenerational opportunities for seniors and children.

RECOGNITION OF SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER MARLENE COHEN

Valencia Hooper Alexander presented flowers to Marlene Cohen for her outstanding, distinguished leadership with the Dallas Council of Women and the Senior Nutrition Program.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLUS OVERVIEW

Karen Riley, Manager of the Neighborhood Vitality Division in the Planning and Urban Design Department provided an overview of the Neighborhood Plus Plan. The Plan is built on six strategic goals: creating collective impact partners, alleviating poverty, fighting blight, attracting and retaining the middle class, expanding homeownership and enhancing rental options. Neighborhood Vitality is responsible for implementing the Neighborhood Plus Plan in the City of Dallas. The goal of the Plan is to enrich the quality of life for all Dallas residents. The implementation approach for the Neighborhood Plus Plan includes rapid response to situations by utilizing resources that the City can deploy in the short-term and long-term strategies designed to enhance and sustain the community for a long period of time.

Ms. Riley invited the Commissioners to attend her team's community engagement meetings and asked Cobbie Ransom to invite her team leaders to the AARP's Age-Friendly planning meetings.

SUPER SENIOR CENTERS IN THE CITY OF DALLAS

Lynda Ender, AGE Director, The Senior Source provided an update on the senior centers. The City of Dallas has one single senior nutrition center in District 13. According to data collected from 1,479 respondents representing all of the districts from all of the Senior Center Activity Surveys, the seniors in Dallas want and would use modern senior centers. Walking on an indoor track was the most desired exercise activity. Jewelry making was the number one creative activity. Sewing was second and photography third. The most popular game seniors were interested in playing was Bingo. Seniors were also interested in attending computer classes, watching movies at senior centers and traveling. Over half of the seniors surveyed would like to volunteer.

Ms. Ender is in the process of giving tours of the Summit to the City Council members. She organized a tour for the Commissioners on October 14, 2016. They agreed to meet Ms. Ender at Dallas City Hall at 10:00 a.m. to ride together. The time to talk to the City Council members is in October and November. Ms. Ender distributed copies of a petition for modern senior centers and asked the Commissioners to circulate and return them to her by the end of October.

OLD BUSINESS

Age-Friendly Communities/Retreat Planning

Sara Wick reported that Outdoor Spaces and Safety Community domain groups met on Friday, September 16th and talked about designating green space and continuing to support funds provided to parks and recreation.

The retreat planners met twice. Ms. Wick offered three options for how the retreat should be designed: Private outside facilitator, Sara's written plan or a hybrid of option one and two. Ms. Cohen suggested having an outside facilitator conduct the entire retreat to help lead the discussion so that everyone has an equal chance to participate.

Ms. Cohen made a motion to use an outside facilitator to do team building and lead the SAC in their planning for 2016-2017. Chiyoko Douglas seconded the motion. The Commissioners unanimously voted for option number three.

Office of Senior Affairs

Mr. Ransom reported on the Senior Medical Transportation Program. The City currently offers DART Paratransit coupons and DART monthly passes to people currently enrolled in the program. The Office of Senior Affairs formed a partnership with DART Travel Ambassadors to help teach seniors how to ride DART bus and rail. Mr. Ransom will provide updates on the Senior Medical Transportation Program to the Commissioners.

Age Well Live Well

Lydia Simpson stated that she is no longer the co-chair but she is still a member. She will be the liaison between Age Well Live Well and the SAC.

Budget Committee

The City Council will vote on the final budget on September 21, 2016.

Bill Gart requested that the budget committee meet next week. Mr. Ransom will identify a location and post the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Cohen requested an update from Parks & Recreation on their survey.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Janice Thomas announced that a new Ms. Texas Senior has been crowned.

Gwendolyn Davis with Artists United for Christ informed everyone about a parade in downtown Dallas on Saturday, November 5th dedicated to seniors 55 years or older. The goal of Artists United for Christ is to uplift the senior citizens.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.