

SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION
Special Meeting

Monday, December 8, 2014 – 12:00 p.m.
 City Hall – 1500 Marilla, Rm. L1EN

RECEIVED

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CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Trini Garza, Chair
 Marty Alvarado (Dist. 1)
 Lydia Simpson (Dist. 2)
 John L. Johnson (Dist. 3)
 Dorothy Willis (Dist. 4)
 Felix Lozada (Dist. 6)
 Betty Hooey (Dist. 7)
 Irwin W. Gart (Dist. 11)
 Marlene Cohen (Dist. 12)
 Sylvia L. Benenson (Dist. 13)
 Sara Wick (Dist. 14)

GUESTS

Esther Davis
 Ja'net Pearson

City of Dallas STAFF

Valencia Alexander
 Vicki Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT

Philip Shinoda (Dist. 8)
 Julie Schaar (Dist. 9)

VACANCIES

District 5
 District 10

Trini Garza
 1-5-15

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

The minutes from the November 17, 2014 Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) meeting had the following corrections prior to approval:

- Sara Wick was omitted from attendance in the November meeting.
- Mr. Garza attended an event sponsored by Parkland at the Dallas Central Library.
- Mr. Garza was also in attendance at the CC Young Point book review.

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- Include Transportation Collation met, November 6, 2014 at the Center for Community Cooperation. Also, Mr. Garza and Mrs. Alexander attended the meeting along with Ms. Gonzales.
- Sara requested to be placed on the November agenda to discuss Goals for SAC not the December agenda.
- Include there was a motion made to have an all-day SAC Retreat to replace the January 2015. This was seconded and approved unanimously by members present.

With the above corrections and additions a motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. The members present voted and approved the minutes with corrections.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Committee – Syl Benenson

The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room on 6BN City Hall. Syl requested input from the Commissioners on up-coming budget concerns.

Health Committee – Lydia Simpson

Age Well Live Well held its monthly meeting November 19, 2014 at The Senior Source. They are developing literature and planning to continue to promote health and wellness in the community. The next meeting will be January 21, 2015.

Housing Committee – Bill Gart

Reported he held a very important Housing Committee meeting on November 19th to discuss building the foundation of what the committee is trying to accomplish. He was disappointed that only Senior Services Staff and Mrs. Rayzer were in attendance. He does not feel this committee has done much this year.

Victimization Committee – John Johnson

No meeting or report for the month of December.

Transportation Committee – Trini Garza

No report this month as the coalition meets quarterly, next meeting in February 2015.

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Communications Committee – Betty Hooley

Reported this committee should be merged with “Technology”. Each Commissioner was presented with the Seniorific News.

Older Americans Month (MayFair) Planning – Marlene Cohen

The committee has revised the sponsorship form to include a \$1,000 category, developed letterhead for solicitation, and has secured the band. The committee addressed the issue of \$10 table sponsors as “patron sponsors” – no table recognition. The next meeting will be 2:30 p.m. December 12, 2014 at City Hall 6BN conference room. There was discussion about the 2013 pre-sponsor event and how that generated energy from the sponsors.

DISCUSSION OF 2015 COMMITTEE GOALS

Please refer to attachment “Work Plan for 2015”.

SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION RETREAT

Mrs. Alexander provided an overview of the proposed 2015 SAC Retreat to be held January 5, 2015 at the Dallas Zoo in the Flamingo Room. Sara Wick suggested we consider designing long term goals for the Commission, like 5 years. She shared a map that was created for her by City of Dallas –GIS, but it became too much to put onto one document. She also felt like other Commissioners would want a similar map. Since we will be looking at a longer time frame, it was suggested that more time be allotted to goals and directions for the SAC during the retreat. The members present suggested that 2 hours be devoted to this effort. If there are citizens present they can participate in the planning. Mr. Garza requested Lynda Ender from The Senior Source facilitate the discussion for goal setting. Mrs. Alexander will follow-up on the suggestions.

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES & AARP

Mrs. Simpson reported that she attended the Special Recognition ceremony along with several other Commissioners on December 3, 2014 recognizing our partnership with AARP for Age Friendly Communities. Mrs. Alexander reported this initiative is a five year study on making communities age friendly for all, especially older citizens. Portland, Oregon has been a leader in developing and

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sustaining age friendly communities. Age Friendly Communities initiative is a good fit for COD Housing First/Inspire Dallas. The first year will be devoted to surveys and community input. There was discussion about Dallas Park & Recreation centers and through this initiative creating a "Grandparent Park". There was much discussion regarding the various coalitions and social services the Commissioners wanted more information about. Mrs. Benenson discussed the condition of the local Park & Recreational Centers, in particular the one on Umphress. She suggested we partner with them on senior programming. The recreational centers should be utilized to outreach to seniors in the communities.

A motion was made to add Age-Friendly communities as an ad hoc committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- Jeanette Pearson, Senior Solutions, stated she would be willing to assist the Commissioners with outreach efforts to connect to seniors. Her business is designed to help seniors prepare for disasters, legal issues, healthcare and social concerns by using a grassroots approach.

One of Ms. Pearson's goals is to hold a town hall meeting at every senior center during the first quarter of 2015. She also mentioned that Senior Solutions is able to accommodate the Hispanic senior community.

- Ester Davis said that she is looking forward to MayFair 2015, and that she will be attending the December senior brunch and dance.

SENIOR SERVICES REPORT

- Senior Services will host a senior holiday dance and brunch on December 11th at Jaycee Zaragoza Recreation Center from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. Commissioners present were escorted to have new ID badges made due to the new security measures.