



SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, May 14, 2009
1:30 p.m.

City of San José – Wing Room 120
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

(a) CALL TO ORDER

- (1) The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m.
- (2) The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Morgan.

Present: Connie Langford, Dick Kohl, Michael Davis, Galvin Jackson, Doreen Morgan, Roger Lasson, Frances Jones, Larry Saltman, Patrick Hall, Bob Gill and Marilou Cristina, Emeritus

Absent: Don Blankenship, Elisa Perez Lindley, Martha O'Connell, Bansi Tikku

Staff: Diane Lindberg and Judy Mitchem (Office on Aging), Meghan Revolinsky, Council Liaison, and Khoa Nguyen, Mayor's Aide

(b) INTRODUCTIONS

- (1) Guests:
 - Bill Roth, City of San José, Environmental Services Department
 - Emy Mendoza, City of San José, Environmental Services Department
 - Karen E. Davis, Human Rights Commission

(c) ADOPTION OF ORDERS OF THE DAY

**ACTION: The Commission approved the orders of the day as submitted.
(Lasson/Morgan)**

(d) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**ACTION: The Commission approved the April 9, 2009 Minutes as written.
(Jackson/Lasson)**

(e) CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence binder circulated at table.

(f) OPEN FORUM

None

(g) CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (Langford)

Chair Langford stated that at the special commission meeting on May 6, an ad hoc committee was formed to discuss the recent budget issues. The ad hoc committee, consisting of Commissioners Jones, Lasson, Morgan, Davis and Jackson, decided the primary goal was to save the nutrition program at the four senior community centers in the poorer sections of the City which are targeted for closure. Chair Langford delivered the following statement at the Public Hearing held on Tuesday night, May 12.

*The Senior Commission recommends keeping Alma, Hank Lopez, Northside and St. James Senior Centers open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at a minimum primarily as nutrition only sites staffed only by food service people which are City employees but are grant supported. The nutrition programs at these sites are county funded and it is our understanding that the county will be making no cuts to their nutrition program in the budget. *Other community-based organizations could put into proposals to augment the meal program with activities like adult education, self-help at St. James as they are already there and the Filipino youth coalition.
(*From this point on the information was not presented to the Council due to time limits.)*

Although there is still some cost to the City if community-based organizations use facilities, it seems reasonable the City could possibly keep these four centers open and maintain the nutrition programs for seniors, especially those who are primarily receiving SSI/SSP grants.

Chair Langford also stated she would be speaking at the City Council's May 19th meeting, as a private citizen, on the issues described in a memorandum from the Housing Department soliciting support on funding for reclassification of existing loans for housing projects which would provide senior housing for low/extremely low income seniors.

(h) MAYOR'S OFFICE LIAISON REPORT (Nguyen)

- Aide Nguyen reiterated to the Mayor the major concerns of the Senior Citizens Commission especially concerning the senior nutrition matters
- Prop 1A through 1E will critically affect the City's budget. If not passed, an additional 13 million dollars will be added to the City's deficit
- The Mayor and Council will be holding a community resource fair featuring many job opportunities, senior services and City services. The event is free and will be held at the San Jose History Park. (Flyers were distributed to the Commissioners)

(i) COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT (Constant)

Ms. Revolinsky reiterated Councilmember Constant's awareness of the Senior Commission's concerns, especially as they pertain to senior nutrition. He has definitely made his point clear that the senior nutrition programs at the Senior Centers targeted for

closure need to be retained. Ms Revolinsky also stated the seriousness of certain budget cuts to Tier 1 and Tier 2 proposals if the aforementioned Props 1A through 1E do not pass.

(j) COMMITTEE REPORTS

(1) Health & Safety Committee Report

Chair Kohl reported that the April meeting focused on the status of the committee's three objectives:

- Senior transportation surveys have been completed resulting in 281 responses. The data has been tabulated and dissemination of that information will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Gerontology department adequacy at San Jose State as a result of reorganization. Commissioner Lindley is not present today and this is still a work in progress.
- Adequacy of crosswalks at senior centers. The Committee proposed a recommendation be made to the Mayor and City Council on Crosswalk Safety Improvements to the Commission.

ACTION: Commission approved a recommendation be made to the Mayor and City Council on Crosswalk Safety Improvements to add additional time from the current 15 seconds to Alma and St. James crosswalk pedestrian signals and to have either embedded flashing lights in the pavement or overhead caution lights at Camden, Cypress, Gardner, Hank Lopez, Kirk and Northside Centers crosswalks with adequate time allowed for crossing. (Saltman/Hall)

(2) Housing & Human Services Committee Report

Committee Chair Davis stated the meeting was informational only due to lack of a quorum. Several issues were discussed including the National Service Act which is a new incentive for senior citizens to participate in community service; Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services proposed budget cuts as it impacts senior services; and the CreaTV steering committee's progress in working to put senior activities on public television and community access television.

(3) By-Laws Committee Report

Chair Langford stated the final revision of the By-laws with essentially changes only to Item 9G "Nominations Committee" was mailed to the Commissioners in the May packet.

ACTION: Senior Commission adopted the final revised version of the By-laws. (Lasson/Morgan)

(4) Nomination Committee Report

Commissioner Saltman reported that the committee, consisting of Commissioners Hall, Blankenship, Morgan, Lasson and Saltman, recommended Roger Lasson or Frances Jones for Chair and Mike Davis for Vice Chair and recommended emeritus status for Doreen Morgan and Richard Kohl. Other nominations may be submitted from the floor at the June 11 senior commission meeting.

ACTION: The Commission accepted the report of the Nomination Committees recommendation of Roger Lasson or Frances Jones for Chair, Mike Davis for Vice Chair and Emeritus status for Doreen Morgan and Richard Kohl. (Lasson/Hall)

(5) CreaTV Ad Hoc Committee Report

Staff Lindberg reported an overview of the proposed programming for CreaTV went before the Council of Presidents, consisting of the Advisory Council Presidents, earlier this week. Those in attendance were in favor of this endeavor and are willing to support it. Production costs would run about \$200 for one half hour show once a month. The committee requested that Commission liaisons solicit the start-up support of this program at their individual senior centers. Programming would promote the Office on Aging and senior services. The committee will provide Commission liaisons with talking points in order for them to explain how the program works and the funding requirements.

(k) OLD BUSINESS

(1) Budget 2009-2010.

Staff Lindberg addressed some of the issues surrounding the proposed budget cuts and how they will impact current services, Office on Aging, and staff positions and announced upcoming dates for two final district budget meetings and also stated each of the Council Districts will be having community town hall meetings.

- Council District 5 (Hank Lopez and Washington) May 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mexican Heritage Plaza on Alum Rock.
- Final meeting for Council District 3 which (Northside Center, St. James, and others) is Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall in Wing Room 118 and 119
- Mayor Reed releases his budget message on Friday, June 5 (staff will forward content to Commissioners)
- Final budget or final public hearing on the operating budget will be Tuesday, June 16 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers.

(2) Report and follow-up action by the Commission based on the May 6 special meeting study session.

As a result of the May 6th special budget overview meeting an Ad Hoc Committee was formed to address the dire issues facing the proposed cuts to senior programs due to the City's budget deficit.

ACTION: The Ad Hoc Committee recommended the Senior Commission send a letter to the Mayor and City Council recommending that the four community centers (Alma, Hank Lopez, Northside and St. James) remain open at a minimum of 10:00am to 2:00pm for senior nutrition. The centers should be staffed by the food service employees who are largely funded by the County nutrition grant. The County is not proposing to reduce any funding to the City. (Hall /Lasson)

(l) NEW BUSINESS

(1) Annual Senior Commission End-of-Year Recognition Luncheon June 11, 2009 at 11:00a.m. (Flames Eatery on 4th) for discussion and action (if funding identified).

ACTION: Senior Commission will NOT hold a hosted end-of-year luncheon on June 11, 2009. Lunch will be optional attendance and pay on your own at Flames Eatery on 4th Street. (Kohl/Lasson)

(2) Environmental Services Dept. Presentation (Information)

Ms Mendoza explained that as a result of the Green Vision study held in 2007, Environmental Services was given the direction to find a way of dealing with the plastic bag issues in the City of San José in order to reduce the amount of litter they create and the amount of resources that are used by them. The main goal is to move away from using plastic in order to protect not only natural resources and but the growing disposable problems. Ms Mendoza recited several astounding statistics involving both of these issues. A question and answer session with several inquiries from Commissioners was held and Ms Mendoza presented each Commissioner with an environmentally safe reusable bag compliments of the Environmental Services Department.

(m) OFFICE ON AGING REPORT

Staff Lindberg reviewed the process by which the Senior Office Specialist position (that supports the senior commission) will be filled. Upcoming events were announced.

(n) LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(1) California Senior Legislature Report for June mailed in packet.

Chair Langford and Staff Lindberg also noted additional legislative items to be aware of:

- Legislation Bill AB 1508 will allow cell phones to have life-line service
- Aging Collaborative on the Elder Economic Dignity Act
- Older Americans Act of 1965 funding is still secure
- Two handouts at-table on Assembly Bill AB324 and AJR6 on the Elder Economic Dignity Act of 2009 by Assemblymember Jim Beall

(o) COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS

(1) Updates on Senior Centers/Programs:

Alma Senior Center (Blankenship): No report.

Almaden Community Center (Morgan): Commissioner Morgan reported on activities.

Berryessa Community Center (Perez Lindley): No report.

Cypress Senior Center (Blankenship): No report.

Evergreen Community Center (Jackson): Commissioner Jackson reported on activities and stated he met with the Recreation Supervisor on how to better organize donated items and schedule distribution.

Gardner Community Center (Lasson): No report.

Hank Lopez Community Center (Saltman): No report.

Iola Williams Senior Center (Jones): Commissioner Jones reported on activities.

Kirk Community Center (Davis): Commissioner Davis announced Vice Mayor Chirco is holding a district festival outside Camden Community Center.

Northside Center (Lasson): Commissioner Lasson reported no progress has been made yet on membership program set up or advisory council checking account.

Southside Senior Center: (Vacant):

St. James Senior Center (Langford): Chair Langford announced Dan Wax of PRNS made the same budget presentation which was heard at the May 6 Special Meeting to the Senior Commission. St. James is organizing a picket line for in front of City Council in hopes of obtaining media coverage.

John XXIII (O'Connell): No report.

Willows Senior Center (Kohl): No report.

RSVP Advisory Group (Saltman): Commissioner Saltman announced the RSVP Advisory Council elected Connie Langford as Chair and Larry Saltman as Vice Chair. An RSVP Advisory Council orientation handbook has been finalized and ready for distribution to new members.

Senior Companion/Older Adult Resource Program (Saltman): Commissioner Saltman stated the Senior Companion Luncheon will be held Friday, September 25.

(2) Agency/Other Commission Liaison Reports:

CreaTV: (Blankenship): No report.

Aging Services Collaborative: (Lasson): Commissioner Lasson reported the controversial subject of fluoride in all drinking water was discussed as well as budget issues, state funding and other grants.

Committee for Transit Accessibility: (Langford): Chair Langford reported that fares on community buses, light rail and Paratransit fares will be increased in July 2009. Commissioner Saltman interjected that a report from the VTA General Manager stated there are plans to purchase hybrid buses and changes to fare boxes and electrical lifts are expected.

Council on Aging: (Langford) Chair Langford stated COA has been an avid advocate for the funding of the Ombudsman program and is working closely with Catholic Charities. Sunnyvale City Council voted to give \$18,000 from their CBDG funds to the Ombudsman Program.

County Senior Care Commission: (Tikku): No report.

Disability Advisory Commission: (Vacant)

Disaster Preparedness Task Force (Lasson) Commissioner Lasson reported the next meeting is a final workshop for the county-wide project that will be held May 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Family Domestic Violence Task Force (Morgan): Commissioner Morgan reported there will be a year-end retreat to plan next year's programs, but no date has been set.

Housing & Community Development Advisory Commission (HCDAC) (Davis): Commissioner Davis briefly stated various subjects covered by the commission: discrimination against in-home day care; fair housing for women, how fair share housing is perceived and how that affects providing affordable housing; displaced, homeless and needy people in need of shelter; also possibly trying to provide job training for people who have been displaced. The commission is certainly involved and active in many of these issues.

Parks and Recreation Commission: (Jones): Commissioner Jones stated the meeting was mainly strategizing how to save the park rangers' positions from being eliminated due to the budget deficit.

Youth Commission: (Perez-Lindley): No report.

Greenprint Strategic Plan: (Langford/Kohl): No report.

IRA Ruskin's Senior Advisory Committee: (Hall) No report.

Mobile Home Advisory Commission (O'Connell): No report.

Facility Re-Use (Schwartz): No report.

(p) REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS/PARKING LOT ITEMS (Mitchem)

(1) Action Items:

**Action: The Commission approved the orders of the day as submitted.
(Lasson/Morgan)**

**Action: The Commission approved the April 9, 2009, minutes as written.
(Jackson/Lasson)**

Action: The Commission approved a recommendation be made to the Mayor and City Council on Crosswalk Safety Improvements to add additional time from the current 15 seconds to Alma and St. James crosswalk pedestrian signals and to have either embedded flashing lights in the pavement or overhead caution lights at Camden, Cypress, Gardner, Hank Lopez, Kirk and Northside Centers crosswalks with adequate time allowed for crossing. (Saltman/Hall)

**Action: Senior Commission adopted the final revised version of the By-laws.
(Lasson/Morgan)**

Action: Senior Commission accepted the report of the Nomination Committees recommending Roger Lasson or Frances Jones for Chair and Mike Davis for Vice Chair and Emeritus status for Doreen Morgan and Richard Kohl. (Lasson/Hall)

Action: The Ad Hoc Committee recommended the Senior Commission send a letter to the Mayor and City Council recommending that the four community centers (Alma, Hank Lopez, Northside and St. James) remain open at a minimum of 10:00am to 2:00pm for senior nutrition. The centers should be staffed by the food service employees who are largely funded by the County nutrition grant. The County is not proposing to reduce any funding to the City. (Hall/Lasson)

Action: Senior Commission will NOT hold a hosted end-of-year luncheon on June 11, 2009. Lunch will be optional attendance and pay on your own at Flames Eatery on 4th Street. (Kohl/Lasson)

(2) Parking Lot Items:

None

(q) ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Out to Lunch Bunch for June will be held Monday, June 8, at St. James and self-help. Self-help is Asian cuisine.
- 30th Annual Office on Aging Health Fair and Walk is Friday, May 15th from 9:30-1:30 at San Jose History Park.
- Council District 8 will be having a Senior Resource Fair and Walk at Eastridge Mall on May 30th at 8:00AM (see flyer)

(r) NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 11, 2009 – 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
At City Hall Wing - Room 120
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

(s) ADJOURNMENT

Chair Langford adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Submitted by Judy Mitchem, staff