

## COMMISSION AGENDA



## SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION

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# ***DRAFT MINUTES***

**Thursday, October 8, 2009  
1:30 p.m.**

**City of San José – Tower, Room 550  
200 E. Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113**

### **(a) CALL TO ORDER**

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- (1) The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.
- (2) The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Martha O'Connell

Present: Connie Langford, Don Blankenship, Roger Lasson, Elisa Perez-Lindley, Frances Jones, Martha O'Connell, Larry Saltman, Patrick Hall, Bob Gill, Richard Kohl, and Rene Lovato (Arriving @ 2:25pm)

Absent:

Emeritus: Ron Schwartz and Richard Kohl

Staff: Diane Lindberg (Office on Aging), Linda Brewka (Office on Aging), Tracey Gott (Office on Aging), Councilmember Pete Constant, Council Liaison, Meghan Revolinsky, Council Liaison, Rhovy Cansino, Council Liaison, Khoa Nguyen, Mayor's Office

### **(b) INTRODUCTIONS**

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- (1) Guests:
  - Galvin Jackson, Evergreen Advisory Council
  - Joyce Rabourn, Applicant to Senior Commission ( as observer)
  - Dan Wax, Division Manager, PRNS
  - Alex Fraser, Project Diversity
  - Lisa Blevins, Office of Therapeutic Services, PRNS
  - Sam Koosha – Department of Transportation
  - Eric Quigley – Council Aide District 8

**(c) ADOPTION OF ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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**ACTION: The Commission approved the orders of the day with the following changes (changing the order of time certain h & i as noted below) (Langford/O'Connell).**

**Time Certain**

<b>1:40</b>	<b>Item (h)</b>	<b>Council Liaison Report</b>
<b>1:50</b>	<b>Item (i)</b>	<b>Mayor's Liaison Report</b>
<b>2:00</b>	<b>Item (l)2.</b>	<b>Sam Koosha from Department of Transportation</b>

**(d) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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**ACTION: The Commission approved the September 10, 2009 Minutes as corrected (Hall/ Lasson).**

Correction of name for Commissioner to: Elisa Perez-Lindley and pledge led by Don Blankenship.

**(e) CORRESPONDENCE** Correspondence binder circulated at table.

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**(f) OPEN FORUM**

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Commissioner Bob Gill announced a Program at Sunnyvale Temple.  
[www.hindutemplesunnyvale.org](http://www.hindutemplesunnyvale.org) for more information. Public invited.

**(g) CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (Jones)**

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Chair Frances Jones reported that she attended the Annual Senior Companion Luncheon. The Silent Auction was supported by many members of the Senior Commission.

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

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City's General Plan will address how the City moves forward in these tough economic times. Public Safety meeting, October 14<sup>th</sup> addressing Community & policing issues. RDA Budget proposal is due the end of October; projecting a 75 million deficit. Bi-Annual Ethics Review found that foreclosure a problem for residents of City of San Jose; City has foreclosure assistance for residents in need.

**(i) COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT (Constant)**

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Councilmember Constant encouraged anyone to stop by and discuss issues they may have; Councilmember Constant noted that the Disabilities Awareness Fair was today on Plaza

Councilmember Constant discussed correspondence from Senior Commission; setting a precedent for Commission to advise City Clerk of issue rather than directly to Mayor and City Council (as defined in City municipal Code) as this potentially expedites the matter for action by the Council since all public requests must be processed through City Clerk, presented at Rules and Open Government meeting, then acted upon when applicable. Boards & Commissions are undergoing improvements and changes Citywide and one of the changes will be how correspondence to Mayor and City Council is handled.

Councilmember Constant reminded Senior Commission of their mission of the Commission: Commissioners are the eyes and ears of the Senior Community. City leaders look to Commissioners for advice on senior issues and he encouraged the commissioners to use their collective energy to evaluate issues impact on the senior community.

#### **(j) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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##### **(1) Health & Safety Committee Report**

(a) No report/ no meeting for September (Saltman). Distributed a flyer on VTA proposed rate changes which will be discussed at the October 28<sup>th</sup> committee meeting.

##### **(2) Housing & Human Services Committee Report**

(a) No report/ no meeting for September (O'Connell)  
Commissioner O'Connell stated there is a 3-day posting requirement for sub-committees per City Clerk's Office.

##### **(3) CreaTV Ad Hoc Committee Report**

(a) Reported that the Committee is trying to raise funds for the project to keep program ongoing  
(b) 2 pilot shows are in queue – Cypress Senior Center will be featured via montage of events and interviews; Alma Senior Center October 29<sup>th</sup> will have live video of Halloween Event; Dan Wax will be interviewed about the senior programs at the senior centers. (Blankenship)

#### **(k) OLD BUSINESS**

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(1) Out to Lunch Bunch (informational): Staff Lindberg distributed (at table) revised schedule for lunch visits to reflect change requested to John XXIII date by Commissioner O'Connell.

#### **(l) NEW BUSINESS**

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**(1) Discussion and possible action on a recommendation to the City Council to file an Amicus Curiae brief in support of the plaintiffs in the case of *Perry vs. Schwarzenegger*; Case No. 09-cv-02292-VRW in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.**

**ACTION: A Motion was made for the Senior Commission to write a letter to Mayor and City Council recommending their support and join as amicus in support of Plaintiffs in Case No. 09-cv-02292-VRW ; *Perry vs Schwarzenegger* (O'Connell/Langford) ((1) abstention: Jones)**

- (2) Status on Senior Commissions Recommendations for Pedestrian Safety**  
**(a) Acknowledgement for commendable work done by DOT (Specifically Sam Koosha) Time Certain: 2:00pm**

**ACTION: The Senior Commission passed a motion to send a letter to the Mayor and City Council expressing gratitude and appreciation on behalf of San Jose seniors for the quick action of the Department of Transportation in addressing pedestrian crosswalk safety near community centers (Hall/Saltman).**

- (3) Appointment of Nominations Committee to fill the Vice Chair vacancy.**

**ACTION: Chair Jones appointed Commissioners Langford, O'Connell and Lasson to the Nominations Committee.**

- (4) Discussion and possible action that the Senior Commission write a letter to the Mayor and City Council recommending that the quorum requirements for Boards, Commissions and Committees be changed to eliminate vacant seats.**

Commissioner O'Connell stated that counting vacant seats has impacted the ability for some commissions to have a quorum. Alex Fraser (Project Diversity) stated he raised the issue of quorum to City Clerk who then asked Attorney's Office for an interpretation. Alex Fraser said the response was a quorum is seated members only (not including vacancies). Since this is different than what appears in the Municipal Code, Commission asked Alex Fraser to provide this in writing to OOA staff.

**ACTION: The Commission requested to re-agendize this discussion for November meeting if Alex Fraser is unable to provide the document to resolve the issue.**

- (5) Discussion and possible action regarding the handbook template currently being prepared by the Office of the City Clerk and other changes to Boards, Commissions and Committees being contemplated for recommendation to the Mayor and City Council.** Commissioner O'Connell stated that ARC and MAC Commissions are rumored to be consolidated as a recommendation. Alex Fraser, Project Diversity stated there will be a 2-week review of the City Clerk's report to Rules Committee which is due soon. Alex Fraser will send the report to Office on Aging for distribution when it is released.

**ACTION: The Commission re-agendized this item for November meeting.**

**(m) OFFICE ON AGING REPORT**

Staff Lindberg reported on Gerontology vacancy updates and facility renovations. Lindberg gave an update on the community meetings that are being conducted with the 4 senior sites on the re-use list (Alma, Hank Lopez, Northside and St. James). The Senior Companion Program was selected as a recipient of the San Jose Mercury Holiday Wish Book. Lindberg introduced Lisa Blevins, Therapeutic Service Manger who will have over site of Office on Aging.

**(n) LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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**(1) California Senior Legislature – October 2009 report (mailed in packet)**

**(o) COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS**

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**(1) Updates on Senior Centers/Programs:**

Alma Senior Center (Blankenship) – reported that community is dubious on facility re-use process  
Almaden Community Center (Saltman) reported on center activities and trips  
Berryessa Community Center (Perez-Lindley) reported on activities, computer classes and trips  
Cypress Senior Center (Blankenship) Advisory Council was initially asked for \$600 to pay for floor buffing but money was found within City  
Evergreen Community Center (Lovato) reported on annual calendar of events  
Gardner Community Center (Lasson) reported on activities  
Hank Lopez Community Center (Saltman) – no meeting  
Iola Williams Senior Center (Jones) reported on activities including a game day  
Kirk Community Center (vacant) – no report  
Northside Community Center (Gill) reported on activities, dancing and fundraising  
Southside Community and Senior Center (Lasson) –no meeting  
St. James Senior Center (Langford) – no report  
John XXIII (O’Connell) – no action items  
Willow Glen Community and Senior Center (Hall) looking to switch their advisory bank account; revenues from coffee and soda sales, seniors want classroom signage  
RSVP Advisory Group (Saltman) no meeting  
Senior Companion/Older Adult Resource Program (Saltman) Volunteer Luncheon  
Silent Auction raised nearly \$2,000

**(2) Agency/Other Commission Liaison Reports:**

Human Rights Commission (Langford/O’Connell) **Commissioner O’Connell appreciates the assistance from Ernest Azevedo (staff )from Human Rights Commission in gathering information for proper wording in the letter to Mayor and Council in the Perry vs Schwarzenegger matter.**  
Aging Services Collaborative (Lasson) – no action items reported

Committee for Transit Accessibility (Langford/Saltman) – VTA will close two adjacent light rail stations at a time for 8-10 weeks as the retrofit escalators and elevators. This had a huge impact last time. **Commission sent this to Health and Safety subcommittee for study and recommendation back to commission**

Council on Aging Advisory Council (Langford) – Greenbelt Alliance Plan presentation and endorsement. Recommends subcommittee have a presentation.

County Senior Care Commission (Lovato) – no report as they have not met. Requested a different contact name for status of this commission

Disability Advisory Commission (Gill) – no report

Disaster Preparedness Task Force (Lasson) – no report

Family Domestic Violence Task Force (City of San Jose) (Perez-Lindley) – Walk was held October 2nd

Housing and Community Development Advisory Commission (HCDAC) (Lovato) – discussion on process of how emergency funding is granted

Parks and Recreation Commission (Jones) – missed meeting

Greenprint Strategic Plan (Langford) – Draft in public meetings

IRA Ruskin's Senior Advisory Committee (Lasson) – no meeting

Mobile Home Advisory Commission (O'Connell) – no meeting

**(p) REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS/PARKING LOT ITEMS (Brewka)**

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(1) Action Items:

**ACTION: A Motion was made for the Senior Commission to write a letter to Mayor and City Council recommending their support and join as amicus in support of Plaintiffs in Case No. 09-cv-02292-VRW ; *Perry vs Schwarzenegger* (O'Connell/Langford) ((1) abstention: Jones)**

**ACTION: The Senior Commission passed a motion to send a letter to the Mayor and City Council expressing gratitude and appreciation on behalf of San Jose seniors for the quick action of the Department of Transportation in addressing pedestrian crosswalk safety near community centers (Hall/Saltman).**

**ACTION: Chair Jones appointed Commissioners Langford, O'Connell and Lasson to the Nominations Committee.**

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**ACTION: The Commission re-agendized this item for November meeting.**

(2) Parking Lot Items:

**(q) ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Jones**

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Chair Jones requested to meet with the Executive Committee after the meeting to establish a meeting schedule.

**(r) NEXT MEETING**

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**San Jose Senior Citizens Commission  
Thursday, November 12, 2009 1:30pm-4:30pm  
San Jose City Hall Committee Room: W-120**

**Executive Committee  
Tuesday, October 27, 2009 10am-11am  
San Jose City Hall Tower Room T-133**

**Housing and Human Services Subcommittee  
Wednesday, October 28, 2009 10:30am-12:00pm  
San Jose City Hall Tower Room T-747**

**Health and Safety Subcommittee  
Wednesday, October 28, 2009 2:00pm-3:30pm  
Office On Aging, Alamen Winery  
5730 Chambertin Drive  
San Jose, CA 95118**

**(s) ADJOURNMENT @ 4:02pm by Chair Jones**

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Submitted by Linda Brewka, staff