

**SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION*****DRAFT MINUTES***

**Thursday, March 11, 2010
1:30 p.m.**

**City of San José – W- Room W120
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.

Note: At the beginning of the meeting commissioners were informed that there was a posting violation under the City of San Jose's Sunshine Policy – under the Brown Act the meeting was posted accordingly and there was no violation. Dan Wax (PRNS) and Lisa Herrick (City Attorney's Office) were present and answered questions while commissioners discussed whether or not to hold the meeting. After a vote by commissioners, it was decided that the meeting would go forward as is and no changes would be made to the format.

(2) The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lovato.

Present: Frances Jones, Larry Saltman, Connie Langford, Don Blankenship, Roger Lasson, Martha O'Connell, Patrick Hall, Bob Gill, Rene Lovato, Elisa Perez Lindley, Milton Cadena, Marie Hayter, Joyce Rouborn, Nancy Williamson and Chaitanya Vaidya

Absent: None

Emeritus: Ron Schwartz

Staff: Dr. Lisa Blevins (Therapeutic & Aging Services), Tracey Gott (Office on Aging), Linda Brewka (Office on Aging), Meghan Revolinsky (CM Constant's Office)

(b) INTRODUCTIONS

(1) Guests:

Dan Wax – PRNS Division Manager

Lisa Herrick – City Attorney's Office

Roi Davis – Billy De Frank Senior Center on the Alameda

Katheryn Heatley, Alicia Avila, - Outreach

(c) ADOPTION OF ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION: The Commission approved the orders of the day as written (Lasson/ Hall).

Time Certain

1:40 Item (h) Mayor's Liaison Report
1:50 Item (i) Council Liaison Report

(d) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: The Commission approved the February 11, 2010 minutes with the following correction: (Blankenship /Lindley)

(o)1. Alma Senior Center requests that they get removed from the re-use list.

(e) CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence binder circulated at table.

(f) OPEN FORUM

1)Katherine Heatley from Outreach spoke on upcoming changes in Para transit & VTA and wants to be placed on a future Senior Commission Agenda to address Senior Commission to let them know of the potential changes and the effect on services received.

2)Roi B. Davis introduced himself as a member of the Billy De Frank Senior Center in San Jose. His center addresses issues with gay seniors in the community and the challenges they face. Some seniors are not openly gay to their families and community and they are forced to live in secrecy which may cause stress and other issues.

(g) CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (Jones)

No report

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

No Report/ Not present

(i) COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT (Constant)

Present City of San Jose deficit is at 117 million dollars.

Each Council District will hold their own meeting with the public to discuss the budget issues and potential cuts. Council members will seek suggestions from the public. CD1 will hold their meeting on April 28, 2010. Pete Constant encourages everyone to attend.

Senior Walk at Westfield Valley Faire Shopping Center – April 9, 2010. Senior Commissioners are V.I.P's at the event

Issue of Cypress parking lot – April 27 at 9am there will be another meeting to provide updates.

(j) COMMITTEE REPORTS

(1) Health & Safety Committee Report

a) Roger Lasson has requested a ruling on the legal option of the utilization of volunteers to drive seniors places in light of the pending cut backs in Para transit rides and the potential closing of Senior Centers that are currently accessible for the seniors. Dan Wax is looking into the issue and will report back once he has a definitive answer.

(2) Housing & Human Services Committee Report

- a) March H&HS subcommittee meeting will have a guest speaker from the African American Community. All Commissioners are encouraged to attend.
- b) Discussion and possible Action that the Senior Commission write a letter to Mayor and City Council to amend the City of San Jose's Apartment Rent Control Ordinance to extend rent control coverage to units built prior to 09/07/1990.

ACTION: Letter to be written to Mayor and City Council to amend the City of San Jose's Apartment Rent Control Ordinance to extend rent control coverage to units built prior to 09/07/1990. (Blankenship/Langford)

Abstentions: Rabourn, Lasson

(3) Ad-Hoc Budget Committee Report

Commissioner Langford encourages the Seniors to read over the talking points developed by the ad-hoc committee and bring the issues to their senior centers and where ever else they can to advocate the importance of senior nutrition programs in the City of San Jose.

ACTION:

Committee dismissed by Chair Jones. Chair Jones thanked Commissioner Langford and Ad-Hoc Committee for their diligent work.

(k) OLD BUSINESS

(1) Budget update 2009-10 – \$110 million deficit has grown to \$116 million dollar deficit and an additional \$3 million dollars for reduction in PRNS services. Budget message will be released by Mayor Chuck Reed – March 12, 2010.

(2) Budget update 2010-11 – Report moved to next month once the March Budget Message has been released and the 2010-2011 budget numbers are updated.

(3) Review and possible action on report from the City Clerk's Office on the Structural Improvement/Framework Plan to City Boards, Commissions and Committees.

ACTION: No news/or report released. Item tabled until next meeting O'Connell

(l) NEW BUSINESS

(1) Review the Code of Ethics Agreement.

Distributed the Code of Ethics Agreement and attachments provided by Tom Norris to all Commissioners at table. Discussion on concerns regarding the signing of the document. Staff will email softcopy of Code of Ethics Agreement.

ACTION: Senior Commissioners will review soft copy of Code of Ethics and make suggestions of possible changes to the document or will email staff their concerns with the documents. Staff (Gott/Brewka) will contact City Clerk's Office and request attendance for next Senior Commission Meeting (April 8, 2010) to answer any concerns or questions the Commissioners may have.

(2) Speaker from Alma Senior Center to give presentation.

3 people from Alma gave thanks to the Senior Commission for support. They are actively seeking the San Jose City Council to remove this center from the Re-use list and would like the support of the Senior Commission

ACTION: Senior Commission will send a letter to Mayor and City Council requesting that the Alma Senior and Youth Center be removed from the re-use list.
(Blankenship/Langford)

(m) OFFICE ON AGING REPORT

Staff Gott gave the following updates:

1). RSVP will be hosting a Volunteer Resource Fair at City Hall Rotunda and Chambers on April 16, 2010. Flyer to follow with details

2). Spring into Wellness Fair @ San Jose History Park will be in May 2010.

(n) LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(1) California Senior Legislature – March 2010 report mailed in packet

(o) COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS

(1) **Facility Reuse Update** (Langford): Attended meetings for the reuse of Alma and Northside Senior Centers

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

Alma Senior Center (Blankenship) no report

Almaden Community Center (Saltman) no report

Berryessa Community Center (Perez-Lindley) OOA Staff available at the Center on the third Monday each month to offer assistance to Seniors.

Cypress Senior Center (Blankenship) Bingo gave five thousand dollars to Cypress Senior Center. Gifted through Advisory Council.

Eastside Senior Center (Cadena) Partnering with Loaves & fishes to provide evening meal at the center, there will be a disruption to senior services and activities while the expansion of the current dining area is being done.

Evergreen Community Center (Lovato) No report

Gardner Community Center (Lasson) No report
Hank Lopez Community Center (Saltman) No meeting
Iola Williams Senior Center (Jones) No report
Kirk Community Center (Rabourn) No meeting – seniors have been asking about a return date to Kirk Senior Center
Northside Community Center (Gill) Bus issue seems to be resolved
Southside Community and Senior Center (Hayter) No report
St. James Senior Center (Langford) No report
John XXIII (O’Connell) Center serves low income population. Seniors from this center want to weigh in on rent control ordinance. Even though language is an issue and many of these seniors cannot speak English, they can carry signs to convey and express their opinions at the meetings .
Willow Glen Community and Senior Center (Hall) By-Laws Committee continues to work on revision. Center needs ideas on effective bread distribution to be fair and equitable .Any suggestions welcomed. CD6 – Pierluigi Oliverio will be visiting center for April’s meeting.
RSVP Advisory Group (Hall) Advisory group is concerned with budget cuts and the ability to continue to operate program.
Senior Companion/Older Adult Resource Program (Saltman) Commissioner Williamson reassigned as liaison to this commission/program.

(2) Agency/Other Commission Liaison Reports:

Human Rights Commission (Langford/O’Connell) No report
Aging Services Collaborative (Lasson) Commissioner Langford was elected to be seated on the ASC Executive Group.
Committee for Transit Accessibility (Langford/Saltman) A handout was distributed at table from the guest speaker, Kathryn Heatley.
Council on Aging Advisory Council (Langford/Saltman) Commissioner Langford reported that there is an excellent resource book “Dealing with Alzheimers” call 1-800-438-4380 for a copy. Looking for volunteers to serve on the board of director’s for the Alzheimer’s Association.
County Senior Care Commission (Lovato) No report
CreaTV (Blankenship) – Comcast Channel 15 has a weekly show every Tuesday @ 2pm called ‘Seniors In Action’. Available on demand on computer anytime. This month Alma Senior Center will be featured. Next month will feature Cypress Senior Center
Disability Advisory Commission (Gill) No report
Disaster Preparedness Task Force (Cadena) Task Force had workshops on disaster response. April 28th 2010 is the 5th annual Disaster Preparedness Conference at NASA Research Center, Moffett Field.
Family Domestic Violence Task Force (City of San Jose) (Perez-Lindley) No report
Housing and Community Development Advisory Commission (HCDAC) (Lovato) No report
Parks and Recreation Commission (Jones) No report
IRA Ruskin’s Senior Advisory Committee (Lasson) No meeting/ no report
Mobile Home Advisory Commission (O’Connell) Second draft of survey with Mobile Home Residents regarding the infrastructure repair issues is underway.

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

Action Items:

1. The Senior Commission will send a letter to the Mayor and City Council with the recommendation to amend the City of San Jose's Apartment Rent Control Ordinance to extend rent control coverage to units built prior to 09-07-1990. (Blankenship will draft letter)
2. Regarding the Code of Ethics agreement each commissioner is asked to sign, Office on Aging staff will invite a representative from the City Clerk's Office to the next commission meeting to address any concerns the commissioners have.
3. The Senior Commission will send a letter to the Mayor and City Council requesting that the Alma Senior and Youth Center be removed from the re-use list. (Blankenship will draft letter)
4. Office on Aging staff will invite Dan Wax and Angel Rios Jr. of PRNS to address what the future of the Office on Aging be should staff or services be reduced.
5. Under New Business for next commission meeting a discussion on the future of stand alone senior centers (Alma, Cypress, Kirk).
6. At the next Health and Safety Sub-committee meeting on Wednesday, March 24 from 10:30-12pm at City Hall, Room T747 there will be a speaker from the African-American Community to discuss current issues seniors are facing. All commissioners are encouraged to attend.

Parking Lot Items:

None

(q) ANNOUNCEMENTS:

* Senior Volunteer Resource Fair – hosted by RSVP – April 16, 2010 @ City Hall Rotunda, Chambers and Committee Rooms - Informational Flyer to follow.

* Out to Lunch Bunch will be at Willow Glen Center on March 17th 2010 for a traditional St. Patrick's Day lunch. Call ahead to make reservations if interested.

(r) NEXT MEETING

San Jose Senior Citizens Commission

Thursday, April 8, 2010 1:30pm-4:30pm

San Jose City Hall Committee Room: W-120

Executive Committee (to set March 11, 2010 Agenda)

Thursday March 25 , 2010 10am-11am

San Jose City Hall Tower Room T-133

Housing and Human Services Subcommittee

Wednesday, March 24, 2010 10:30am-12:00pm

San Jose City Hall Tower Room T-747

Health and Safety Subcommittee

Wednesday, March 24, 2010 2:00pm-3:30pm

Office On Aging, Alampen Winery

5730 Chambertin Drive San Jose, CA 95118

(s) ADJOURNMENT @ 4pm by Chair Jones

Submitted by Linda Brewka, Staff
