

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE SENIOR ADVISORY COMMISSION
August 27, 2012



COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Dwight Collins, ArLyne Diamond, Bobbie Estrada,
Frank Kadlecek, Alice Pivacek, Chuck Roberts

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Donna Marencia

STAFF PRESENT: Marilyn Dippell, Recreation Superintendent
Renee Furtado, Recreation Supervisor, Therapeutics
Phil Orr, Recreation Supervisor-Senior Center
Wendy Talbert, RN, Health and Wellness Program
James Teixeira, Director of Parks and Recreation

GUESTS: Wanda Buck, Joe Gilbert, Jolene Bradford, Foster
Lopes

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION – None

- I. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chair Collins.
- II. ROLL CALL –Commissioner Marencia was absent.
- III. MINUTES OF THE JULY 23, 2012 MEETING - Minutes were approved as written.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MEETING AGENDA - Approved
- V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS - None
- VI. COMMISSIONER’S REPORTS:
 - A. Chair’s Report: Commissioner Collins reminded us of the importance of earthquake preparedness, in particular to know where your gas meter and pilot light are located and how to operate them. He also suggested having P.G. & E. do a no-charge assessment on your gas appliances.
 - B. Council on Aging Advisory Council/California Senior Legislature: Commissioner Collins stated there will be an October session in the Senior Legislature. He also expressed concern about the poverty level of seniors in Santa Clara and requested staff to provide some statistics from the 2010 census.

- C. Senior Center Needs/Transportation:
No report.
- D. Volunteer/Communication: Volunteer hours were 25 less than usual because Commissioner Kadlecek was recovering from surgery. He also thanked the emergency services personnel who came to his aid last month. Commissioner Kadlecek reported that September is “Healthy Aging Month” and that Sept. 20th is the “Take a Loved One to the Doctor” day.
- E. Organizations Serving Santa Clara Seniors:
No report.
- F. Nutrition/Dining: Commissioner Roberts reported that 90 people are served each day and the quality of the food is “getting better.”
- G. Seniors and the Arts in Santa Clara: Commissioner Diamond mentioned that there are many small entertainment groups in Santa Clara and asked the other Commissioners if they had any ideas how to connect seniors to some of these entertainment activities. It was suggested that we look into bringing entertainment to the Senior Center. If so, facility use reservations would be required by the group. Also mentioned was looking into possible notifications in the Senior newsletter or advertising on Community Channel 15. Commissioner Diamond will discuss these suggestions with the Santa Clara Arts Foundation.
- H. Healthy Seniors: Commissioner Estrada reported that classes are continuing and that Catholic Charities through its “Agents for Change” committee is doing a survey for seniors looking into safety at street crossings and bus stops, among other things.

VII. STAFF REPORTS:

- A. Wendy Talbert was introduced as the new Registered Nurse at the Senior Center. Wendy has experience working with seniors, and her primary interest is in the area of education. She will be teaching Health and Wellness classes for seniors at the Center.
- B. The August Lunch Meet was about preventing Elder Fraud, with guest speaker Santa Clara Asst. D.A. Janet Berry. Commissioners discussed the possible reasons for the turnout (12 attendees) and expressed some concern that not all Santa Clara seniors who signed up for City emails received one.
- C. September Lunch Meet will host a representative of ARMA to discuss record management and what individuals need to shred for safety. On October 12th ARMA will bring trucks for seniors to shred their material. Both the Lunch Meet and the shredding day are drop in and open to all.
- D. Commissioners will attend an Ethics Training workshop on September 13th in the Council Chambers at 6:30pm. Commissioners Diamond and Collins will complete or have completed the training online.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Senior Needs Assessment

Commissioner Collins recommended that a subcommittee be formed to compile recommendations to go to the City Council. Commissioner Diamond made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Estrada. Agreeing to serve on the committee were Commissioners Collins, Diamond and Estrada. Phil Orr will work with the committee and a meeting date and time will be decided.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Commissioner Collins announced that there is a 50% poverty level among seniors in Santa Clara County and suggested that “government and lack of financial education” are the primary reasons. He suggested the commissioners discuss finding ways to increase financial education and awareness during the September meeting.

X. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

A. Mr. Joseph Gilbert expressed concern that the right to privacy was being violated when seniors use the computers in the computer room. Commissioner Diamond asked for examples, Mr. Gilbert declined to give any. Commissioner Estrada suggested we look into Mr. Gilbert’s comments and provide information at the next Commission meeting, and she invited Mr. Gilbert to join us again at that meeting. Mr. Orr will obtain information from the City’s IT Department and report back to the Commission.

XI. CONFERENCE AND TRAVEL AB1234: No report.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Santa Clara Senior Center, Room 232.

Prepared by:

ARLYNE DIAMOND, Ph.D. for
DONNA MARENCA
Secretary

JAMES TEIXEIRA
Director of Parks and Recreation