

SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION

Minutes

Regular Meeting

June 14, 2011

The Senior Services Commission meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Fischer at 9:00 a.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Commissioners present P. Davis, A. Esparza, R. Fischer, N. Kobashigawa, and D. Thibeault

Commissioners absent: N. Rowe, excused
L. Villareal Yu

Staff present: Julie Doi, Deputy City Attorney
Marisue Eastlake, RSVP Director
Caroline Gambala, Office Manager

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the May 10, 2011 meeting was moved by Commissioner Thibeault, seconded by Commissioner Davis, and unanimously approved.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

D. PRESENTATION

Commissioner Esparza gave a report on her visit to the senior vegetable garden.

Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar, Alzheimer's Association Area Director, reported on that organization's activities in Oxnard.

E. NEW BUSINESS

Eastlake gave an update on the newest Senior Services programs, including a one-time "Living Within Your Means" financial workshop sponsored by the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging and held at Wilson. Changes being made to the excursions program were discussed. Commissioners were invited to the June 24 all-center Senior Prom to be held at Wilson as well as the July 9 rummage sale, held at Wilson, but benefitting the Colonia Senior Center. They were told Parks had arranged to consult with seniors at all three centers regarding a walking path and exercise stations for the new Campus Park.

Eastlake explained the 20% cut in federal funding being experienced by

budget. She distributed a letter developed by Chair Rowe supporting the program. Commissioner Thibeault moved and Commissioner Davis seconded approving the letter as it was presented. Motion carried.

Public speaker Ernest Stein asked the Commission to request the City Council identify money to continue RSVP should federal funding be cut. The Commission discussed the issue and asked that the City Council be told of their support of the idea that the City pick up any funding lost if the federal funding is cut. No vote was taken.

Commissioner Davis asked why Community Services Manager Efren Gorre, who is the Commission's Secretary, did not attend Commission meetings. He requested that Gorre be told the Commission would like to see him at their meetings. Eastlake said she would pass on the message.

Commissioner Davis further said he was upset about how the City operates and that there has been nothing accomplished by the Commission during his three years on the board. He feels the meetings are meaningless because no one outside the Commission meeting is listening or responding to Commissioners' concerns. He suggested going to the City Council will make them aware of the needs for seniors. He doesn't want to cause trouble, but open their eyes because the Commission has a lot of good ideas and potential, but they need to be heard.

F. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Thibeault handed out a first draft of the senior survey which Commissioners would like to distribute throughout the city to gauge the needs and wants of seniors. He asked Commissioners to review the document and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting. Eastlake reported on a survey done by the City of Burbank, which had a much narrower focus than what Commissioners have indicated they are interested in.

Commissioners discussed the report they want to make to the City Council, reviewing goals adopted at their May 2011 meeting. There was a brief discussion on what form the presentation would take and it was decided it should include a slide show of facilities, some statistics and information about programming. Pictures discussed included the locked Rose garden and shuffleboard courts in Wilson Park, facilities at the South Oxnard Center, the Colonia Center parking lot, and the bathrooms and kitchen at Wilson Senior Center. Commissioner Thibeault said he would work with Eastlake to ready a presentation.

Commissioner Davis moved that Chair Rowe be informed of the meeting's discussion regarding the Council presentation and asked to decide who should make it with a strong urging that the presentation include Commissioner Thibeault. Commissioner Kobashigawa seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Davis asked that his earlier comments regarding his opinion that the City is not listening to the Commission about their concerns for

seniors and that nothing is accomplished through the Commission be included in the minutes as close to the way he said them as possible.

G. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMISSION BUSINESS

Chair Rowe was excused and could not make a report on the VCAAA meeting.

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Kobashigawa again requested a general discussion regarding general safety of seniors at the senior centers.

Commissioner Davis requested permission to invite owners of a local emergency preparedness kit company to make a presentation before the Commission.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Davis, second by Commissioner Thibeault to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.