

SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION

Minutes

Regular Meeting

November 8, 2011

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Senior Services Commission Meeting was called to order by Chair Rowe at 8:59 a.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: N. Kobashigawa, D. Thibeault, R. Fischer
P. Davis, N. Rowe, L. Villareal-Yu

Commissioner Absent: A. Esparza

Staff Present: Julie Doi, City Attorney
Richard Arias, Recreation Supervisor
Caroline Gambala, Office Manager

Commissioner Thibeault asked for correction to minutes: change Measure O report regarding Wilson Center outside restroom relocation cost from \$5 million to \$550,000. Upon change Commissioner Thibeault moved to approve the minutes of October 11, 2011. Commissioner Fischer seconded. Motion passed.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

D. PRESENTATION

None

E. NEW BUSINESS

Update on Senior Services programs and activities

R. Arias reported on two senior excursions from October – Santa Paula Oil Museum (20 participants) and the Huntington Library Tour (14 participants); The Circle Bar-B diner/theatre trip (29 participants), and the LA Garment District tour by Colonia Center on November 7th (9 participants). Commissioner requested list of where participants lived.

R. Arias reported on St. John's Hospital Flu Vaccination schedule for all three senior centers – 10/26 @ Colonia Center, 11/1 @ South Oxnard Center and 11/7 @ Wilson Center.

South Oxnard Center placed third in the Ventura County Wii Bowling tournament hosted by Pleasant Valley Park & Recreation District. South Oxnard Center hosted an Arts & Craft Bazaar at the Wilson Center on 11/5 as a fundraiser. Twenty –five tables were sold. Holiday Luncheon dates were communicated to all commissioners – 11/15 @ South Oxnard Center; 11/18 @ Colonia Center and 12/7 @ Wilson Center. All commissioners were invited to attend.

Update on Measure “O” Report

Commissioner Thibeault reported item on city council agenda was postponed until next. Commissioner Thibeault will meet today with Karen Burnham, Assistant City Manager and Martin Erickson, Measure “O” Representative to discuss agenda. Chair Rowe would like all commissioners present at next council meeting to support Commissioner Thibeault “Senior Commission Report” to city council, which will be an historic first time event.

Review of current and future goals

Commissioner Thibeault asked commissioners to review and decide if they should hold on same goals for 2012.

1. Senior Center (State of Art) – Karen Burnham, Assistant City Manager, wants staff to identify several sites which are suitable. Commissioner will keep this as #1 goal.
2. Elevate Senior Services to Department level – not going to happen, should discuss given commissioner belief that Senior Services is believe to serve the city in a minor role. Commissioners believe the city didn't know what to do with Senior Services and understanding the growth of senior population in the city. Commissioners want to keep as a goal – either put it to rest or push.
3. Conduct city-wide survey – Commissioner Thibeault wants to set-up a meeting with Karen Burnham, Assistant City Manager. Commissioners Fischer, Kobashigawa and Thibeault will deliver survey to Karen Burnham
4. Upgrade sound system – will keep on list, R. Arias noted item part of Measure “O” Wilson upgrade.
5. Upgrade Wilson kitchen is also aligned to Measure “O” funding.
6. Convert Wilson Library into a Media Room – is aligned to Measure “O” funding.
7. Measure “O” funding.
8. Measure “O” funding
9. Hire Senior Services Supervisor – in process

10. 4-way stop at Palm and C Street – commissioner Kobashigawa wants this as a priority. Commissioner Thibeault wants to follow-up with Karen Burnham, Assistant City Manager. Chair Rowe mentioned city procedure of review & study and would prefer a stop sign. J. Doi, Assistant City Attorney explained the process which require the performance of a traffic survey.
11. Convert horseshoe pits and shuffleboard to garden plots – Commissioner Davis believes garden plots could assist more non-profits (Foodshare) and or open as community garden so all could benefit. Commissioner Kobashigawa supports opening to public.
12. Measure “O” funding.

2012 Goals

Commissioner Thibeault explained proposed 2012 goals and rational. Chair Rowe discussed role of commissioner in representing each center. Chair Rowe would like to have each center director’s visit December meeting to present their wish list and give comments.

New Goal –

Commissioner Thibeault explained the newest 2012 goal

Make Oxnard a Senior Friendly City

1. Retail stores agree to provide chairs to let older customers rest.
2. Re-program traffic lights to allow pedestrians a few more seconds to cross the street.
3. Place benches at bus shelters to give waiting seniors a place to rest.
4. Grocery stores should be more age-friendly by offering delivery service, have public restrooms; and sell single portions of fish, fresh meat, and poultry for people who live alone.
5. Identify and combat the social isolation that too easily sneaks up on older adults.
6. Include an Age Expert on the Planning Commission.
7. Use idle school busses to take seniors shopping.

Inform Commissioner of City Council appointment of two new Commissioners

R. Arias announced the appointment of Mrs. Alice Sweetland and Mr. Deshay Ford to the commission.

F. OLD BUSINESS

Report on defibrillators in all senior centers

Commissioner Davis reported his recent course completion which was low cost and idiot proof. This topic will need further follow-up.

Report on Senior Services safety audits

Fernando Garcia, Wilson Center Director, reviewed process and explained progress in meeting with center participants to discuss evacuation plans. Fernando has met with the other center directors to review and implement Senior Services evacuation/reunification plan. Commissioner Esparza would like to participate in upcoming safety audits. F. Garcia is still in process of updating Wilson Center participant emergency information. Commissioner Davis agreed the need for check list and check-in point for center participants. Commissioner Kobashigawa also expressed a need for multiple re-unification locations.

Report on the Great California Shakeout held on October 20, 2011

R. Arias reported on Senior Services participation in the 10:20 drill at all centers.

G. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMISSION BUSINESS

Commissioner Rowe will provide a report from the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging meeting

Chair Rowe reported on the new website – www.aaa.countyofventura.org

Chair Rowe reported great website with a wealth of senior information; housing, employment, transportation, senior services and food. Senior Services have computers available for all seniors to access site at all senior centers.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Davis moved to adjourn meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Kobashigawa. Motion passed at 10:10 a.m.