

SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION

Minutes

Regular Meeting

September 13, 2011

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

A. ROLL CALL

Commissioners present P. Davis, A. Esparza, R. Fischer, N. Kobashigawa, N. Rowe, D. Thibeault and L. Villareal Yu

Commissioners absent:

Staff present: Stephen Fischer, Assistant City Attorney
Richard Arias, Recreation Supervisor
Marisue Eastlake, RSVP Director
Caroline Gambala, Office Manager

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Thibeault moved to approve the minutes of August 9, 2011. Commissioner Esparza seconded. Motion passed.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bert Perello addressed the Commission regarding possible use of Measure O funding on McGrath State Beach, an item to be reviewed by the City Council later the same day. Perello was concerned about dispersing funds outside the City of Oxnard limits, which he said the Beach was, when they could be used to improve senior services. Perello further stated that Measure O contained no distinct language requiring specific spending.

D. PRESENTATION

All presentations were continued to the next meeting.

E. NEW BUSINESS

Marisue Eastlake, RSVP Director, invited Commissioners to the Fiesta planned for Oct. 16, 2011 at the Wilson Senior Center. Richard Arias, Recreation Supervisor, discussed senior excursions.

Commissioner Thibeault reported on meeting with Assistant City Manager Mrs. Karen Burnham regarding senior involvement in the selection process of the new Senior Services Supervisor. The process will consist of two panels:

1. An outside panel comprised of municipal and recreation district personnel to screen applicants.
2. Staff and a Senior Commissioner to review/interview the finalist.

Mrs. Burnham agreed to Senior Services Commission involvement in the process. Vice Chair Fischer moved to appoint a commissioner to the panel; Commissioner Kobashigawa seconded the motion. Motion passed. Chair Rowe asked Commissioner Thibeault to be the representative. He agreed, but asked for a second person as an alternate and or second person. Commissioners Fischer and Kobashigawa agreed to amend their motion to add Chair Rowe as a second person. Motion was approved as amended.

Commissioner Kobashigawa reported on her contact with Ventura County Behavioral Health regarding the garden at Camino Del Sol. The county is currently taking names for the allocation of garden plots. Commissioner Kobashigawa asked for 30 senior plots at Camino Del Sol Garden. Commissioner Kobashigawa further stated her concerns with the City regarding this specific garden's placement on a future roadway and with potential water issues. Commissioner Thibeault asked for a follow-up on the issue with the road and water usage at the garden. A copy of the memorandum of understanding, between the county and city will be provided at the next meeting. Chair Rowe reported she had not written a letter to request garden space in Wilson Park because the Camino Del Sol Garden had developed and might fill the need for senior garden plots.

Commissioner Thibeault made a motion to send minutes and agendas of Commission meetings to City Council members; Commissioner Kobashigawa seconded. After discussion, commissioners Thibeault and Kobashigawa agreed to amend the motion to also include an open invitation for Council members to attend Commission meetings. Motion passed.

Commissioners reviewed the Senior Services grant applications received and discussed distribution of funds. Fourteen applications were submitted for funding, with requests totaling \$134,600 while a total of \$44,600 was budgeted in FY11/12 for distribution amongst agencies providing services to local seniors. Grants were received from: Among Friends; Camarillo Hospice; Caregivers Volunteers/Assisting the Elderly; Catholic Charities/Ventura County/Oasis; Congress of CA Seniors Education & Research Fund; County of Ventura Agency

on Aging; Elderpride, Inc.; FOOD Share; Gold Coast Caregivers (Livingston Memorial VNA Health Corp); Grey Law of Ventura County, Inc.; Long Term Care/Services of Ventura County Inc.; RSVP Bone Builders; Oxnard Senior Garden; and St. John's Regional Medical Center. Commissioners discussed they might distribute the available funding and continued the discussion to the next meeting.

Commissioners expressed concerns regarding senior center involvement in fundraising activities and possible confusion of program access to all seniors.

Chair Rowe expressed concern that senior center directors are not receiving resources for their programs and the possible communication breakdowns in program offerings at all centers. Chair Rowe expressed her belief "the wheels are coming off" because of the confusion in the division. She was particularly concerned with the lack of participation from Colonia and SOC at the recent Ice Cream Social held at Wilson and that the center directors were acting independently of each other. Commissioner Thibeault offered a possible problem with the cost of transportation and the lack of city vans to transport seniors to functions.

Eastlake explained the three centers' fundraising efforts, which have been discussed at Commission meetings, and that each had a trust fund in which they put the money they had raised and then use that funding to cover special event expenses.

Commissioner Kobashigawa stated that SOC had its own advisory council. She also said the Senior Garden, which is not part of the city, has a checking account and made all the financial decisions regarding spending from that account. The club uses the plot for free from the city with an agreement.

Assistant City Attorney Stephen Fischer explained all groups have different levels of involvement and, without knowing specifics, could not have a discussion.

Commissioner Davis expressed desire to hold center directors accountable in promoting events.

Assistant City Attorney Fischer reminded commissioners to schedule items or concerns for future agendas.

F. OLD BUSINESS

Distribution of Measure O funds will be discussed at the September 27, 2011 City Council meeting. The Commission wants to schedule a report to the Council during that meeting. Arias will report back to Commissioner Thibeault.

G. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMISSION BUSINESS

Chair Rowe gave a report from the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging regarding the expected closure of adult day health care centers in December and significant impact on remaining senior resources, including senior centers. Oxnard has three of the five sites in Ventura County and half of the 1,100 participants have a psychiatric diagnosis.

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Rowe noted the need for a second Commission representative on the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council. She requested this be placed on a future agenda.

Commissioner Thibeault asked to include more discussion of the senior services survey and Commission goals on a future agenda.

There was discussion regarding including all senior center directors in future meetings. Eastlake reminded Commissioners their next meeting would be at the South Oxnard Center.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice Chair Fischer, second by Commissioner Kobashigawa to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.