

## SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2009

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Kinsella, Vice Chairperson Britschgi, Commissioners Cooperman, Jones, Simon, and Truscelli

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Commissioner Paley

**STAFF PRESENT:** Parks, Recreation & Community Services Manager Bruce Utecht, Kathy Bede, Linda Griffith

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Janet Borgens, Frances Grisgood, George Habit and Alan Yosef

The regular meeting of the Senior Affairs Commission was called to order by Chairperson Kinsella at 1:00 p.m. in Room D of the Redwood Shores Library, 399 Marine Parkway, Redwood City, California.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**M/S: Jones/Britschgi: To approve the January 15, 2009 minutes as corrected to reflect the former mayor is *Brent* Britschgi. Motion passed.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Form 700 and filing obligation information from the City Clerk was emailed to all commissioners. Commissioners are required to file completed forms by April 1, 2009.

#### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

George Habit introduced himself and Janet Borgens as board members of the Friends of the Veterans Memorial Senior Center.

At the request of Chairperson Kinsella, Bruce Utecht announced his new position as Parks, Recreation, Community Services Manager at the Veterans Memorial Senior Center, replacing Linda Griffith. Congratulations were offered by all.

**The following item was taken out of order due to technical difficulties.**

#### **ITEM 2 – WORK PLAN REVIEW & FOCUS TOPICS – Joe Kinsella**

Chairperson Kinsella reviewed the Senior Affairs Commission ‘Areas of Interest’ document sent to the commissioners prior to the meeting.

He will serve as lead for the Facility Subcommittee, working with Commissioners Paley, Jones and Simon.

All the Senior Affairs Commissioners will participate in Outreach. Commissioner Cooperman will serve as lead in that category, working on fundraising, contacting neighborhood associations. She and Commissioner Simon will specialize in writing within that area.

Commissioner Jones will serve as Outreach representative for the Fair Oaks community.

Vice Chairperson Britschgi will be the Outreach contact with the Cultural Commission.

Housing will be headed by Commissioner Simon working with Commissioner Truscelli.

Chairperson Kinsella will take on senior homelessness issues.

Transportation will be lead by Commissioner Paley. Vice Chairperson Britschgi will also be involved in Transportation with Downtown Parking issues.

Wellness concerns will be lead by Chairperson Kinsella with focus on Health Screenings, Flu & Pneumonia Immunizations and Chronic Illness support.

Commissioner Truscelli will serve as lead for Senior Legislation, reporting to the Commission about current legislation, county and statewide, affecting seniors.

Commissioner Paley will handle technological issues for the Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding collection of information via email and attendance at various meetings. Chairperson Kinsella stated that realistic goals need to be set for accomplishments. He asked all the Commissioners reflect on their individual areas of interest and present, at the next meeting, what in particular to their focus, they would like to do while serving in that role. Then decisions could be made about how to proceed with those objectives.

Commissioner Simon offered to contact Greg Richane to speak at the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. For the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, Chairperson Kinsella will arrange for an overview presentation on Stanford's new facility in Redwood City as it pertains to seniors.

Commissioner Truscelli reported that the housing project at Vera and El Camino will have residents moving in this spring. There has been no progress at the Bradford Street site since work has stopped there. The Woodside Road site has stopped work due to lack of finances.

### **ITEM 1 – FRIENDS OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL SENIOR CENTER PRESENTATION – Janet Borgens**

Janet Borgens, Friends of the Veterans Memorial Senior Center (FVMSC) Board Member and past Senior Affairs Commissioner, made a presentation to the Commission about what the FVMSC is and what it does.

The FVMSC is a non profit organization that through funding supports current and future programs and services offered at the nationally accredited Veterans Memorial Senior Center.

The FVMSC vision is to serve as a magnet for the mature community in the area.

The FVMSC adheres to the Six Dimensions of Wellness by providing the VMSC the opportunity to offer programs that promote physical, social, volunteer, emotional, intellectual and spiritual well being.

The FVMSC partners with the Redwood City Parks, Recreation & Community Services department in funding various programs at the VMSC by fundraising and promoting the center to individuals and other possible partnership organizations.

The FVMSC supports the VMSC by building awareness, bringing in funds, sharing ideas, contributing time and energy to provide a great facility for seniors in the area.

Commissioner Truscelli asked if the Friends of the Veteran Memorial Senior Center could request funding from the Housing and Human Concerns Committee and was informed that was possible. The HHCC has a process for requesting and granting funds as does the Cultural Commission.

### **ITEM 3 – PROGRAM UPDATES**

#### **-Fair Oaks Senior Center – Marliese Jones**

- Valentines Party – Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> – Thanks to Bruce for arranging free entertainment for the event.
- Blood Glucose Testing – March 18th
- Blood Pressure Testing – March 24th

- St. Patrick's Day Party – March 17th
- Commissioner Jones and Zena Vigileos attended the Forum on Aging in Sacramento and brought back materials and information to share. The event offered great programs and speakers and sold out. So much information was available and so many people wanted to attend that the event could have been offered over three days instead of one.
- Birthday celebrations continue to be offered the last Friday of every month at Fair Oaks Senior Center. If donations are received, small gifts are given as well as a free meal.
- Commissioner Simon reported that Aging & Adult Services at Stanford is in contact with Zena about starting healthy aging programs at the Fair Oaks Senior Center.

**-Veterans Memorial Senior Center – Bruce Utecht**

- Free tax preparation assistance is now being offered every Wednesday through April 15<sup>th</sup> by calling 780-7343 for an appointment.
- Valentine Dinner Dance – Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> - \$25.00 per person
- Sexuality, Intimacy & Aging lecture – evening of February 12<sup>th</sup>
- New member Tea – February 12<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 p.m.
- Technical problems persist with the software program 'myseniorcenter.com'. Patrons are frustrated with it and staff are doing twice the work now between two systems
- Alan Yosef reported that the TRIPS program has 5 new drivers from Daly City and areas north of Redwood City. Program is going very well.

**Announcements**

Linda Griffith reported that with the current financial downturn, many people's trusts may not now provide as well for their needs and should be reviewed. She then congratulated Bruce in his new position as PRCS manager and thanked the Commissioners for all their good work.

**Items for Next Month's Agenda**

Vice Chairperson Britschgi stated that the downtown parking issue is a major concern and would like it to be on the next agenda. Bruce announced and showed a print out of a presentation he has created, with photos and instructions, explaining how simple the new parking system is to use. He hopes to have it shown on the local television station, channel 27. He also stated that VMSC representatives at the Saturday Farmers Market have expressed interest in setting up their booth near one of the meters and showing people how to use them. It was also suggested that perhaps a pay in advance sticker, similar to Fast Track, could be offered to seniors 65 years and older. Another recommendation was that any presenter or trainer for the program be of calm demeanor, explain thoroughly and speak slowly and clearly.

**Adjournment**

The regular meeting of the Senior Affairs Commission was adjourned at 2:20 p.m. It will be reconvened at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at the Veterans Memorial Senior Center, 1455 Madison Avenue, Redwood City, California.