

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE SENIOR ADVISORY COMMISSION
October 22, 2012



COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Dwight Collins, Bobbie Estrada, Frank Kadlecek,
Donna Marencia, Alice Pivacek, Chuck Roberts

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: ArLyne Diamond

STAFF PRESENT: Renee Furtado, Therapeutic Services Supervisor
Phil Orr, Recreation Supervisor-Senior Center
Morgan Pershing, Librarian
James Teixeira, Parks & Recreation Director

GUESTS: Jolene Bradford, Wanda Buck, Tom Peterson

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION – That the Council consider use of Senior Advisory Commission’s recommendations pertaining to the Senior Needs Assessment in future decision making.

- I. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chair Collins.
- II. ROLL CALL – Commissioner Diamond – Excused
- III. MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2012 MEETING - Minutes were approved as written.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MEETING AGENDA - Approved
- V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS – Letter from Glenda Cresap, Heart of the Valley, SERVICES FOR SENIORS, INC., Director thanking the Commission for inviting her to speak at our August meeting.
- VI. COMMISSIONER’S REPORTS:
 - A. Chair’s Report: No report
 - B. Council on Aging Advisory Council and California Senior Legislature: Commissioner Collins reported that the League of Women Voters has a presentation on the current election at www.smartvoter.org.
 - C. Senior Center Needs/Transportation: No report
 - D. Volunteer/Communication: Commissioner Kadlecek reported that the Senior Center is currently recruiting volunteers for the Fitness Room. On

Veteran's Day, November 11th at 3 p.m. at the Veteran's Memorial in Central Park, there will be a ceremony.

- E. Organizations Serving Santa Clara Seniors: Commissioner Marencia reported that Tom Peterson, Community Volunteer Network, would be giving a presentation today.
- F. Nutrition/Dining: Commissioner Roberts reported that for the month of September 1539 meals were served; that \$1417 in donations were received averaging \$.92 per person; and that 80 persons were turned away.
- G. Seniors and the Arts in Santa Clara: No report
- H. Healthy Seniors: Commissioner Estrada reported that for the month of September 278 seniors were served including 108 blood pressures, 50 office visits and 20 phone calls; 85 active clients and 30 drop-ins. She also noted that on Tuesday, October 30th there will be a one hour seminar on Home Safety and on October 30th a seven-week course on Disaster Preparedness will be starting.

VII. STAFF REPORTS:

- A. Librarian Morgan Pershing reported on upcoming events.
- B. Recreation Supervisor Orr reported that on Senior Shred Day, October 12th, ARMA collected 5,000 pounds of paper; last week's Lunch Meet had a '211' presentation; 62 seniors received flu shots on October 18th; and the Halloween movie, 'Hocus Pocus', will be shown on October 31st at 1 p.m.

- VIII. OLD BUSINESS: That the Council consider use of Senior Advisory Commission's recommendations pertaining to the Senior Needs Assessment in future decision making.

Survey Topic #1, Health and Nutrition

Recommendation:

The SAC values and appreciates the quality of health and nutrition services offered to Santa Clara's senior community and note that those who are unable to avail themselves of these services primarily cite the reason as a lack of transportation, which will be discussed later. The SAC recommends Council continue their valuable support of current health and nutrition services being provided.

Survey Topic #2, Social

Recommendation:

There are many opportunities for social engagement at the Senior Center and throughout Santa Clara. The SAC found that a lack of coordination, communication, hours of service, and in some cases lack of transportation somewhat hampers people's ability to avail themselves of these services.

Indeed, the survey noted that 40% of the respondents do not use the services of the Senior Center.

Survey Topic #3, Finances

Recommendation:

Although the survey assessed data based on poverty levels, the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research created an Elder Economic Security Standard Index for Santa Clara County seniors and, in 2007, found that the median monthly expenses for a senior, single and living alone, are in excess of \$30,000 per year which is more than three times the level of the national poverty index. Consequently, although this survey did not find a significant poverty level in Santa Clara seniors, reexamination of this issue may find a more prominent poverty issue amongst Santa Clara seniors than is suggested by this assessment.

Survey Topic #4, Support/Activities

Recommendation:

Again, the survey found that by and large there are many services available to seniors in Santa Clara. Among them are services offered at the Senior Center as well as through other community agencies, both private and public. The SAC believes that there is a lack of awareness of what is available and recommend more coordination and communication about available programs and services to seniors.

Survey Topic #5, Safety

Recommendation:

This is a multi-faceted issue which includes safe street crossings, curb cuts, lighted walkways, crime, and disaster preparedness. Generally speaking the primary concern is in the area of disaster preparedness; most respondents felt secure in the other areas. The SAC believes there are opportunities for education and training in disaster and evacuation preparedness. Among the needs to be addressed:

- Identify those seniors requiring assistance from their home in case of an evacuation.
- Practice simulations for assisting non-ambulatory seniors to evacuate from their homes.
- Publicize the location of evacuation sites and services throughout the City and neighboring cities, and
- Train and simulate evacuation procedures at all City sites.
- Identify and train volunteers in coordination with the American Red Cross and public safety.

Survey Topic #6, Housing

Recommendation:

The SAC recognizes a growing need for more affordable housing and assisted living options for Santa Clara seniors. The SAC recommends that Council

promote as many projects as possible to meet the increasing senior population growth and need for affordable and/or assisted living housing.

Survey Topic #7, Communication

Recommendation:

The Senior Advisory Commission's analysis of the Senior Needs Assessment reveals a lack of awareness of the various services offered to the senior community. It is hoped that Council would prioritize developing more and improved avenues of communication. For example:

- Prioritize making the changes to the Senior Center website such that it is more easily used by seniors by:
 - Establishing community resources in one location,
 - Providing opportunities for seniors to communicate with one another through a blog,
 - Creating links to other senior organizations,
 - Utilizing less text and more graphics.
- Increase communication of all available City services for seniors including new and novel methods.
- Further study ways to interact with homebound seniors to connect with critical City services.

Survey Topic #8, Transportation and Access

Recommendation:

Approximately 40% of those surveyed responded that they would avail themselves of services at the Senior Center if there were better modes of public transportation. The Senior Advisory Commission recommends further study.

Summary:

The Senior Advisory Commission recommends assessing the condition of seniors every five years to ensure resources are aligned with existing needs. The Senior Advisory Commission wishes to thank City Council for their recognition of the unique needs of the senior community and hope they interpret our recommendations as minor improvements to already excellent services offered to Santa Clara seniors.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Commissioner Roberts tendered his resignation effective December 31, 2012.

X. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Tom Peterson, Program Manager, Senior On-call Services (SOS) gave an overview of the Community Volunteer Network of Silicon Valley and the new program they are establishing – Senior On-call Services. This program addresses a current service gap by providing “quick” responses to meet urgent, immediate needs of older adults.

XI. CONFERENCE AND TRAVEL AB1234: No report.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 26, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Santa Clara Senior Center, Room 232.

Prepared by:

DONNA MARENCIA
Secretary

JAMES TEIXEIRA
Director of Parks and Recreation