

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION
Thursday, March 12, 2009
San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center
201 E. Bonita Avenue

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kephart at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Lorous "Connie" Brown
 Bee Dallas
 Paul Hernandez
 Judy Kephart, Chairperson
 Jay Pace
 Prudie Short
 Alta Skinner
 Don Stevenson

 Denis Bertone, City Councilmember
 Theresa Bruns, Director of Parks & Recreation
 Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager
 Erica Rodriguez, Senior Citizen Services Coordinator

Absent: Robbie Williams, unexcused

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION

Elisa Durazo, Housing Coordinator, announced that she would be conducting a survey to evaluate the services needed by local residents. This survey is part of her Master's Program and will provide valuable information for future program development at the San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2009 MEETING AS MAILED

COMMISSIONER SKINNER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2009, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STEVENSON AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENIOR CITIZEN/COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

A. Attendance/Participation

Staff reviewed the quarterly Senior Citizen/Community Center usage and activity comparison report noting that the overall numbers have decreased due to the Ombudsman program no longer utilizing the office on a daily basis and a noted decrease in the Chuckwagon Lunch Program. Councilmember Bertone expressed concern that the seniors may not be served by the Ombudsman program. Staff reported that they have been in contact with Ombudsman staff and they continue to conduct site visits and investigate reports. The Ombudsman phone line directs callers to their main office. In addition, staff is able to provide referrals to Community Senior Services and Adult Protective Services.

Staff reported that Mt. San Antonio Community College will not interrupt classes in the summer with the exception of the computer courses. As usual, the quilting and watercolor instructors have requested vacations during the summer but will resume instruction in the fall semester. Computer courses will not be offered in the summer as the computer instructor has been activated by the Army Reserves. A substitute instructor will be secured by Mt. San Antonio Community College to ensure that the class instruction is not interrupted in the fall.

Staff stated that Community Senior Services provided 30 emergency kits for delivery to shut-in seniors in San Dimas. Staff reported that 10 emergency kits were delivered to residents at Sunnyside Apartments. The San Dimas/La Verne Highlander, the Tribune's local newspaper, reported the delivery. Staff invited Commissioners to participate in the emergency kit distribution at Royal Mobile Home Park scheduled for Friday, March 20. The volunteers will meet at the San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center at 1:30 p.m. to caravan to the distribution site.

Staff stated that low-cost programs such as card groups have gained popularity. Staff highlighted the increase in participation for Canasta, Rummy Tile and Pinochle for Beginners.

B. Programs and Activities

Staff reviewed the following programs held in January and February:

January 7	Excursion – San Manuel Casino (2 buses)
January 8	Chuckwagon Social – Hot Chocolate Bar
January 8	Chuckwagon Social – Happy Hour
January 17	Excursion – Whale Watching
January 23	Senior Dinner Social – 50's Sock Hop
January 31	Excursion – Newport Harbor Cruise
February 12	Chuckwagon Social – Achey Breaky Valentines
February 12	Chuckwagon Social – Happy Hour
February 13	Excursion – Gondola Getaway
February 18	Excursion – Date Festival in Indio
February 20	Senior Dinner Social – Mardi Gras Dinner
February 26	Seasonal Event – Bunko Social

Upcoming events and activities include:

March 12	Chuckwagon Social – Bingo & Popcorn Social
March 12	Chuckwagon Social – Happy Hour
March 13	Excursion – Santa Barbara Culinary School
March 21	Excursion – Taste of Solvang
March 27	Senior Dinner Social – Italian Dinner
March 28	Seasonal Event – Bonelli Family Hike
April 4	Excursion – Glory of Easter Excursion
April 4	Seasonal Event – Senior Talent Showcase
April 9	Chuckwagon Social – Happy Hour
April 9	Chuckwagon Social – Hooray for Hollywood
April 17	Senior Dinner Social – Award Show Dinner
April 20	Excursion – San Diego Amphibious
April 24	Seasonal Event – Festival of Arts Sneak Peek

C. Miscellaneous

Staff reported that the San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center will collaborate with Interlink Health Care, Inc. to create a Boomer Toolkit Series. This series will be hosted one day, for approximately two hours, every two months. The program will be offered in the evening 6:30-8pm to reach the working boomers. The Toolkit will begin with Caregiver issues because it is estimated that many boomers are taking care of their parents and grandchildren.

Staff presented demographic information created from the Active registration program utilized by the Parks and Registration Department. The report analyzed the type of activity and age of participants that registered from Spring 2008 to Fall 2009. The report revealed that many participants that fit in the “Boomer” age group are currently participating in excursions, special events at the San Dimas Senior Citizen/ Community Center and physical fitness programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. This report will help staff determine activity trends to help provided programs preferred by residents and maximize marketing efforts.

REPORT FROM SAN DIMAS SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Linda Groth, Senior Citizens Club Treasurer, reported on Club revenue and expenditures for 2006-2008. She highlighted the donations awarded by the Senior Citizens Club to local organizations totaling \$14,200 for 2008. Mrs. Groth expressed concern with the Bingo finances and was referred to Jess Peña as an independent auditor. Jess Peña oversees the accounting for the Saints Bingo hosted at San Dimas High School. Staff will contact Mrs. Peña to schedule a meeting. Mrs. Groth thanked the City of San Dimas for the \$4, 400 donation received from the Care for the Children Curb Painting Program. Staff explained that the Senior Citizens Club was identified as a charitable organization to received 25% of the curb painting proceeds.

SELECTION OF 2009 LOS ANGELES COUNTY OLDER AMERICAN HONOREE

Staff reviewed the criteria for the San Dimas Older American Honoree Award and presented the nominations received. The Commission reviewed and discussed the nominations.

COMMISSIONER SKINNER MOVED TO RECOMMEND LORAIN GORSUCH TO CITY COUNCIL AS THE 2009 OLDER AMERICAN HONOREE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BROWN AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Staff reported that the Los Angeles County Older American Honoree Program is usually hosted in May. Staff stated that the location and time are unknown.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Staff

Staff reported that the annual 90+ Birthday Celebrations will be held on Saturday, May 2. Staff confirmed Commission participation. Commissioners Kephart and Skinner will volunteer at 10:00 a.m. at San Dimas Retirement Center; Commissioners Brown, Kephart and Stevenson will volunteer at 2:00 p.m. at Rancho Park Villa and Commissioners Hernandez and Pace will volunteer at 2:00 p.m. at Emeritus at San Dimas.

B. City Council Liaison

Councilmember Bertone invited the Commissioners to visit the Walker House grand opening to view the exquisite remodeling.

Councilmember Bertone invited the Commissioners to attend the Festival of Arts to be hosted at the Walker House April 24 through 26. He stated that the event is free.

Councilmember Bertone stated that the economic downturn has slowed construction in town but the City budget is stable. The City is considering a six to 14 million dollar City Hall Expansion and Remodel. He reported that the State budget will be up for election on May 18.

Councilmember Bertone announced that on April 1 the Farmers' Market will open with the support of the City.

C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Hernandez inquired why the City of San Dimas did not have any earmarks in the State budget. Councilmember Bertone stated that the City will receive approximately \$500 thousand for transportation. Commissioner Hernandez stated that he has received many positive comments for the traffic signal recently added at Iglesia Avenue.

Commissioner Stevenson reported that cribbage attendance has increase to seven on a weekly basis.

Commissioner Brown commented that the house numbers were painted on curbs. She reported that the Briggs Point Park sign needs to be refurbished. Staff reported that they are currently refurbishing all City Park Monument signs. Commissioner Brown requested a demonstration of the Wii Nintendo System.

Commissioner Short inquired on the use of the Wii Nintendo System. Staff reported that the system is set-up in the lobby Monday through Friday for use. She also stated that she would like to see a Mimi's Café Restaurant in San Dimas.

Commissioner Skinner reported that San Dimas High School and Lone Hill Middle School are in review to receive recognition as Distinguished schools. She also noted that the La Verne/San Dimas Highlander acknowledged San Dimas as a well-managed city. Commissioner Skinner reported September 10 as San Dimas Day at the Los Angeles County Fair.

Commissioner Dallas stated that she enjoyed the City Council meeting that featured students participating in the Students in Government Day activities.

Commissioner Pace stated that the floor is dirty in the restrooms located in the Community Building . She also presented fliers she created to promote the Chuckwagon Dinner program to her friends.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. to May 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center.

Erica Rodriguez, Recreation Coordinator