

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION
Thursday, May 7, 2009
San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center
201 E. Bonita Avenue

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kephart at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

 Curt Morris, Mayor
 Emmet Badar, City Councilmember
 Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager
 Erica Rodriguez, Senior Citizen Services Coordinator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 2009 MEETING AS MAILED

COMMISSIONER SKINNER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 12, 2009, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DALLAS 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 Chuckwagon Dinner Program continues to gain attendance. Staff noted a drop in Chuckwagon Lunch attendance for the months of January and February and an increase for the months of March and April. Staff highlighted the importance of socialization during the dinner and acknowledged Commissioner Pace for creating a welcoming environment. Staff stated that Atria Rancho Park has pledged to continue sponsoring the Happy Hour Social prior to the weekly Chuckwagon Dinner Program.

Staff reported that the InSTEP Balance and Fall Prevention Program rotation currently has 10 students enrolled. The program is designed to educate participants in creating a fall-safe environment at home while incorporating a chair exercise program to strengthen key balance muscles. Staff encouraged inviting friends that may benefit from participation in the program. Staff stated that the program is provided through a research grant from the University of Southern California and all participants must complete a program evaluation prior to participating in the program to ensure their success and safety.

Staff encouraged Commissioners to attend the Caregivers Seminar scheduled for May 12. The seminar will provide information to address the needs and resources for caregivers supporting parents or grandchildren.

B. Programs and Activities

Staff reviewed the following programs to be held in March and April:

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 Park 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
April 30	Seasonal Event – Bunko

Upcoming events and activities include:

May 2	Seasonal Event – 90+ Birthday Celebrations
May 12	Seasonal Event – Caregiver Seminar
May 13	Chuckwagon Social & Happy Hour Dinner Social
May 13	Seasonal Event – Volunteer Recognition Event
May 16	Excursion – Palm Springs Follies & Billy Reed’s Restaurant
May 19-21	Excursion – Edgewater Casino (3 Day)
May 23	Outdoor Adventures – Bird Walk
May 29	Senior Event – Day at the Derby Dinner
June 6	Excursion – Kayaking Adventure
June 11	Chuckwagon Social & Happy Hour Dinner Social
June 19	Senior Event – Luau Dinner
June 22	Excursion – Sycuan Casino
June 25	Seasonal Event – Bunko Social
June 28	Excursion – Catalina (Bus #1 & 2)

C. Miscellaneous

Staff reported that the 90+ Birthday Celebrations were hosted on Saturday, May 2 at 10:00 a.m. at San Dimas Retirement Center and at 2:00 p.m. at Atria Rancho Park and Sunrise Brighton Gardens. Staff thanked Commissioners Brown, Dallas, Kephart, Hernandez, Short and Stevenson for assisting with the 90+ Birthday Celebrations.

Staff reminded all Commissioners that the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13 at Atria Rancho Park.

SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION FOUNDATION QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Staff reported that the current balance for the Commission Foundation Money Market account is \$2,854.01. The Certificate of Deposit account will mature on August 13, 2009 and the current balance is \$6,224.90. Staff reminded Commissioners that they will need to make a recommendation for renewal of the Certificate of Deposit at the next Commission meeting. Staff has no recommendations for expenditures from the account at this time. Commissioner Kephart stated that PFF Bank is now US Bank.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Staff

Staff reported that Loraine Gorsuch was officially selected by the City Council as the Older American Honoree and will be honored on Wednesday, May 20 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Staff stated this year only five tickets were provided. As customary, priority will be given to the Honoree and interested Commissioners will be contacted should tickets be available. Commissioners Kephart and Short stated that they would like to attend if possible.

Staff stated that the current Commission terms for Commissioners Dallas, Hernandez, Skinner and Williams will expire at the end of the month. All Commissioners are eligible for reappointment and elected to continue another two-year term.

Staff reported that WISE Senior Services continues to provide services. Anyone needing assistance may call the current phone number that is forwarded to the main office in Pasadena. From the main office, volunteers are deployed to investigate cases. Staff stated that they will be meeting with the WISE Regional Director to discuss the status of the program and confirm facility usage and services provided. Staff will provide an update at the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Kephart inquired on the status of former volunteers. Staff reported that according to the WISE Site Coordinator, local volunteers continue to visit sites but do not meet regularly due to the lack of staffing.

B. City Council Liaison

Mayor Morris stated that he was invited to attend in Councilmember Bertone's absence.

Mayor Morris encouraged everyone to attend the adult excursion to the USS Midway on August 1. He shared that he personally served on the USS Midway.

Councilmember Badar stated that the community gained a great partner in Saffron, restaurant operator located in the Walker House, who has expressed great interest in collaborating with the City. He stated that the food provided by Saffron was wonderful. He stated that he really enjoys the interaction with the Senior Citizen Commission and staff. Councilmember Badar shared that throughout the City, the Parks and Recreation Department is always mentioned positively by residents.

C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Williams stated she was glad to be back.

Commissioner Pace reported that she received a letter from Intervale Senior Services inviting her to attend the next Site Council meeting to review one of the prospective Chuckwagon Nutrition Program food vendors. As the San Dimas Site Council representative, she would be able to provide input on the quality of the meal provided.

Commissioner Hernandez inquired on any reported cases of Swine Flu in San Dimas and the San Dimas Canyon Project. Commissioners discussed the local Swine Flu cases reported in the media, but noted that San Dimas is not listed as an affected City.

Mayor Morris replied that Walgreens would not be part of the San Dimas Canyon Road development. The developer suggested increasing the residential and decreasing the retail space. The developer has also requested subsidy for the planned housing. The development company is optimistic and the City is cooperative but the economy has affected the progress. The Grove Project developer has filed for bankruptcy. Since the land is City owned, Mayor Morris stated that they are working with the Redevelopment Agency to determine the use of the land. Commissioner Hernandez stated that he enjoyed his experience during the 90+ Birthday Celebration at Emeritus of San Dimas.

Commissioner Skinner thanked staff for coordinating the Festival of Arts Sneak Peek at the Walker House. She stated that they had a great turnout and eight prints were raffled during the Sneak Peek. She shared that the art show was a success and the trolley was a great addition to the event. She said that some of the downtown merchants reported increased sales.

Commissioner Dallas thanked the City for the Walker House and hopes it will be successful.

Commissioner Short thanked Mayor Morris and Councilmember Badar for installing the traffic light at the intersection of Iglesia Avenue and Bonita Avenue. Commissioner Pace inquired on the relocation of the mailbox that was removed. Staff stated that mailbox was removed since vehicles are no longer able to stop.

Commissioner Brown stated that she volunteered at Atria Rancho Park for the 90+ Birthday Celebrations and was very pleased with the equipment used by staff to produce the photographs given to the celebrants. She stated that the Civic Academy held a meeting at the Walker House and it was wonderful. She invited everyone to participate in the Deep Water Aerobics or the Chair Exercise classes she teaches at the Swim and Racquet Club.

Commissioner Stevenson offered Cribbage as an alternative to exercise. He also invited Commissioner Kephart to play Double Deck Pinochle.

Commissioner Kephart suggested hosting the upcoming Senior Citizen Commission meeting at the Walker House.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS

Maria Ybarra shared that the attendance for the Chuckwagon Dinner Program has grown. She also stated that the food is great.

John Piccket inquired on expanding the Thursday night dinners due to the success of the program. Jay Pace is the Site Liaison, she will inquire with Intervale Senior Services and staff will verify room availability.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. to July 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center.

Erica Rodriguez, Recreation Coordinator