

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION
Thursday, March 3, 2011
San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center
201 East Bonita Avenue, San Dimas

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Skinner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Lou Gross
Paul Hernandez
Chet Sasaki
Alta Skinner
Ed Wolfe

Denis Bertone, Councilmember
Theresa Bruns, Director of Parks and Recreation
Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager
Erica Rodriguez, Recreation Coordinator

Absent: Lorous "Connie" Brown, excused
Bee Dallas, excused
Fred Garcia, excused
Robbie Williams, unexcused

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2011 MEETING AS MAILED

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 6, 2011 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY AS MAILED.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION

No audience communication at this meeting.

SENIOR CITIZEN/COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

A. Attendance/Participation

Staff reviewed the quarterly Senior Citizen/Community Center usage and activity comparison report. Staff reported a dramatic decrease in overall attendance for the months of January and February. Staff extrapolated that it may be a result of the heavy rain, the two-week Mt. San Antonio College (MSAC) winter break and the parking lot closures that took place during those months. Staff will review the activity comparison report for March and April to verify that the decrease is not an on-going trend.

B. Programs and Activities

Staff reviewed the following programs held in January and February:

January 6	Chuckwagon Social – New Year Social
January 13	Chuckwagon Social – Bingo Social
January 13	Chuckwagon Social – Happy Hour
January 13	Excursion – Valley View Casino
January 18	Chuckwagon Social – Open Mic Night
January 21	Senior Event – Roaring 20s Dinner
January 27	Seminar – AmeriVets Benefits
January 29	Excursion – Blast to the Past Trip
February 3	Excursion – Stars and Stripes Forever
February 10	Chuckwagon Social – Bingo Social
February 10	Chuckwagon Social – Happy Hour
February 10	Seminar – Balance and Mobility
February 11	Senior Event – Tea Party
February 17	Seminar – Focus on the Heart
February 24	Seasonal – Bunko
February 26	Excursion – Victorian Redlands

Upcoming events and activities include:

March 4	Senior Event – Spring Fling Dinner
March 10	Chuckwagon Social – Bingo Social
March 10	Chuckwagon Social – Happy Hour
March 12	Excursion – Santa Barbara in Full Bloom
March 15	Chuckwagon Social – Open Mic Night
March 16	Excursion – San Fernando Mission
March 30	Excursion – Balboa Park
April 1	Senior Event – Senior Mingle
April 2	Excursion – April Showers
April 14	Chuckwagon Social – Bingo Social
April 14	Chuckwagon Social – Happy Hour
April 14	Excursion – Palm Springs Air Museum
April 21	Excursion – Pala Casino
April 28	Seasonal – Bunko

C. Miscellaneous

Staff stated that two Round-Up Gang Socials are tentatively scheduled in March at Park San Dimas Apartments and Charter Oak Mobile Estates. Staff will contact Commissioners interested in participating with dates and times.

REPORT FROM SAN DIMAS SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Linda Groth, San Dimas Senior Citizens Club Treasurer, reported that the Senior Citizens Club was able to donate \$7,164.50 in 2010 to local organizations. She stated that donations were conservative to address the reduction in Bingo revenue during its relocation to the San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center.

Donation recipients included:

- City of San Dimas for Bingo Utilities (\$750)
- San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center for Special Events (\$600)
- Scholarships (\$4,000)
- Holiday Fest Mt. San Dimas (\$1,500)
- Salvation Army (\$177)
- Military Care Packages (\$137.50)

Linda Groth stated that the Senior Citizens Club is eager to return to the Community Building for Bingo. They look forward the return of the round tables during the Club meetings at the San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center. She stated that the seniors enjoy the cozy feeling the round tables provide.

SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION FOUNDATION QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Staff explained the purpose of the Senior Citizen Foundation account, prior expenditures and the guidelines that direct staff how to manage the account. Staff reported that the current Senior Citizen Commission Foundation Money Market account balance is \$4,864.38. The Certificate of Deposit account balance is \$5,050.88, which will mature on August 19, 2011. The total combined balance for the Money Market and Certificate of Deposit accounts is \$9,915.26. There are currently no recommendations for expenditures from the accounts. Commissioner Sasaki inquired on the process for soliciting donations. Staff stated that donation brochures are available next to the donor wall and brochures are included in Welcome Packets. Staff stated that family members of deceased participants are not targeted as a respect to the family; however, family members occasionally provide donations because they were aware of the importance of the Senior Citizen/Community Center in the life of their deceased loved one.

SELECTION OF 2011 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 WOLFE MOVED TO RECOMMEND BETTY JEANNIDES TO CITY COUNCIL AS THE 2011 OLDER AMERICAN HONOREE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ 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, but a reception is expected.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Staff

Director Bruns reported that the City Hall Renovation project is on schedule. She stated that staff is expected to move on April 1 and be open to the public on Tuesday, April 5. A Grand Re-Opening ceremony will be held on April 12 at 4:00 pm.

Staff encouraged Commissioners to attend the Family Festival and Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16 at the Civic Center Park and Plaza.

Staff updated Commissioners on computer room suggestions per Mr. Aaron Tom, MSAC Computer Instructor. Mr. Tom suggested no changes to the lighting except for the replacement of two light bulbs that were replaced immediately. He stated that all instructors are given a projector to take to their assigned sites by MSAC and therefore the City does not need to purchase a projector. He does not suggest changing the layout of the room, but would recommend the purchase of adjustable chairs. He noted that some seniors with balance issues may have difficulties standing up from chairs with wheels. He stated that he would show seniors how to exit the chairs safely. Director Bruns stated that chairs were identified for the computer lab and will replace the existing chairs following the City Hall relocation. Staff stated that a Certificate of Completion is available for the computer class through MSAC for students who complete a series of courses and file a request form through the college. Mr. Tom is able to help any interested student with the process.

B. City Council Liaison

Councilmember Bertone reported that the Farmers' Market will be placed on First Street and a portion of the City Hall parking lot beginning Wednesday, April 13. He thanked the Parks and Recreation Department and commended the Parks and Recreation Director for the ability to find a compromise to bring back the Farmers' Market.

Councilmember Bertone reported that the Fresh and Easy market is open at Bonita Avenue and San Dimas Canyon Road. He stated that an apartment development behind Fresh and Easy was approved. Commissioner Hernandez stated that the construction fence should be returned since the lot behind Fresh and Easy is unsightly.

Councilmember Bertone stated that the original developer for the Grove Station project on San Dimas Avenue was bankrupt and has recently sold the project to a new developer that intends to build condominiums. Commissioner Sasaki inquired if the lot adjacent to the Grove Station project will be turned into a park or if is receiving fines for lack of maintenance. Staff stated that weed abatement is a requirement and the owners are notified regarding maintenance.

Councilmember Bertone stated that the portion of the Gold Line project that will pass through San Dimas is expected to begin in 2012 and the station is proposed behind the CVS Pharmacy. He stated that at this point staff is not recommending the relocation of the City Yard, which may be affected by the Gold Line project. He stated that the High Speed Rail that began in the Central Valley is expected to go from Los Angeles to San Francisco by 2020 or 2021.

Councilmember Bertone stated that Costco has received inquiries by Panda Express and Olive Garden for the available parcels.

Councilmember Bertone encouraged everyone to vote on Tuesday, March 8 and invited everyone to attend the Family Festival on Saturday, April 16.

C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Gross inquired on the term limits for a mayor in San Dimas. Staff stated that the mayor is elected every two years, but there are no term limits. Commissioner Gross commented that Emeritus organized an outing for Ombudsman volunteers at the Walker House and he felt that the prices were high. He shared that prices should be lower considering that they were a large group of seniors. Staff stated that Saffron restaurant offers a comparable menu and cost similar to other chain restaurants. Staff stated that most restaurants offer a group rate or special menu with advance notice. He stated that he would inform Emeritus staff for future outings.

Commissioner Wolfe inquired on how the community would know about the Grand Re-Opening on Tuesday, April 12. Councilmember Bertone stated that it is in the current issue of the Frontier. Commissioner Wolfe stated the he would be interested in participating in the Toast of the Town scheduled for May 19. He was referred to the Chamber of Commerce, which organizes the event.

Commissioner Hernandez stated that there is a lot of budget talk in Sacramento but no resolution as of yet. He expects that monies will not be available until a decision is made regarding which programs will be cut.

Commissioner Skinner reported that HEROES fundraising campaign is underway with a goal of \$200,000. She expressed the importance of having a space to recognize military personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. to May 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Erica Rodriguez, Recreation Coordinator