

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION
Thursday, May 5, 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: Bee Dallas
Fred Garcia
Lou Gross
Chet Sasaki
Alta Skinner
Robbie Williams
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, unexcused
Paul Hernandez, excused

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 2011 MEETING AS MAILED

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2011 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY AS MAILED.

SENIOR CITIZEN/COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

A. Attendance/Participation

Staff reviewed the quarterly Senior Citizen/Community Center usage and activity comparison report. Staff reported a continued decrease in overall attendance to the Chuckwagon Lunch Program. Staff will conduct a survey to identify if the decrease is due to quality.

B. Programs and Activities

Staff reviewed the following programs held in March and April:

March 04	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 01	Senior Event – Senior Mingle
April 02	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

Upcoming events and activities include:

May 01	Excursion – Sprit of the Western Frontier
May 07	Seasonal Event – Senior Talent Showcase
May 12	Chuckwagon Social – Bingo Social
May 12	Chuckwagon Social – Happy Hour
May 12-13	Excursion – Buffalo Bills Getaway
May 14	Seasonal Event – 90+ Birthday Celebrations
May 17	Seminar – Arthritis and Back Pain
May 19	Intergenerational – Tech Thursday
May 27	Senior Event – San Dimas Casino Dinner
June 02	Excursion – Reagan Library
June 09	Chuckwagon Social – Bingo Social
June 09	Chuckwagon Social – Happy Hour
June 16	Intergenerational – Tech Thursday
June 17	Senior Event – Luau
June 22	Excursion – Shop ‘till Ya Drop
June 30	Seasonal – Bunko

C. Miscellaneous

Staff invited Commissioners to the Tenth Anniversary Talent Showcase on Saturday, May 7 at 10:00 a.m. at the newly renovated Community Building. Staff distributed complementary tickets and programs to Commissioners.

Staff invited Commissioners to participate in the 90+ Birthday Celebrations scheduled at San Dimas Retirement Community and Atria Rancho Park at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at Emeritus Senior Living. Staff stated that almost 200 seniors will be celebrating 90 years of age or more and two are over the age of 100. Commissioners Garcia and Williams will attend San Dimas Retirement Center and Commissioner Skinner will attend Atria Rancho Park.

Staff announced that Bingo returns to the Community Building on Tuesday, May 10. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. To celebrate, special raffles will be conducted including a \$250 blackout game.

Staff announced that beginning Tuesday, May 10, ballroom dance will be hosted on Tuesdays following Chuckwagon Dinner Program. This is in response to participants' concerns with limited parking and access on Wednesday nights due to Farmers' Market and Concerts in the Park.

Staff reported that on Thursday, May 17 at 5:30 p.m., students from the San Dimas High School National Honors Society will be on site to assist seniors with questions about cell phones or cameras, learn to set-up a Facebook or email account, learn to play Wii or ask questions related to technology.

SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION FOUNDATION QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Staff reported that the current Senior Citizen Commission Foundation Money Market account balance is \$4,864.99. The Certificate of Deposit account balance is \$5,055.07, which will mature on August 19, 2011. Staff will request direction from the Senior Citizen Commission during the July meeting. The total combined balance for the Money Market and Certificate of Deposit accounts is \$9,920.06. There are currently no recommendations for expenditures from the accounts.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Staff

Director Bruns stated that Betty Jeannides was confirmed by the City Council as the 2011 San Dimas Older American Honoree during the Tuesday, April 12 City Council meeting. Ms. Jeannides will be honored at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on Monday, May 23 at the 2011 Older American Honoree Luncheon hosted by the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging. Staff will contact Commissioners interested in attending if space is available.

Director Bruns announced that four Commissioners are eligible for reappointment. Commissioner Dallas, Commissioner Skinner and Commissioner Williams are interested in continuing on the Senior Citizen Commission for another term. Staff will contact Commissioner Hernandez to confirm his interest in reappointment.

Director Bruns verified that all Commissioners have received a Senior Citizen Commission name badge. Commissioner Skinner encouraged everyone to wear them while attending events where seniors may be present. Staff stated that the Commissioners may wear the badge any time they are interested in being approached regarding the Commission. She urged them to use caution that when responding to the public, they are an individual on the Senior Citizen Commission and cannot speak for the entire Commission.

Director Bruns thanked all the Commissioners who volunteered during the City Hall Grand Opening on Saturday, April 16 as tour guides.

Director Bruns stated that the Commissioners Handbook is currently being revised and will be presented to the Commission once complete. She discussed the role of Commissioners as advisors to the City Council and "eyes and ears" in the community for staff. The goal is to provide feedback from the community related to seniors and provide ideas to staff. Staff's role is to research and report back to the Commission. Staff also stated that when items are brought by the Commissioners not directly related to Parks and Recreation, such as the street crossing, staff will direct them and their concerns to the appropriate department.

Staff stated that Inter Valley Health Plan is interested in creating a Senior Sensitivity Program for teens at the Teen Center.

Staff distributed the Balance and Fall Prevention guide developed by the InSTEP Program through the USC Center of Excellence.

Commissioner Skinner inquired on the availability of walkers and canes for loan. Staff stated that a few are available on site at no cost. Commissioner Wolfe inquired on the MediCal assistance. Staff suggested CALMA and the Center for Health Care Rights. Commissioner Williams inquired regarding VA benefits for her father. Staff stated that the VA has limited resources dedicated to the VA title 38 making the process difficult. Staff will provide a resource number for assistance.

B. City Council Liaison

Councilmember Bertone congratulated Commissioner Skinner for co-chairing and hosting a successful Festival of Western Arts Show.

Councilmember Bertone stated that staff moved back to City Hall without problems, the construction was completed within budget and he has received comments from residents stating their gratitude for not changing the overall style of City Hall.

Councilmember Bertone reported that the City of San Dimas has a sound budget. He is expecting a conservative, balanced budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year that will reflect an expected 18% tax revenue loss. He stated that Redevelopment funds are also expected to be reduced or eliminated. Director Bruns stated that staff is developing a prioritized list for improvement projects to determine which projects may be placed on hold. He stated that staff and community services will not be reduced. He encouraged Commissioners to continue providing suggestions for improvements. Commissioner Skinner inquired on the possibility of having a marquee to promote programs. Councilmember Bertone stated that City Council rejected a previous proposal for a marquee, but will propose during an upcoming budget session.

Councilmember Bertone stated that the Bonita Unified School District is building a Performing Arts Center. Although the City does not have control over District projects, the District has asked for City staff to provide input and assistance.

C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Williams reported that a house on the southeast corner of Walnut Avenue and Gladstone Avenue has overgrown grass as tall as the shrubs on the property. Staff will deliver her comment to Code Enforcement.

Commissioner Dallas commended staff for the completion of City Hall. She wished that more residents would have participated during the Grand Opening tours. Directors Bruns stated that many longtime residents, past employees and community volunteers attended on Tuesday, April 12. Commissioner Skinner commented that she received many accolades for the construction during the Festival of Western Arts Show. Commissioner Gross suggested having Mayor Curt Morris conduct a City Hall tour as an *Ask the Mayor* segment.

Commissioner Gross wanted to thank Director Bruns for the new ergonomic chairs in the computer room. He stated that the instructor Aaron Tom suggested changing the blinds and adding a screen on the south wall.

Commissioner Garcia reported that the San Dimas Apartment Earthquake Survival Program is complete. All aspects of the program will be presented during a meeting on Wednesday, May 11 at Park San Dimas Apartments. He invited Commissioners to attend. He intends to promote the earthquake preparedness to other senior living facilities. Commissioner Gross shared his concerns for large assisted living facilities during emergencies due to their limited staff and the limitations of many residents. Commissioner Garcia reported many recent burglaries in the Park San Dimas apartment complex. He stated that although it is a gated community, the fence is very low and vandals are able to jump over. Staff directed him to the Planning Department at City Hall regarding his request for information about increasing the height of the wall.

Commissioner Wolfe invited everyone to attend the San Dimas Toast of the Town on Thursday, May 19 at the Community Building. The event will feature food from local business, wine tasting and music by Commissioner Wolfe's band.

Commissioner Skinner invited everyone to the David Dreier Student Art Show on Saturday, May 7 at the Walker House. Commissioner Skinner thanked the volunteers from the Teen Action Committee who volunteered during the Festival of Western Art Show. She encouraged anyone that may need volunteers for an organization to contact the Teen Center. Commissioner Skinner suggested contacting Mt. San Antonio College for carpeting since they will be a distributor for a new carpet they developed.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION

No audience communication at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Erica Rodriguez, Recreation Coordinator