

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION
Thursday, July 7, 2011
San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center
201 E. Bonita Avenue, San Dimas

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present:

Lorous "Connie" Brown
Fred Garcia
Paul Hernandez
Chet Sasaki
Alta Skinner
Ed Wolfe

Denis Bertone, City Councilmember
Theresa Bruns, Director of Parks & Recreation
Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager

Absent:

Lou Gross, excused
Bee Dallas, excused
Robbie Williams, unexcused

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2011 MEETING AS MAILED

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 5, 2011 WERE 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 slight attendance increase for the Chuckwagon Lunch Program from April 2011 to June 2011; however, these totals are lower compared to 2010. Staff conducted a survey in May and June to identify a possible cause for the decrease. Three program areas were surveyed: Quality of Food, Quality of Service and Dining Experience. A total of 27 surveys were collected.

| | Very Poor/ False | Poor | Okay | Good /True | Excellent/ Very True |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------|------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Quality of Food | | | | | |
| <i>Menu Offers a Variety</i> | 0 | 0 | 5 | 15 | 5 |
| <i>Meets Dietary Needs</i> | 0 | 0 | 7 | 11 | 4 |
| <i>Quality of Meal Served</i> | 1 | 1 | 6 | 13 | 5 |
| Quality of Service | | | | | |
| <i>Staff and Volunteer Courtesy</i> | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 21 |
| <i>Cleanliness of Dining Room</i> | 0 | 0 | 5 | 8 | 13 |
| Dining Experience | | | | | |
| <i>Overall Satisfaction</i> | 1 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 11 |
| <i>Welcoming/Friendly Environment</i> | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 16 |

Of the 27 surveys collected two respondents stated that the quality of meal served was Very Poor or Poor, 6 stated it was Okay and 18 stated that it was Good or Excellent. Twenty-six (26) of the respondents stated that they would recommend the Chuckwagon Nutrition Program to a friend and one did not respond. It was noted that both respondents that rated the meal as Very Poor and Poor also stated that they would recommend the program to a friend. Staff will continue to conduct surveys and promote the Chuckwagon Nutrition Program.

Staff reported an increase in attendance during Monthly Dinner and Entertainment events with the return of the round tables. Many participants promised to return to the events once the round tables were back.

Staff noted that the Meals on Wheels numbers have increased. The Commission suggested sending Senior Center information, such as the Silver Times out with Meals on Wheels volunteers. Although homebound seniors may not be able to participate, their caregivers may. It was also suggested that staff check the number of meals being served at surrounding centers to see how those numbers compare to the numbers for San Dimas. Manager Raya gave a brief update on the Senior Club Bingo Program and some recent challenges.

B. Programs and Activities

Staff reviewed the following programs held in May and June:

- May 01 Excursion – Spirit 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 [139 in attendance, 132 were seniors and 7 were youth volunteers!!] |
| June 22 | Excursion – Shop ‘till Ya Drop |
| June 30 | Seasonal – Bunko |

Upcoming events and activities include:

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| July 01 | Excursion – Pageant of the Masters |
| July 14 | Chuckwagon Social – Bingo Social |
| July 14 | Chuckwagon Social – Happy Hour |
| July 14 | Seminar – Podiatrist |
| July 15 | Senior Event – Senior Prom |
| July 20 | Excursion – Harrah’s Rincon Casino |
| July 21 | Intergenerational – Tech Thursday |
| July 30 | Excursion – Catalina |
| August 10 | Excursion – Summer Getty-way |
| August 11 | Chuckwagon Social – Bingo Social |
| August 11 | Chuckwagon Social – Happy Hour |
| August 11 | Table Tennis Social |
| August 12 | Senior Event – Indoor Picnic BBQ |
| August 17 | Excursion – Summer Getty-way Bus#3 |
| August 18 | Intergenerational – Tech Thursday |
| August 19 | Excursion – Hot Rides and Hot Fries |
| August 25 | Seasonal – Bunko |

Manager Raya noted that staff is being creative in naming the Adult Excursions and this has attracted more users.

C. Miscellaneous

Staff stated that the Senior Talent Showcase was hosted on Saturday, May 7 with approximately 285 in attendance. The Talent Showcase is sponsored by Inter Valley Health Plan and features talent from the cities of Chino, Claremont, Diamond Bar, La Verne and San Dimas. Staff thanked Commissioner Sasaki for attending.

Staff thanked Commissioners Garcia, Skinner and Williams for volunteering during the 90+ Birthday Celebrations. Celebrations were held on Saturday, May 14 at Atria Rancho Park, Emeritus Senior Living and San Dimas Retirement Center with approximately 185 honorees, friends and family in attendance. Commissioner Skinner noted it was one of the best attended birthday celebrations she has participated in.

ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2011-2012

Nominations were open for the selection of a Chairperson commencing with the September Commission meeting. MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SKINNER TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER WOLFE AS CHAIRPERSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nominations were open for the selection of a Vice Chairperson commencing with the September Commission meeting. MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SKINNER TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER BROWN AS VICE CHAIRPERSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WOLFE, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION QUARTERLY FOUNDATION FINANCIAL REPORT

Staff reported that the current Commission Foundation Money Market account balance is \$5025.59. There was a deposit of \$160 made for the Donor Wall in Honor of Patriotic Parents. There has been no request for disbursements. The Certificate of Deposit Balance is \$5058.25. The account matures on August 19, 2011. Staff requested a motion from the Commission on action for the Certificate of Deposit account.

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER SKINNER TO DIRECT STAFF TO ROLL OVER THE CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNT INTO A NEW 12 MONTH CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT AT CALIFORNIA BANK AND TRUST, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Staff

Manager Raya distributed the Commission Roster per request. None of the Commissioners who were present objected to their information being distributed. Director Bruns clarified the term expiration dates on the roster. Commissioner Garcia noted a correction to his middle name. Commissioner Hernandez noted his email address should be in lower case letters.

Staff gave an update on the Senior Citizen/Community Center restroom doors. The stall doors in the women's restroom have been reversed to provide easier access. The tension on the rest room door closure has been adjusted. This is follow up on a matter brought forward by former Senior Commissioner Jay Pace. Councilmember Bertone reemphasized to the Commissioners the importance of providing this type of feedback for staff follow up. Commissioner Sasaki asked how much a push button operation would cost to install. Director Bruns noted it would be cost prohibitive to install.

Director Bruns gave a brief budget update noting the City adopted a balanced budget but is still awaiting potential impacts from the State budget process in particularly the decision on re-development funds. There was a brief discussion on the source of redevelopment funds, their use and projects in San Dimas that have been funded by re-development funds.

Director Bruns briefly discussed the City budget and the capital improvement projects budget.

Director Bruns noted that the Walnut Creek Open Space Project qualified for a Proposition 84 grant to fund the outreach and planning process. A community meeting will be held September 29.

Director Bruns updated the Commission on the progress of the Heroes Memorial. The project is located at the open space adjacent to the Park and Ride parking lot. It is proceeding in phases and Phase One is planned to begin in mid to late July. The goal is to have an unveiling on November 11, 2011. Commissioner Skinner noted that commemorative pavers can be purchased to help raise funds for the project.

Director Bruns noted that the City's Housing Specialist, Elisa Mitchell completed her master's thesis on the needs of seniors in San Dimas. Once the thesis is bound she will present a copy to the Department and Director Bruns may ask her to present her research findings to the Commission. There was discussion on the value of using interns to assist with Department work.

B. City Council Liaison

Councilmember Bertone discussed the City's balanced budget and the decisions made to achieve the balanced budget. The City has a surplus of approximately 13 million dollars. A major sales tax contributor recently announced its decision to relocate operations to northern California. This business contributes approximately 18% of the City's total sales tax revenue.

The Fresh and Easy site is awaiting a proposal for apartments. There is a proposal to construct live work units near the corner of San Dimas Avenue and Commercial Street. There are discussions for an Olive Garden and Panda Express restaurants at the Costco site. The Panda Express would require a Conditional Use Permit since it is proposed to be a drive through. The Chamber of Commerce has a new President/Chief Executive Office, Karen Gaffney and a new Chairman of the Board, Mitchell Crawford.

New voting districts are being proposed for various state and federal political offices. Music in the Park is taking place every Wednesday. The Farmers Market will continue until September 28. A community review meeting was held in June. The discussion focused on balancing community needs. Any suggestions can be relayed to Director Bruns. The Farmers Market has sponsored two salad bars at local elementary schools.

C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Skinner invited members of the Commission to attend the San Dimas Day at the Fair on September 16 at the Los Angeles County Fair. She noted that the funding for the Yellow Bus program used to transport students to the event is raised through fundraisers and that there is a follow up lesson plan. The Fair is sponsoring a food drive. The food goes to the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and a portion will go to HOPE partners. Also admission is \$5 after 5 pm Wednesday – Fridays.

Commissioner Hernandez noted that the State and Federal budgets are still being worked on and so the budget impacts to senior services have yet to be determined.

Commissioner Garcia noted the importance of the Commission meetings to ensuring that the mission of the Senior Center is accomplished. He inquired about his apartment complex's need to raise their perimeter fence. He inquired about requesting that the red curb across the street from the complex be re-painted. Director Bruns will follow up and direct him to the appropriate departments. He discussed his complex's disaster preparedness plans and what they have prepared for post event readiness.

Commissioner Sasaki asked if there was a need for the Senior Center to organize distribution of used health equipment. Staff responded there is not a need. Director Bruns said that in the past the Senior Center solicited such donations but it became unmanageable due to the quality and quantity of the equipment. Storage was a major issue. Notice of used items can be posted on the Senior Center community bulletin board. There are concerns with liability as well. Commissioner Garcia said his complex is collecting used equipment and is using a disclaimer. Commissioner Sasaki asked if the City has its own local hazardous waste collection program and that he has clients who need to dispose of items. Councilmember Bertone responded yes the City is involved with regional events with other cities and works in conjunction with the sanitation district. Commissioner Sasaki recommended that the regional programs be better published. Staff will follow up. Commissioner Sasaki asked about the rules for speed bumps. Staff responded that there are some definite rules and that information is obtained from the Public Works Department. It involves a petition and review process. There was discussion on whether the streets in the Tiburon residential complex are private or public. He also indicated that he did some research on other Senior Commissions and found that many are focused primarily on their local senior center operations and not on broader issues.

Commissioner Wolfe shared that he is coordinating a local jazz band program once a month on Sundays at the Ladera Serra Park Building. The musicians are local professionals. He has approximately 32 attending. He would like to eventually have a community band. He invited Commissioners to attend the program on Sundays. Many of his members are ex-students. He is interested in having a free performance at Ladera Serra on a Sunday.

Commissioner Brown thanked the Commissioners for sharing their talents and for their volunteerism.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. to September 1, 2011 at 7 PM at the San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center.

Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager