

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION
Thursday, March 1, 2012
San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center
201 East Bonita Avenue, San Dimas

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wolfe at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Fred Garcia
Paul Hernandez
Chet Sasaki
Alta Skinner, Vice Chairperson
Ed Wolfe, Chairperson

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

Absent: Lorous "Connie" Brown, excused
Bee Dallas, excused
Lou Gross, excused
Robbie Williams, excused

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION

No Audience Communication.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 5, 2012 MEETING AS MAILED

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 5, 2012 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY AS MAILED.

REPORT ON THE SAN DIMAS S.H.A.R.E.S. PROGRAM

Elisa Mitchell, Housing Coordinator, presented a detailed description of the services and programs offered through the San Dimas S.H.A.R.E.S (Senior Housing, Alternatives, Resources, Education and Support) Program. She described her involvement with the Charter Oak Mobile Park and Monte Vista Apartments, which are city-owned properties; the home repair grants; public presentations and workshops; the procedures to participate in the shared housing program; and the successful outcomes from the various housing services. Ms. Mitchell stated that often the rent rates expected by the homeowners are much higher than the rates the renters are able to afford and detailed agreements are necessary once a rate is negotiated.

REPORT FROM THE SAN DIMAS SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Linda Groth, San Dimas Senior Citizens Club Treasurer, reported that the Senior Citizens Club was able to donate \$7,162 in 2011 to local organizations. She stated that donations were conservative to address the current rebuilding of the bingo program. Donation recipients included:

- City of San Dimas for Bingo Utilities (\$1000)
- City of San Dimas Mt. San Dimas snow play (\$1,500)
- H.E.R.O.E.S. Memorial (\$221)
- Hunger Program (\$145)
- Los Angeles Mission (\$100)
- Salvation Army (\$76)
- Scholarships (\$4,120)

Linda Groth stated that the Senior Citizens Club has a new bingo committee that has reenergized the bingo program. She expects that as the bingo program continues to grow, the Senior Citizens Club will be able to contribute more during 2012. Councilmember Bertone invited Treasurer Groth to present the Senior Citizens Club contribution report before the City Council in April. Commissioner Skinner inquired on the purpose of the Bingo Utilities donation. Director Bruns stated that the donation is used as part of the Facility Maintenance Program and the contribution is used toward utilities for their use of the facility for bingo, which is not required but greatly appreciated. Treasurer Groth stated that they are appreciative of all the support they receive from the City of San Dimas.

SENIOR CITIZEN/COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

A. Attendance/Participation

Staff reviewed the quarterly Senior Citizen/Community Center usage and activity comparison report. Staff stated that attendance for the Chuckwagon Lunch and Dinner programs continue to increase and noted that it is due in part to the decrease in participation reported during the 2010 relocation period.

Staff reported that the Ballroom Dance program has been reintroduced as the Night Club 440 and is now offered on Wednesdays from 4:30-7pm. The change is an attempt to increase the attendance and maximize the parking available during the Farmers' Market.

B. Programs and Activities

Staff reviewed the following programs held in January and February:

January 27	Senior Event – Rock Around the Clock Dinner
January 06	Excursion – Pala
January 16	Excursion – Bowers Museum
February 16	Excursion – Grammy Museum
February 17	Senior Event – Crazy Carnaval Dinner
February 24	Seasonal – Bunko
February 25	Excursion – Queen Mary

Upcoming events and activities include:

March 09	Senior Event – All Aboard Dinner
March 10	Excursion – Shambala Feline Preserve
March 22	Excursion – Heritage Museum
March 28	Excursion – Hollywood Trekkers
April 11	Excursion – Valley View Casino (2 Buses)
April 18	Excursion – Follies
April 20	Senior Event – Parade of Stars
April 27	Seasonal – Bunko

C. Miscellaneous

Staff stated that a computer use survey report will be presented during the May Senior Citizen Commission meeting.

SELECTION OF 2012 LOS ANGELES COUNTY OLDER AMERICAN HONOREE

Staff reviewed the criteria for the San Dimas Older American Honoree Award and presented a summary of the nominations received. Staff stated that 25 nominations were received for Linda Groth and no others were nominated. The Commission reviewed and discussed the nominations.

COMMISSIONER WOLFE MOVED TO RECOMMEND LINDA GROTH TO CITY COUNCIL AS THE 2012 OLDER AMERICAN HONOREE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SKINNER 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, and an official reception is pending confirmation. Once an event is confirmed the Senior Citizen Commissioners will be informed. Manager Raya stated his admiration for Ms. Groth.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Staff

Manager Raya stated that the San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center was surveyed by Karon Deleon, Facilities Manager and Eric Beilstein, Building and Safety Superintendent, to meet current ADA Compliance requirements. He stated that modifications were made to the stage ramp in the multi-purpose room, hand rails at the Iglesia Avenue entrance, the women’s restroom on the south side of the building was modified to be a unisex-accessible restroom, a lower sink was added to the Arts Room, and door handles and braille signage were changed to meet requirements throughout the center.

B. City Council Liaison

Councilmember Bertone stated that the Stein Mart will occupy the building previously leased by Office Max.

Councilmember Bertone stated that the San Dimas Grove Station is expected to feature 14 live-work units and 96 town homes pending financing procurement by the developer.

Councilmember Bertone stated that the San Dimas Canyon Project is expected to have 200 apartments pending council approval once plans are submitted.

Councilmember Bertone stated that 18 luxury homes will be built on Lone Hill Avenue near Costco.

Councilmember Bertone stated that McKinley Children's Home is fully solar powered.

Councilmember Bertone stated that Mid-year review shows that the City's budget is on course to meet overall expected revenue and expenditures.

Councilmember Bertone reported that the City is helping businesses from the downtown area to create a Business Assessment District. This would enable the businesses in the District to utilize funds toward projects of interest to the District.

Councilmember Bertone reported that \$218-thousand was designated for facade improvements in the downtown area for loans to owners. An undetermined portion of the loan may be subsidized by the City.

Councilmember Bertone stated that on Tuesday, March 6 a meeting will held at the Council Chambers to discuss the Walnut Creek Project with a consultant hired by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Access to the area will be an important focus during the meeting.

Councilmember Bertone invited everyone to attend the Festival of Arts on April 27-29 at the Community Building. He stated that the show features talented artists, a trading post to purchase art work and a variety of activities that include a Friday night dinner. Commissioner Skinner stated that the Festival of Art is a National Art Show where artist are limited selected by a committee. She stated that many artists who have participated in previous Festival of Art Shows are now featured artist at the Autry Museum. She stated that a high school art showcase promotes future artists in San Dimas.

Commissioner Hernandez inquired on the status of Marstellerz at the Walker House. Councilmember Bertone stated that the owner would not commit to a full contract and the lease ended in January. Councilmember Bertone stated that a Request for Qualification (RFQ) was released to local restaurants, previous inquiries and organizations that have similar restaurants. Commissioner Skinner stated that the City is working with Cal Poly as a resource. Councilmember Bertone stated that the City is interested in having a restaurant at the Walker House but they will be selective and specify expectations.

Councilmember Bertone stated that H.E.R.O.E.S. Memorial phase one is complete and fundraising for the phase two water feature is underway.

C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Skinner reported that McKinley Children's Home is looking for volunteers at the *New Unto Others* thrift shop in Glendora. She invited everyone to visit the 2nd Story Gallery at the Walker House on the second and third weekends of the month, admission is free.

Commissioner Garcia stated that the “greatest enemy to survival is panic.” He invited Commissioners to participate in the *Survival and You* emergency preparedness program that will begin on Friday, March 16 at 12:30pm at the San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center. He reported that Park San Dimas raised \$325 during their recent emergency preparedness fundraiser.

Commissioner Hernandez stated that he is available to assist seniors to explain the absentee ballot and registration procedures for seniors. Director Bruns stated that she will follow up with the City Clerk regarding the ability to host a voter registration and confirm with him.

Commissioner Skinner inquired if San Dimas will be split into two separate Congressional districts. Councilmember Bertone stated that the City of San Dimas will not be divided. Director Bruns commented that in some cases cities have benefited from having two representatives.

Commissioner Wolfe stated that the Toast of the Town was a success. He shared his concerns with clean up at the end of the event. He encouraged commissioners to attend the event and volunteer with set-up and clean-up. Councilmember Bertone stated that Ed Wolfe performed at the event and they are a first class band.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m. to May 3, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Erica Rodriguez, Recreation Coordinator