

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION
Thursday, March 7, 2013
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: Lou Gross
Paul Hernandez
Chet Sasaki, Vice Chairperson
Alta Skinner
Ed Wolfe, Chairperson

Denis Bertone, Councilmember
Theresa Bruns, Parks and Recreation Director
Erica Rodriguez, Recreation Coordinator

Absent: Beth Costanza, unexcused
Bee Dallas, unexcused
Fred Garcia, unexcused
Robbie Williams, unexcused

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION

No Audience Communication.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 3, 2013 MEETING AS MAILED

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 2013 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY AS MAILED.

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 \$14,286.95 in 2012 to local organizations. She stated that donations were conservative to address the current rebuilding of the bingo program. Donation recipients included:

- American Cancer Society (\$64.25)
- City of San Dimas Bingo Utilities and Senior Events (\$5,400)
- City of San Dimas Mt. San Dimas snow play (\$2,500)
- Food Pantry of San Dimas (\$100)

- Los Angeles Mission (\$215.70)
- Meals on Wheels (\$250)
- McKinley Children's Center (\$500)
- Pomona Library (\$100)
- Salvation Army (\$250)
- San Dimas High School Choral Group (\$300)
- San Dimas Bingo Dinner Tickets (\$7)
- San Dimas Rodeo (\$100)
- Scholarships (\$4,000)
- Wounded Warriors (\$500)

In addition, new bingo equipment was purchased in January 2013 in the amount of \$11,252. Ms. Groth estimates the Senior Club's weekly net bingo revenue at \$500-\$600, which has greatly increased since the relocation to the Community Building. She stated that the increase in revenue is also due to Carol Touchette and the new group of volunteers reinvigorating bingo. Commissioners Wolfe and Skinner commended the San Dimas Senior Citizens Club on their support to the San Dimas community. Commissioner Gross stated that he recently attended an Alzheimer's seminar where the benefits of bingo were discussed for the prevention of dementia. Ms. Jay Pace stated that she will promote bingo as a good mental activity.

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 program continues to have a consistent attendance with an average daily attendance of 74. Staff will conduct the yearly survey to ensure that quality is maintained.

Staff highlighted the card groups, which are led by dynamic, community volunteers. The card groups include bridge, canasta, cribbage, pinochle and the newly added euchre.

B. Programs and Activities

Staff reviewed the following programs held in January and February:

January 16	Excursion – Valley View Casino
January 25	Senior Event – Rock Around the Clock Dinner
January 26	Excursion – War Horse
February 10	Excursion – Long Live the King
February 16	Excursion – Whale Tale
February 22	Senior Event – Fountain of Youth
February 28	Seasonal – Bunko

Upcoming events and activities include:

March 8	Excursion – Stellar Star Search
March 16	Excursion – Dancing with Wolves
March 27	Excursion – Harrah’s Casino
March 29	Senior Event – Green Eggs and Ham
April 06	Excursion – Danish Days and Creole Nights
April 19	Senior Event – Noche en Mexico
April 24	Excursion – A Walk in the Clouds
April 25	Seasonal – Bunko

C. Miscellaneous

Staff invited Commissioners to attend the Round-Up Gang at Atria Rancho Park in San Dimas on Thursday, April 4 at 4pm. The Round-Up Gang is a traveling group that promotes the services and programs available at the San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center. Commissioners Hernandez, Sasaki, Skinner, and Wolfe would like to participate in the Round-Up Gang.

90+ Birthdays are scheduled for May 11 at 10am and San Dimas Retirement Center. Commissioners Hernandez, Sasaki and Skinner are interested in attending. The dates for celebrations at Atria Rancho Park and Emeritus at San Dimas are pending and will be announced during the May Senior Commission meeting. Commissioner Skinner stated that she would like to see youth volunteers assist during the 90+ birthdays.

SELECTION OF 2013 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 two nominations were received for Anona Gray and no others were nominated. The Commission reviewed and discussed the nominations.

HAVING NO OTHER CANDIDATES, COMMISSIONER WOLFE MOVED TO RECOMMEND ANONA GRAY TO THE CITY COUNCIL BY ACCLAMATION AS THE 2013 OLDER AMERICAN HONOREE, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Staff reported that the proclamation will be presented to Anona Gray during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 9 and 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.

Commissioners will review the nomination process in January 2014 for next year’s program, and include an effort to gather more information about the candidate and discuss announcing the election process during the February Senior Club meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Staff

Director Bruns invited Commissioners to attend the Family Festival on Saturday, March 23 from 10am to 2pm at the San Dimas Civic Center Park and Plaza. The Family Festival will feature a Youth and Family Coalition Community Connections information fair, food trucks, local entertainment, craft vendors, pictures with the bunny and an egg hunt. An egg hunt will also be held simultaneously at Via Verde Park.

Director Bruns distributed a notice inviting Commissioner to the Housing Element Study Session. Commissioner Sasaki inquired on the format of the study session. Director Bruns stated that a consultant will guide the meeting. Councilmember Bertone stated that remarks are made at beginning and end; however, Mayor Morris often allows comments from the audience throughout the meeting.

Director Bruns invited Commissioners to attend the Farmer's Market beginning on Wednesday, April 3 and held every Wednesday through September 11. Commissioner Skinner commended Maurice Cuellar, Farmer's Market organizer, for his support promoting Measure A.

Director Bruns announced that terms will conclude for Commissioners Dallas, Hernandez, Skinner and Williams in May. Applications will be accepted beginning April 1 for anyone interested in joining the Senior Citizen Commission. The new terms will begin July 2013.

B. City Council Liaison

Councilmember Bertone reported that Measure A passed on Tuesday. These funds will be added to the general fund which is used toward senior programs and public safety among other programs. He thanked Commissioner Skinner for her involvement with Measure A.

Councilmember Bertone reported that the property behind Fresh and Easy has a new owner and approximately 350 apartments are expected to be built on the lot.

Councilmember Bertone announced the all the townhomes are sold in the Grove Station and they will begin to build more work-live units, of which the City of San Dimas owns four units. In addition, he stated that a similar project will proceed on the lot across the street from the Grove Station.

Councilmember Bertone stated that after the owners passing the family decided to close the Equestrian Center located on Foothill Boulevard. Currently they are working with a housing development company for potential purchase of the property.

Councilmember Bertone invited Commissioners to attend the Festival of Arts on April 26, 27 and 28. He stated that on Saturday, April 26 a special award will be presented to Retired Congressman David Dreier as "Man of the West" for his support of ecological programs.

Councilmember Bertone stated that the sign ordinance was updated and will be implemented.

Councilmember Bertone invited Commissioners to attend the Toast of the Town on March 21 featuring entertainment by Commissioner Wolfe, wine and beer provided by the Los Angeles County Fairplex, and food from local restaurants.

Councilmember Bertone stated that the Clean Water Act will require cities to clean water but will not provide financing. The cost is estimated to be approximately \$500,000. The County will consider a surcharge on property but it will go to vote.

C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Gross stated that many thefts have occurred near Via Verde. He said that he received a call from the Sheriff's Department via the Code Red telephone program. Commissioner Wolfe stated that seniors should not leave valuables in vehicles. Director Bruns stated that robberies have increased nationwide. She stated that burglars are knocking on doors and finding access to homes that appear unoccupied. Director Bruns stated that Sheriff's Department recommends asking who is there so they are aware that someone is home so they move on and not attempt to enter.

Commissioner Hernandez stated that the Sequestration is hurting the Internal Revenue Service and many refunds will be delayed. Commissioner Wolfe stated that it may also limit the number of audits conducted.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. to May 2, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Erica Rodriguez, Recreation Coordinator