

**CITY OF ARCADIA  
SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION  
Arcadia, California  
626.574.5130**

***REGULAR MEETING MINUTES***

The Arcadia Senior Citizens Commission met in regular session and was called to order at 4:05pm on Thursday, April 1, 2010 in the Community Center Craft Room.

***ROLL CALL***

Members Present: Jerry Vaught  
Russ Simsarian  
Kathy Valentine  
Esther Barnes  
Jack Lamp  
Bee Hsu

Others Present: Councilman Liaison, Robert Harbicht  
Sara Somogyi, Director of Recreation and Community Services  
Dan Belling, Recreation Supervisor  
Ken Petty, Recreation Supervisor  
Leo Diaz, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Ann Iarossi-Armenio  
Gene Glasco

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

Commissioner Simsarian moved that the minutes of March 4, 2010 meeting be approved with corrections. Commissioner Lamp seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

***COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE***

None

***REPORT OF COUNCIL***

Councilman Harbicht commented that the Commissioner and Volunteers dinner was very successful and that everyone seemed to have a good time. He explained that the appreciation dinners were combined in an effort to cut the costs of having two separate dinners. It was a council decision to not cancel either event but still wanted to save money.

With the city election a few weeks away, there was a Councilmember candidate forum held last night that was sponsored by a local newspaper. It was held at the Santa Anita Inn and was moderated by the Constitution Team from Arcadia High School. They were the winners of the state championship in Sacramento and are now scheduled to go to Washington D.C. to compete for the National Championship.

The City Council met at a special meeting last Tuesday morning to take a look at bridge designs for the bridge over Santa Anita Avenue. The design must go out with bid packages in order to get proposals from potential developers for the extended Gold Line. An art deco design was chosen as best suited for Arcadia.

Commissioner Lamp mentioned that he was approached by a contractor and was asked to ask why every little city has to have a stop on the Gold Line. Councilman Harbicht replied that the train stops just about every mile and explains that it is not a commuter line. He stated the reason may be that the Gold Line may need the support of every city that the line runs through or that it is merely a commuter train.

## **REPORT OF RECREATION SUPERVISOR**

Recreation Supervisor (RS) Dan Belling reviewed the March report and highlighted the Spring Luncheon attended by 130 participants. The Coffee with the Mayor meeting was held on Friday, March 12 and was attended by 11 seniors. There was a colorectal cancer workshop held on Tuesday, March 23 with Dr. Lee from Methodist Hospital attended by 75 people.

The last Coffee with the Mayor with Mayor Wu will be on Friday, April 9. There will be a Fall Prevention screening on Thursday, April 29 to educate seniors on preventing harmful falls and to gather data for grant research. The upcoming Bingo and Brunch has 60 people signed up so far and tickets are selling fast. The event is \$10 and will be held on Friday, April 30.

The Rotary Club Salute to Senior's older Americans recognition day will be held on Tuesday, May 11 at the community center. The Music Center in downtown Los Angeles will host the countywide recognition event on Monday, May 10 to which our honoree will be attending.

RS Belling also mentioned that Timeless Melodies Foundation will be hosting a lecture on the life and music of Johnny Mercer on Tuesday, May 4 from 1:30 – 3pm. A double elimination pool tournament will be offered on Tuesday, May 25 where the top four winners will represent Arcadia at the Mayor's Cup in the City of La Puente for the San Gabriel Valley Pool Tournament. The trophy awarded is a perpetual trophy and is handed from city to city much like the Stanley Cup.

RS Belling reported that we are also looking to secure bids for the new senior meals contract. Bids are scheduled to close on April 20. A workshop is being planned for Tuesday, May 18 with Arlene Okamoto of Methodist Hospital and will be co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) and the Los Angeles Commission on Aging to help seniors use the Metro transit system; each participant will receive a free months' pass.

There are seven nominees for senior of the year. Packets of information pertaining to each candidate were distributed to the commissioners and they were asked to review each and select one for senior of the year.

Councilman Harbicht requested to excuse himself from the remainder of the meeting stating that this may be his last Senior Citizen Commission meeting regardless of election

results since council members are rotated to different commissions annually. The commission thanked Councilman Harbicht for his contributions and was excused.

After some discussion and deliberation a secret ballot vote was taken with Beverly Street nominated as senior of the year. Recreation and Community Services Director (RCSD) Somogyi stated that nomination lists and information packets were not sent to commissioners since one of the nominees was a Senior Citizen Commissioner. We did not want to make that person feel uncomfortable and be able to give them the opportunity to excuse themselves from the room for the selection process.

Commissioner Lamp commented that he was very impressed with the new Arcadia transit card.

Commissioner Simsarian asked about the commissioners table for the senior citizens of the year. He mentions that at the spring fling he was the only commissioner at the commissioners table. Commissioner Barnes says that it's nice sometimes to sit with other people. Commissioner Lamp agrees that he would like to mingle with other seniors. RCSD Somogyi suggests that it may depend on how many commissioners RSVP for the event to determine whether or not there will be a commissioners table. Commissioner Valentine states that she likes the commissioners table since she is not here as often as other commissioners nor does she know as many seniors for the same reason. Commissioner Vaught also likes the commissioners table. RCSD Somogyi asked who will attend the Rotary Salute to seniors. Commissioners Barnes, Vaught, Simsarian and Valentine will be attending with 2 total guests. Commissioner Hsu opted to respond at a later date.

### ***REPORT OF DIRECTOR***

RCSD Sara Somogyi thanked everyone for their understanding about having to hold the commissioners meeting in the craft room since the Recreation Conference room is occupied. She also thanked everyone for attending the Silver Circle Dinner.

A banquet was held recently to honor The CPRS (California Parks and Recreation Society) District 13 award recipients of various awards. Kathy Bernal, Project Specialist and RS Dan Belling were presented with the Health and Wellness award for the "Step into Health" program that was held last year. The plaque was passed around the room.

### ***REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS***

Commissioner Valentine stated that they had a very good attendance at their open house with approximately 300 people in attendance.

Commissioner Simsarian commented that he appreciated the Connection and stated that it was very well done. The Men's Club is hosting the Chief of Police on Monday, April 5 and anyone is welcome if they would like to hear the Chief speak about the police department.

Commissioner Barnes mentioned that she received a call from the new dispatcher of Arcadia Transit Company. The dispatcher noticed a discrepancy in her regular schedule and called to confirm with Commissioner Barnes. She was very impressed with the transit

company's actions and mentioned so to the dispatcher. RCSD Somogyi stated that she will inform Transportation Services Manager, Linda Hui about this positive feedback.

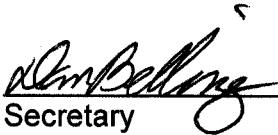
Commissioner Vaught mentioned that during last Friday's Friendship Club meeting there were several people who remarked that they were very happy with the Connection and how legible it turned out. Several other Commissioners agreed.


Commissioner Hsu stated that she went on a trip with County Supervisor, Mike Antonovich to a sister Countyship in Taipei where they built a green futuristic city that is free of carbon. She commented that the new city was built with senior citizen input and that we should be very proud of our own city and county with all our green efforts. She also states that her neighbors are seniors and that it is difficult for them to bring their trash cans to the curb. Commissioner Valentine replied that they can call waste management to assist them for free.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm. The next Senior Citizens Commission will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2010.

ATTEST:

  
Secretary  
Dan Belling

  
Chairperson  
Jerry Vaught