

**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 4:00pm on Thursday, March 4, 2010 in the Recreation and Community Services Department Conference Room.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Russ Simsarian
Ann Iarossi-Armenio
Kathy Valentine
Esther Barnes
Jack Lamp
Gene Glasco
Bee Hsu

Others Present: Councilman Liaison, Robert Harbicht
Sara Somogyi, Director of Recreation and Community Services
Dan Belling, Recreation Supervisor
Linda Hui, Transportation Services Manager
Leo Diaz, Administrative Assistant

Excused: Jerry Vaught

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Valentine moved that the minutes of February 4, 2010 meeting be approved as written. Commissioner Barnes seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE

None

REPORT OF COUNCIL

Councilman Robert Harbicht mentioned that the recent road work on Santa Anita Avenue was a result of the Economic Stimulus money from the federal government. Staff will apply for new funds if a second Stimulus package is passed by Congress. City Council is currently having a budget update approximately every quarter due to economic conditions. The result of the last meeting shows some encouraging signs of recovery with Christmas sales tax revenue expected to be higher than last year as well as increased automotive sales. Expenditures are significantly below what was projected to be spent this year. An update was given on the Metro Gold Line project; this project is very near becoming a reality. There is the necessity of a retaining wall involved with the bridge over the freeway and staff is preparing ideas to beautify the wall. Commissioner Glasco asked if the wall is

aesthetic or structural. Councilman Harbicht replied that the wall is structural and is a necessity to accommodate the bridge over the freeway. Commissioner Simsarian mentioned that members of the Men's club have noticed that some streets have deteriorated and were wondering when the slurry seal was going to resume. He also inquired about the senior housing on Campus Drive mentioned in the agenda of the City Council meeting. Councilman Harbicht replied that the slurry seal was deferred in this year's budget and will resume if the budget permits. Regarding housing, the redevelopment agency mandates that 20% of revenue must be set aside for low-cost housing including senior housing. The property mentioned on Campus Drive will have approximately 40 units available and applicants must qualify to live there.

REPORT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGER

Transportation Services Manager (TSM), Linda Hui reported the Gold Line will be having an open house on Tuesday, March 23 from 5:30-730pm at Santa Anita Golf Course. TSM Hui joined the meeting to hear updates from the Commission about the operation of the Arcadia Transit system. Commissioner Barnes says that ridership is down because people have to wait too long and that the drivers and dispatchers don't seem to communicate very well. She feels that it's not right for the driver's to be penalized financially for not being at a specified location at a specified time. TSM Hui stated that they have no control over the contracts between the transit company and their drivers; she also stated that she was not aware of the driver's being penalized monetarily but will follow up on the issue.

Commissioner Iarossi-Armenio reported that this is the first week that her members of the Golden Age Club had no complaints. In the previous weeks there were some members that waited over 45 minutes to be picked up. She also asked about the names of the drivers being posted in the window of the bus. TSM Hui replied that their names have been placed in the windows of each bus. She also stated that she could be more effective on these issues if she was contacted directly with specific incidents to include time, date and scenario. Sara Somogyi, Director of Recreation and Community Services, said that she could also be contacted on each incident and would relay the message to TSM Hui.

Commissioner Simsarian has noticed that the transit company does not seem flexible in accommodating the patrons when their schedule changes and gave an example.

Commissioner Barnes noted that it's difficult to get the buses to pick-up seniors at the time that the schools get out in the afternoon and have a difficult time scheduling Dr's appointments during that time. TSM Hui replied that the buses are for the general public and that all requests are first-come first-served.

She then thanked the Commission for their input and will do her best to improve the service. Commissioner Lamp ended the discussion by stating that the numbers of people complaining have said that things have changed.

REPORT OF RECREATION SUPERVISOR

Recreation Supervisor (RS) Dan Belling reviewed the February report and mentioned the income tax program will be continuing through Friday, April 9 with the AARP tax volunteers. The Chinese New Year luncheon was attended by over 300 people

celebrating the Year of the Tiger with the Chinese Association of Arcadia. February was Heart Health month and was recognized with a collaborative program including Methodist Hospital and Arcadia Firefighters. The event was attended by 250 people with lectures from cardiologists on heart health.

The month of March brings the "Spring has Sprung" luncheon with approximately 120 people registered to attend. Coffee with Mayor Wu will be on Friday, March 12 with his last meeting on Friday, April 9. Cooking with Mario will be held on Friday, March 26 with 65 seniors registered. Movie attendance is up and is being well received with newer releases instead of older movies. More upcoming events are Bunco on March 22, Bingo & Brunch on April 30 as well as the Rotary Salute to seniors on May 11. Nomination forms have been distributed to various organizations with a March 30 deadline. Bids will soon be taken for senior meals from potential caterers then going to City Council for approval.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR

Recreation and Community Services Director (RCSD) Sara Somogyi stated that the department budget projections for revenue are doing well and noted an increase of approximately \$10,000. Expenditures are 5% below projections from last year but the busiest time of year is yet to come for recreation. She then congratulated the staff on their fiscal conservatism.

RCSD Somogyi mentioned that all Commissioners should have received their invitations to the Silver Circle Volunteer and City Commissioners dinner and gave the RSVP date of March 11 to the City Managers office.

RCSD Somogyi has met with representatives from the Census bureau to promote the Census to seniors and noted that there are several flyers and posters posted in the community center.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Valentine stated she would be happy to volunteer to help where needed since she will be leaving the senior commission this year. She also reminded everyone of their open house on Tuesday, March 9 from 4-7pm and invited all to attend.

Commissioner Larossi-Armenio mentioned that the Golden Age club will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day along with recognizing one of their members who turns 106 years old in March.

Commissioner Hsu was happy to hear that everyone had enjoyed the Chinese New Year celebration. She states that Chinese tradition dictates full respect to the elderly and is their first priority. Mentioned that she will also be leaving the Commission this year. She also asked about possibly installing a pedestrian signal light on Santa Anita Avenue to the Assistance League.

Commissioner Barnes states that the monthly meeting of the Travelers Club will focus on safety issues on Friday, March 26 and invites everyone to attend at 10am. She also thanked RS Belling for the magazine rack to hold the flyers in the community center.

Commissioner Glasco mentioned that the Highland Homeowners Association will host the candidates running for City Council on March 19 beginning at 6:30pm and invite all to attend.


Commissioner Simsarian shared the Men's club newly designed flyer to promote their club and distributed to the Commissioners. He then offered his support to other clubs that use the Assistance League.

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, April 1, 2010.

ATTEST:


Secretary
Dan Belling


Chairperson
Russ Simsarian