



Senior Citizens Commission Minutes
Thursday, May 14, 2009
2:30 p.m.
Location: Walnut Terrace

Commissioners: Elaine Musser-Chair, Mariana Henwood, Stephen Hayes, Tansey Thomas, Shula Blumenthal, Kitty Liebhardt, Janice Bridge (Alternate),

City Council Liaison: None

Staff: Maria Lucchesi, Community Services Supervisor

1. Call To Order & Approval of Agenda

Approval of agenda was moved and approved by consensus.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes for Thursday, April 9, 2009 was moved by J. Bridge, seconded by M. Henwood, and approved by consensus.

3. Public Communications/Comments

Member of the public and Walnut Terrace resident Marty Rutan discussed various gray median curbs on 5th Street she felt were dangerous as seniors may have difficulty seeing them while driving at night and during rainy weather. E. Musser suggested she contact the City program "Street Smarts" which addresses traffic safety issues. S. Blumenthal suggested M. Rutan write a petition and gather signatures for even greater impact when addressing the issue. M. Rutan also spoke of her frustration with rent increases and wondered if the Senior Citizens Commission or the City could help. E. Musser responded that Walnut Terrace is owned and operated by Community Housing Opportunities Corporation, (CHOC) and therefore the City has no jurisdiction. E. Musser suggested the issue be addressed through the Walnut Terrace resident council.

4. New Business

A. Commission 08/10 Work Plan/Highlights Review

Commission Chair E. Musser shared that the Senior Citizens Commission works to represent and benefit seniors of all income levels, a broader scope than that of the Social Services Commission. E. Musser gave a review of the Commission's work including a summary of the Commission's recommendations on the Senior and Special Needs Housing Guidelines.

Commissioner Mariana Henwood discussed her background in senior advocacy and journey to becoming a Commission member. M. Henwood also described her role as liaison of the Yolo County commission on Aging and Adult Services.

Commissioner Stephen Hayes discussed water/sewer rate increases and how rates will be calculated. Using maps and diagrams, S. Hayes explained the location of water treatment plants and where treated waste water is discharged. S. Hayes also discussed the water treatment process and options the City is considering as well as the estimated costs.

Commissioner Tansey Thomas discussed Unitrans and her role as liaison to the Unitrans Advisory Committee. T. Thomas explained Unitrans and how stop locations are determined as well as routes of certain lines. T. Thomas shared her meeting with Unitrans representatives and that although Unitrans service is primarily for students, accommodations are made for seniors and the school district when possible. T. Thomas suggested Commissioners discuss incorporating new transportation options to current Davis Senior Transportation Resources document.

Commissioner Shula Blumenthal explained the various brochures included in the Commission Resource Folder, a gift from the Commission to Walnut Terrace which includes a variety of agency brochures as well as the Yolo County Resource Guide. S. Blumenthal also discussed the Climate Action Team Committee and summarized the Committee's greenhouse reduction strategy.

Commissioner Kitty Liebhardt discussed the need for seniors to rely on each other more as city and state funds to support senior assistance will be reduced and agencies may only be able to respond to very urgent issues. She urged residents to look out for their neighbor's well being and quality of life and suggested Walnut Terrace introduce a "buddy system" and to offer that idea to the resident council. K. Liebhardt also discussed the need for caregiver training and her current research and scheduled meetings with community experts on the topic.

Commissioner Janice Bridge summarized her findings when researching Commissioner Romeo Favreau's work on the Senior Database project and suggested that current senior specific housing is at capacity and that more senior housing is needed to accommodate the growing population of older adults. J. Bridge recommended commissioners and public attend the next city council meeting where the Annual Residential Development Report would be discussed and that more focus should be placed on senior housing that is affordable, more efficient, and easier to care for.

B. Community Feedback relative to the Senior Citizens Commission and current areas of interest.

Member of the public and Walnut Terrace resident Tulla Steinsmith expressed concern that the bus line coming to Walnut Terrace would be eliminating weekend service. E. Musser commented that she had heard of service reduction but not elimination. T. Steinsmith asked for a copy of the senior center transportation document. Staff will provide her a copy.

5. Old Business

6. Commission Announcements/Comments

This time is set aside for Commissioners to report on issues or meetings attended, but not listed on the agenda. No formal action may be taken on matters not listed on this agenda.

7. City Council Liaison/Staff Comments

This time is set aside for Council members and staff to report on issues and/or events of interest not listed on the agenda. No formal action may be taken on matters not listed on this agenda.

- A. City Council Liaison Update
- B. Information & Assistance Report – May 2009
- C. Upcoming Events & Activities

8. Written Communications

Written correspondence, such as letters and/or messages for Commission members will be distributed in the agenda packet and listed on the agenda. Regular monthly meeting agendas, publications/newsletters will be distributed at the meeting.

9. Future Agenda Items/Review of Long Range Calendar

10. Adjourn Meeting – Next meeting date: June 11, 2009

The Davis Senior Citizens Commission is an appointed advisory body to the Davis City Council, and is facilitated through the recently formed Community Services Department.

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