



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGING
Wednesday, September 21, 2016
Council Chambers, City Hall**

1. ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 3:01pm.
Members Present: : Katherine Cesa, Karen Christian, Shirley Cressey, Kenneth Epley, Mark Guthrie, Kimi Honda, Janet James, Dr. Pansy Kwong, Steve Lipson, Callie Major, Kim Marlia, Nola Veganes, Chavez
Members Absent: Margot Allen, Jennifer Haller, Joanna Kim Selby
Council Liaison: Janet Abelson
Staff Liaison: Janet Bilbas
Guest: Bahram Nikbakht, Lori Teachout

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Mark Guthrie stated that he was staffing the cell phone (not computer) table. Katherine Cesa moved, and Kimi Honda seconded a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The minutes were approved with one abstention (Shirley Cressey).

3. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC:

Bahram Nikbaht, who has lived in El Cerrito for forty years, wanted to praise Governor Brown for improving conditions for seniors during his administration. He suggested that the Committee on Aging write a letter thanking him for his leadership. Mr. Nikbaht was advised that this committee could make that proposal to the City Council. It was suggested that he write his own letter as well.

4. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISON ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

Councilmember Abelson reported on the September 20, 2016 Council meeting, a former resident of the trailer park north of Central Park gave an emotional presentation. He was upset about the lack of affordable housing and being unfairly compensated when being forced to vacate the trailer park. A developer is planning to build townhomes at the former trailer park. Council is requiring the developer address accessibility issues and make provisions for affordable housing, even though they are not legally bound to do so, Kim Marlia commented that the trailer park had been in poor condition. Mark Guthrie commented on accessibility compliance when constructing town homes versus single story dwellings. Councilmember Abelson discussed how accessibility requirements are met, for e.g., with handrails and elevators.

Janet Bilbas reported that the California Free Telephone presentation was well-attended. She also listed future Senior Center events:

1. Travel Faire, September 28, 2016, Open House Senior Center, 1:15 pm
2. Flu Shot Clinic, co-sponsored by Walgreens, Open house Senior Center, U.S. Department of Health, November 30, 2016, Open House Senior Center, 1-3 pm
3. Senior Faire, Community Center, October 5, 2016, 9 am – 1 pm.

5. REPORTS

A. Housing Subcommittee: Janet James gave an update of events at Eskaton Hazel Shirley Manor: 1. Flu Shot Clinic, October 3, 2016; 2. Escort Shopping Program, which will allow residents two-hour errands with an escort for \$5; 3. Kids Connection, a partnership with Prospect Sierra Elementary School where senior residents and students will participate in activities together. The Housing Committee members are planning a survey of local housing facilities.

B. Transportation Subcommittee: None

C. Legislation Subcommittee: Dr. Kwong explained recent legislation requiring Medicare to notify patients of their status, whether they are admitted to a hospital or under observation. Patients must be admitted to a hospital for at least three days in order for Medicare to pay for a skilled nursing facility.

D. Area Agency on Aging: None

E. West County Senior Coalition: None

F. Health Care Subcommittee: Dr. Kwong gave an example of a conflict of interest in funding research in which the sugar industry subsidized a study which found sugar to be beneficial to health.

Kimi Honda circulated examples of products which many seniors might turn to if they cannot afford their prescription drugs.

G. Membership Committee: None

H. Guest Speaker Subcommittee: Next month a guest speaker from Assemblyman Tony Thurmond's office will be attending. One of the topics to be covered will be the lack of a West County hospital.

I. Technology: Steve Lipson noted the interest in technology training at the Senior Center, and the shortage of instructors. He is interested in increasing the number of instructors by possibly training more.

5. NEW BUSINESS: Janet Bilbas confirmed the volunteer staffing at the October 5, 2016 Senior Faire.

6. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA;

- a. Thank you letter to the Governor Brown as suggested by Bahram Nikbakht
- b. Steve Lipson suggested possibility of setting up a Blog about the Summit Hospital Closure. Janet Bilbas and Steve Lipson will meet to talk about its possibility.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:22 pm.