

PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2015

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Gouveia called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:**
 - a. **Present:** Commissioner Gouveia; Commissioner Birk; Commissioner Douglas; Commissioner Jimenez; Commissioner Saltzman
 - b. **Absent:** Commissioner Jayne; Commissioner Johnson
 - c. **Staff Present:** David Ferguson, Director of Public Works; Brian MacDonald, Management Analyst II; Kim Scarlata, Division Manager; Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Supervisor
 - c. **Recorded By:** Stephanie Garcia, Executive Assistant
3. **ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** None
4. **INTRODUCTION & WELCOME:** Each Commissioner gave a short introduction.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **RECEIVE AND DISCUSS CURRENT AND FUTURE SENIOR CONCERNS AND NEEDS**

Several seniors expressed their needs and appreciation for the senior center.

When will the seniors have Wi-Fi Rolland Howard asked?

Staff said that the internet access should be completed in the next couple of months.

Will the discontinued Tracer Bus be brought back to the Outlet Mall?

Valli and Chad Chidambaram live by the Outlet Mall and said that they would like the Tracer Bus "A" service brought back to that area because they are having a hard time getting to the senior center. Staff will follow up on this item.

Sue Bigot asked why there is nothing being done about the offensive odor. She asked staff to figure out what is causing the smell around the Arnaudo surrounding area and the Winco area. Sue said that the trash in Tracy is not being picked up and this needs to be addressed. In the past, she has asked the City for a sound wall where she lives due to the loud traffic.

Alma Thompson suggested that there be more field trips and gatherings such as a Get-Acquainted Day.

Valli said that she likes the Zumba and exercise classes which are very good. The instructors are very nice, too. There are so many classes to choose from such as a sewing class and a painting class. Valli said that they are happy to see the classes here are better than the centers at Palo Alto and Fremont.

Loraine Terra would like to see if there is a discount place such as Costco, Miracle Ear, or any other medical office that would provide a discount for hearing aid services to seniors.

Cathy would like to see a newsletter sent out to all seniors over the age of 65 to receive the senior center newsletter similar to the Manteca center for a minimal annual fee.

Alma said that riding the bus was costly when she lived further away and would like to see the bus rates lowered for seniors since in the past she would spend somewhere between \$10 - \$15 each week and said that it's too much money for most seniors.

Karen Fistolera is concerned that there is not one handicap parking stall on 10th Street. She said there is not a single handicap stall and that should be illegal.

Staff said that currently the Tracy City Center Association is aware that there is a parking issue for handicap parking stalls and short term parking. There is a subcommittee at this moment working on assessing the parking issues in order to put a proposal together to increase the handicap parking downtown.

Commissioner Jimenez held up the Recreation Activity Guide and asked the seniors if everyone was receiving a guide. She asked what type of field trips would the seniors like to have so that she can present their ideas to staff and if there is a possibility to work on it.

Staff said currently the guides are placed in City facilities, the library, some doctor offices, and throughout the City at various locations, as well as the senior center. Some seniors do not want the entire guide so they can pick up a quarterly newsletter that has events and seminars on one side and Monday – Friday classes are listed on the other. Additionally, there is a mailer that goes out to those who have registered in any recreation class. Anyone interested in senior materials can call (209) 831-4230.

Commissioner Jimenez researched some of the neighboring cities and found that the field trips, the casino trip in particular, that the City does not sponsor that type of trip and there is a group that is associated with that but is separate from the City, similar to the Parks Foundation that supports the City through parks, recreation, and community needs. Commissioner Jimenez represents the Parks Commission at the Parks Foundation meetings and will address the issue about the casino trip through the non-profit.

Sue asked why this senior center is different than other senior centers as far as what they offer. Staff said we have to stay in the parameter of our budget and every cities budget is different. The City does not have the funding to allow the center to stay open in the evening or on Sundays. The senior center is funded by 95% of the General Fund. Sue asked what staff can do to change it. Staff said due to the Measure E's sunset Council's direction is not to increase the budget. Council approves the budget based on the percentage that is brought before them. Staff will bring the concerns and suggestions to Council.

Commissioner Gouveia clarified that the Commission is an advisory group and they state issues to staff and from staff it goes to City Council. The Council dwells on the issues and based on the priorities and looking at the budget they have to work with, they stipulate by department or by programs on how much money is available for the upcoming year and ultimately it comes down to the Council's approval.

Commissioner Jimenez welcomed the seniors to attend the Parks and Community Services Commission the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers. Also, the City Council meetings are the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers. The agenda item, Items from the Audience, allows the audience to state their needs and concerns.

Roland Howard asked if the city has federal funding or federal programs. He is a veteran and there are other veterans who attend the center. He asked if the city could seek federal funds. Staff said they would look into any additional funding that they might not be aware of.

Cathy Cavicchia asked if the center has looked into fund raising such as bingo night.

Loraine asked about applying discounted fees for activities at the Grand Theatre. On Golden Pond as an example is \$16 and that is too much for most seniors. There should be a senior price with activities going on at the Grand.

Staff said they are developing a weekly senior citizens' day that will allow anyone age 50 and older to take classes at a discounted price or free of charge.

Commissioner Saltzman asked what specific programs the seniors need such as cultural, arts, or gardening. She asked how many seniors frequently used the Tracer Bus and a couple of the audience members raised their hand. Commissioner Saltzman said that the Tracer will not pick up out of City limits which may impact the people who want to get out to the mall in the early morning and exercise and people won't come as frequently since they have to find alternate means of transportation. She said if this is a problem then these are the things the Commission needs to know, such as if it's too expensive or if the bus is not picking up where people need to be picked up.

6. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE: – None

7. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- Commissioner Birk said that the construction on the restrooms at McDonald Park is taking longer than he expected. Staff said that when the construction started the power had to be turned off and with the rain delays it caused construction to stop. A new pole and panel had to be installed. The work will start shortly.
- Staff pointed out to the Local Senior Services & Resources guide shows how to "Get Connected" from City Council; Parks and Community Service Commission; Planning Commission; Tracy Arts Commission; Transportation Advisory Commission; to the San Joaquin County Commission on Aging. The seniors were invited to attend any Council or Commission meeting that will best meet their needs. One of the new programs offered at the Senior Center is the Senior Link-Tracy Program. They can schedule a 1-on-1 meeting for 30 minutes with a specialist who will provide them with the resources needed. Additionally, the senior center currently has four community bulletin boards located in the senior center, the Activities and Programs, In the Spot Light, Announcements, and Health & Wellness Activities.
- Commissioner Saltzman encouraged the seniors to go out and ask other seniors what they might be interested in such as a quilting class, crocheting class, or a book club.
- Commissioner Jimenez thanked the seniors for their participation in the meeting. She encouraged the seniors to continue to contact staff with their concerns or comments and said there is a suggestion box out in the lobby. She would like to continually hear from the seniors. She said she was told by staff that there were three bus trips, one in April, August, and November. The Parks Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that is separate from the City. They have their own budget and do not have the same people representing the organization and what they do is look at the needs in the community and asked if there is an opportunity for them to address those needs whether it's providing a service or providing funds. The Parks Foundations meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. She will bring what she heard about the casino trips to the Foundation because what she heard today was that the City cannot participate or provide that type of activity.

- Commissioner Gouveia thanked the seniors for their comments and noted their concerns and comments and will be followed through. He asked the seniors to be assertive and keep asking questions because that's how changes take place.
- Staff said there will be two additional meetings similar to this one in May and September of this year. The announcement will be posted at the senior center, newspaper, and the library.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Motion to Adjourn:** Commissioner Saltzman
- b. Second:** Commissioner Jimenez
- c. Vote:** Approved by unanimous vote
- d. Time:** 3:00 p.m.