

JOINT TRACY CITY COUNCIL/PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 333 Civic Center Plaza

Web Site: www.ci.tracy.ca.us

Mayor Ives called the City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call found Council Members Manne, Rickman, Young, Mayor Pro Tem Maciel and Mayor Ives present.

Chairperson Jiminez called the Parks and Community Services Commission to order at 6:08 p.m.

Roll call found Commissioners Gouveia, Holguin, Vice Chair Birk and Chair Jiminez present; Commissioners Jayne, Johnson and Saltzman absent.

3. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE – None.
4. ACCEPT AND DISCUSS REPORT ON CURRENT AND FUTURE SENIOR NEEDS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION - Jolene Jaurequi, Recreation Coordinator, provided the staff report. At the July 2, 2013, City Council meeting, Council directed staff to explore the formation of a Senior Steering Committee to guide a series of community conversations with the public. Additionally, Council appropriated \$10,000 to hire a consultant to assist with facilitating the Community Conversations and prepare and present a report summarizing the findings.

The City of Tracy selected *The Consulting Team, LLC*, who facilitated the community conversation meetings. Key consultants, including Dr. Manning, Ms. Schmitz, and Ms. Weimer serve on several non-profit boards in their respective communities which keep them informed about current community needs, including seniors.

On October 1, 2013, Council appointed the seven-member Senior Steering Committee, which consisted of four Commission representatives and three at-large resident representatives. The seven members included Walter Gouveia (Parks and Community Services Commission), Jass Sangha (Planning Commission), Mercedes Silveira (Tracy Arts Commission), Daniel Ramey (Transportation Commission), Cynthia Gustafson, (Resident representative), Brent Riddle (Resident representative), and Bill Aragon (Resident representative).

On November 7, 2013, Dr. Manning and Ms. Schmitz met with City staff from Code Enforcement, Recreation, Fire, Police and the Transportation Divisions. The intent of the meeting was to better understand how the City's various departments interact with senior-related issues. Staff from the designated divisions attended the community conversation meetings to assist with facilitating small group discussions, answer questions and provide resource materials at the meetings.

On November 18, 2013, Ms. Schmitz held a pre-planning meeting with the seven-member Senior Steering Committee. The purpose of the meeting included: meet and greet between consultant and seven committee members; set parameters of the upcoming community conversation meetings; set date, time, and location of the two

community conversation meetings with the public; define the role of the Senior Steering Committee at the community conversation meetings; and review proposed agenda for the Community Conversation Meetings. The Senior Steering Committee selected Monday, December 9, 2013, to host the two community conversations. The first meeting was held at 10:00 a.m., and a second meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. The meetings were held at the Tracy Community Center.

The information gathered are the results from a total of 43 community members who attended the community conversation meetings. The following are key areas that received positive comments: Senior Center programs and activities, fairs, and classes (25); community of Tracy (16); county, state, and federal programs (8); transportation (1); volunteer programs (9); communications and informational material (4); discounts and scholarships (1).

Key areas receiving comments on issues and needs were Senior Center programs and activities, fairs, and classes (34); Senior Center facility issues (18); public and home safety (49); community of Tracy amenities and concerns (24); transportation (11); county, state, and federal programs (5); communication and informational material (23); care-giving needs (9); volunteer programs (9); discounts and scholarships (3).

Based on the results from the community conversation meetings, staff recommended the following options for City Council to consider:

- Effective May 2015, during Older Americans Month, the City will host a community conversation meeting. The meeting will be open and marketed to the entire community. The purpose will be to identify and discuss current and future needs for Tracy seniors. The results of this meeting will be presented to the Parks and Community Services Commission and the Council annually.
- Interviews for all Commissions should include specific senior services related questions as part of the interview process.
- Staff will provide quarterly reports to the Parks and Community Services Commission on senior related items.
- Senior Center and staff will continue to be the resource hub to connect seniors and their families to local and county services via email, in person, by phone or mail.
- Increase the Lolly Hansen Senior Center daily operating hours by 1.5 hours from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to new proposed time 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Additionally increase fitness offerings to include daily afternoon classes at the Senior Center. Should Council approve increasing Senior Center hours and fitness offerings, it will require an appropriation from the General Fund.
- Consider the Senior Center for expansion or new facility as part of the CIP process.
- Present findings to other applicable organizations and agencies to encourage the enhancement of existing senior services or implementation of new activities.

Staff recommended that City Council and the Parks and Community Services Commission discuss and accept the report on the current and future needs of senior citizens in Tracy based on the results from the Community Conversations and provide direction to staff.

Elaine Schmitz provided a presentation regarding strengths, limitations, conditions and needs of senior services. Ms. Schmitz added that senior participants ranged over four decades and that senior needs, interests, and financial capacity vary over this time line. Ms. Schmitz indicated further research may be needed to divide the four decades of seniors represented into three smaller segments. Ms. Schmitz added that safety was a concern mentioned 49 times.

Commissioner Holguin asked what concerns were mentioned in the 49 comments regarding safety. Ms. Jauregui stated the comments were included in Attachment A of the report.

Chair Jimenez referred to page 12 of the report which listed priorities, specifically that seniors believe there is a lack of communication and dissemination of information, the desire for a senior website, a need for self-worth and the ability for seniors to give back. Chair Jimenez asked what groups the report referred to when it stated to include agencies and other operational groups. Ms. Jauregui stated San Joaquin County Department of Aging, and other local senior agencies.

Chair Jimenez asked what type of information would be provided that was not currently included in the quarterly report to the Commission. Kim Scarlata, Recreation Program Manager, stated the proposal would be to bring a senior specific item for discussion during the meeting. Ms. Scarlata stated what was currently provided was a general recreation report or an overview of senior activities.

Commissioner Gouveia stated he participated in the process and found it to be objective, inclusive and included requests for changes in the future.

Council Member Rickman thanked the consultant for the report and asked if anything would be implemented as a result of the report. Ms. Scarlata stated the next steps outlined by staff could be implemented immediately, except extending the Senior Center hours which would need an appropriation by Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Maciel stated the largest category was safety which covered a wide range of items including quality of lights, crosswalks, tree trimming, sidewalks, and seniors being victimized by on-line scams. Mayor Pro Tem Maciel indicated he believed it would be easy for staff to begin addressing some of these concerns.

Council Member Manne stated he appreciated the breakdown of the meeting and asked if the 43 participants included the steering committee or staff. Ms. Schmitz stated no.

Council Member Manne asked why the steering committee participated in an observer role. Ms. Scarlata stated the purpose of the steering committee was to receive input from the participants that attended the community conversations. Ms. Scarlata added that they were part of the process but did not participate in the focus groups.

Council Member Manne stated he and Council Member Young interviewed a wide variety of individuals to be on the committee with the impression that they would participate in the event because they made up a strong core of individuals working in senior related professions. Council Member Manne asked if members of the Steering Committee participated, added comments to, and was there a value in having the Committee. Ms. Scarlata stated staff believed there was a value in having the Committee and they took an objective goal in gathering the data.

Council Member Manne asked if the Committee actively provided feedback or was involved in putting the presentation together. Ms. Schmitz indicated the Steering Committee provided significant input regarding how the meetings should be conducted and what should be included in the meetings. Ms. Schmitz further indicated the Committee was active in meeting and greeting seniors, talking to the seniors about their interests and were able to share information.

Commissioner Gouveia added that he received many calls from seniors asking that he bring the caller's concerns to the meeting.

Council Member Manne asked if there has been an increase in the number of participants since the Lolly Hansen Senior Center was expanded. Ms. Scarlata stated when the outdoor expansion was complete staff did expect to have increased participation.

Council Member Manne asked if "May 2015" was a typographical error in the report. Ms. Scarlata stated no, that staff anticipates an annual event to be held in conjunction with Older Americans Month.

Chair Jiminez responded to a question raised by Council Member Manne regarding if the process was a value to the Commission. Chair Jiminez stated the process was of value by allowing seniors to identify issues and allowing staff to respond.

Council Member Young stated she and Council Member Manne interviewed the three at-large committee members and that they wrestled with whom to choose to work with the other commission members. Council Member Young stated it would be tragic if the committee members were not able to articulate some of the issues that came out of the discussions. Council Member Young stated she was not sure how effective it was to have that many people on the Steering Committee.

Council Member Young referred to a quarterly report on senior related items asking if those items would be looked at by the Commission that it falls under. Ms. Scarlata stated yes, noting senior programming which falls under the Parks and Community Services Commission and affordable housing which falls under the Planning Commission.

Council Member Young asked if information is passed on to the various Commissions. Ms. Scarlata stated yes. Council Member Young suggested as part of the next steps a quarterly report be provided to the relevant Commissions.

Council Member Young asked if a list could be put together of the issues raised and the departments that the issues are being directed to. Ms. Scarlata stated staff will be working with the appropriate departments to assign some of the concerns. Ms. Scarlata suggested an annual joint Parks Commission and Council meeting to discuss the issues and what has been accomplished throughout the year.

Mayor Ives invited members of the public to address the Council/Commission.

Cindy Gustafson, Steering Committee member, stated she was concerned with the baby boomer age group and that she did not believe adding hours to the Senior Center would do much. Ms. Gustafson stated she would like to see the formation of a Senior Advisory

Commission that would address senior concerns, take care of issues, and serve seniors better.

Jass Sangha, representing the Planning Commission on the Steering Committee, stated she wanted everyone to realize that there were pros and cons regarding the committee. Ms. Sangha stated she was concerned that a bureaucratic system will not help. Ms. Sangha added that safety was mentioned multiple times, and the main concern of seniors was not about forming a commission, but where they can go to get answers.

Robert Tanner stated he attended the morning session where the seniors were very vocal about what they wanted. Mr. Tanner stated commissions already exist that can address many of the senior concerns and that having another commission was not needed. Mr. Tanner further stated he believed what was needed was an annual meeting to discuss senior concerns.

Brent Riddle, Steering Committee member, stated he believed the Steering Committee was ineffective. Mr. Riddle stated he did not believe the Steering Committee was able to assist the consultant, did not help set the agenda, set the dates, determine how many dates, and could not participate in the community meeting. Mr. Riddle added that the Steering Committee also had no input on the report that was provided to the Council/Commission. Mr. Riddle further stated additional input was still needed from the community. Mr. Riddle stated the issues raised do cross many departments and believes that one point of contact or commission could be effective in disseminating the information and assist the seniors in giving them one place to obtain information.

Mercedes Silveira, Steering Committee Member, stated the Committee was given clear direction on what their role was; to observe. Ms. Silveira stated the purpose of the meeting was to let the seniors be heard and for the Committee to not influence comments of the seniors. Ms. Silveira stated the Committee ensured that every senior had an opportunity to speak and that the conversations were not monopolized by one person. Ms. Silveira further stated the Committee ensured that the comments of seniors were accurately recorded. Ms. Silveira added that the Committee did provide input in the report and decided which dates the meetings were held.

Mayor Ives referred to the list of items and comments made during the meetings, suggesting that it come back as a package, categorized and cataloged.

Council Member Young stated she did not believe the process was successful in getting everyone at the meeting that should have been there. Council Member Young further stated she did not believe the Steering Committee members had the opportunity to share their expertise which was a disservice to them. Council Member Young stated she still believes a Senior Commission is needed and should be considered as part of the next steps.

Chair Jiminez stated senior issues and concerns were expressed to staff in the past and improvements were made. Chair Jiminez suggested that the City be more proactive and of better service to seniors. Chair Jiminez indicated she would like to take the feedback from the steering committee to the Parks Commission and see what the Commission can do to better serve seniors.

Mayor Ives asked if the standard protocol involved forwarding the report to the Parks and Community Services Commission. Ms. Scarlata stated yes.

5. ADJOURNMENT - It was moved by Commissioner Gouveia and seconded by Commissioner Holguin to adjourn. Voice vote found Gouveia, Holguin, Vice Chair Birk and Chair Jiminez in favor; Commissioners Jayne, Johnson and Saltzman absent. Time: 7:22 p.m.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Maciel and seconded by Council Member Manne to adjourn. Voice vote found all in favor; passed and so ordered. Time: 7:22 p.m.

The above agenda was posted at the Tracy City Hall on January 30, 2014. The above are summary minutes. A recording is available at the office of the City Clerk.

Mayor

City Clerk