



SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION (SAC) MONTHLY MEETING

REGULAR HYBRID MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024

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CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

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Peter Kline, Chair, Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) PRESIDING

PRESENT: [13]

*Carmen Arana, District 1/Commissioner	*Lisa Kelly, District 9/Commissioner
Verna Mitchell, District 3/Commissioner	David Tyson, District 10/Commissioner
Phyllis Lee, District 4/Commissioner	**Renee L. Karp, District 11/Commissioner
Feliz Jarvis, District 5/Commissioner	VACANT, District 12/Commissioner
Marian A. Williams, District 7/Commissioner	J. Peter Kline, District 13/Commissioner
*/**Debbie Austin, District 8/Commissioner	Karen Roberts, District 14/Commissioner
*/**Portia Cantrell, District 2/Commissioner	Mike Nurre, District 15/Commissioner

ABSENT: [1]

Marilyn Daniels: District 6/Commissioner
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*Note: Members of the Senior Affairs Commission participated in this meeting by video conference.

**Note: Indicates arrival time after meeting called to order/reconvened.

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. with a quorum of ten of the Senior Affairs Commission members present. The meeting agenda, posted in accordance with Chapter 551, "OPEN MEETINGS", of the Texas Government Code, was presented.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

There were no public speakers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (February 2024 Regular Meeting)

SAC Chair, J. Peter Kline (13) requested commissioners to make a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Karen Roberts (14) made a motion to approve the February 26, 2024 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Tyson (10) and was unanimously approved.

Chairs Report

After the minutes were approved, Chair Kline asked Commissioner Jarvis (5) for an update on the Content Specialist Initiative. Commissioner Jarvis thanked the other commissioners for their responses on their areas of interest to the initiative and that the responses will be compared to the list of interest initially proposed. She stated that she would be remaining in contact with the commissioners within the next 30-60 days regarding the areas of interest that need to be concentrated on, i.e. Parks and Recreation and Housing. Chair Kline commented that the commission's goal is to "nail" down one to three different areas with a time frame for reporting back to the commission as a whole.

New Business

Chair Kline introduced Stacey Malcolmson, CEO/President of The Senior Source who provided a briefing/power-point on The Senior Source titled: "A Provider's Perspective on Senior Issues and Resources." Ms. Malcolmson began by stating that the Senior Source's Mission is to enhance the quality of life of older adults in greater Dallas. She stated that the senior population represents approximately 15% of the Dallas total population and that this population is the fastest growing when compared to other age groups with the largest senior population being in the 65 to 74 age group. Furthermore, she pointed out another statistic that approximately 13% of the city's seniors have an income at or below the poverty level.

Ms. Malcolmson stated that the Senior Source works with two programs. Those programs are the "core programs" and the "growth programs." The growth programs serve seniors who are "financially insecure" which include living in poverty, not actively working due to age being a challenge in securing work, and also being retired and having been scammed out of all their savings. The other population program served by the Senior Source is the family Care-giver program of older adults, i.e. a spouse, an adult child taking care of an aging parent which have their unique challenges. Ms. Malcolmson mentioned that the core programs they provide focus on socially isolated older adults which may be due to living in a long-term care facility. She mentioned that one way to combat the social isolation is encouraging older adults to become volunteers at the Senior Source.

The 5 issues facing seniors in Dallas per Ms. Malcolmson are: poverty, lack of financial resources (no savings or retirement), lack of planning, cost of aging independently and the technology divide (ever changing technologies).

Ms. Malcolmson discussed the Elder Financial Safety Center which is a partnership with District Attorney's office, the probate court and the Senior Source in which the goal is to protect, prevent, and prosecute financial crimes against older adults. Per Ms. Malcolmson, the Senior Source also provides referrals for seniors needing housing subsidies or rental assistance. As well, the Senior Source can assist with utility assistance with partners such as TXU, Ambit Energy, or Atmos gas along with financial planning goals/budgeting/expenses management. They also assist with referrals for SNAP benefits. Per Ms. Malcolmson, the Senior Source also provides advocacy/services to combat frauds and scams older adult's encounter through educational seminars as well as providing technical training classes in partnership with AARP to assist older adults in keeping up with the latest computer and technology/Apps. These classes are taught at the Senior Source.

Ms. Malcolmson addressed their other program, "Caregiver Support Program" which assists caregivers of older adults with supportive services in navigating their caregiving journey by providing

supportive counseling and referral services through presentations, seminars, and community events. The Caregiver Program serves approximately 2100 people a year. Lastly, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program which is federally mandated was addressed by Ms. Malcolmson. She stated that the Ombudsman program serves to educate the public about various senior care facilities, i.e. long-term and assisted living facilities/nursing homes and also to assist seniors and caregivers in resolving senior's various resident complaints. Approximately 320 senior living facilities in Dallas County are contracted with the Senior Source with about sixteen thousand residents. The Ombudsman program is funded through grants by the City of Dallas.

Ms. Malcolmson addressed their Ombudsman Friendly Visitor's program which has about 3,000 volunteers assisting in nursing homes to combat isolation which seniors face in nursing homes. They engage seniors in various activities such as bingo and outdoor activities.

Ms. Malcolmson provided a Long-Term Care Ombudsman update and addressed the current challenges faced such as facilities averaging 60% of licensed capacity, lower than pre-COVID. She also stated that decreases are also attributed to poor quality care, medication issues, and illegal discharge from the facilities.

Ms. Malcolmson discussed the three senior volunteer programs funded AmeriCorps which are: Senior companions (about 60 senior volunteers currently who receive a stipend and transportation reimbursement) RSVP (seniors volunteer in an office setting) and Foster grandparents (receive a stipend and work in child-care facilities) and these programs are provided through the Senior Source.

Ms. Malcolmson mentioned the volunteer information session to actively recruit volunteers.

Lastly, Ms. Malcolmson presented the Senior Source Financials to include their funding sources for their various programs.

Q/A on The Senior Source Program

Commissioner Karp (11) inquired about a program at West Dallas Multipurpose Center (WDMC) that assists seniors for Atmos Energy or other bills. Office of Community Care (OCC) Director Jessica Galleshaw stated that the program at WDMC is provided by OCC-Social Services dept. with the assistance of various non-profits. Director Galleshaw further stated that the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) is administered by Dallas County personnel and that this agency utilizes office space at the WDMC and MLK community centers that assist residents with utilities, etc.

Commissioner Roberts (14) asked Ms. Malcolmson if the Senior Source has considered teaching the technology program at the Hamilton Park Rec. Center. Ms. Malcolmson responded by stating that the Senior Source would be reaching out the Hamilton Park Rec. Center to provide an in presentation on Frauds and Scams topic.

Chair Kline (13) asked for confirmation if the Senior Source Ombudsman Program is federally funded. Ms. Malcolmson stated yes. Chair Kline expressed that the Senior Source has been recognized as outstanding for their administration of this program.

Vice Chair Jarvis (5) asked if the Ombudsman program also covers senior day care facilities. Ms. Malcolmson stated no.

Commissioner Karp (11) inquired about who they should contact at the Senior Source to present for a district community meeting. Ms. Malcolmson stated that she can be contacted directly. Ms. Malcolmson distributed her business cards as a means of contact.

Vice Chair Jarvis (5) asked what the best way the Senior Source is found for actually reaching seniors to educate them about their various programs. Ms. Malcolmson stated that their goal is to make 300 presentations, continue with active outreach with the city libraries, the senior centers, marketing through emails, and reliance on the community partners.

The Park and Recreation Dept.

Chair Kline introduced the next speaker, Lindsey Rider, Manager from the Park and Recreation Department. Ms. Rider provided a power-point presentation overview of the dept. She stated that the dept. is committed to enhancing seniors' lives by providing recreation and leisure activities to seniors. Ms. Rider addressed the focus on five core areas of the program to include: Health and Wellness, Socialization, Competition Play, Special Interests Programs, and Events. Ms. Rider stated that over 7,000 participants were served in FY 22-23. The Active Senior and Adult Program (ASAP) is offered at 43 recreational facilities for older adults Monday-Friday from 9am-2pm. The Dedicated Senior Centers are offered Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm and there are five Dedicated Senior programs. Ms. Rider mentioned goals that they set out each year and well as describing registration numbers and trends. Ms. Rider also provided a slide on gender breakdown pointing to less participation from men. The greatest attendance by age is the 75+ seniors with the lowest attendance by those 60-64 age group. Ms. Rider discussed how the ASAP program is funded through the General Fund with 1.1 million dollars dedicated to this program. The ASAP program has also received a sizeable donation from the WellMed Charitable Foundation which supports the WellMed center and this covers several seniors' members fees and dues amounting to seventy dollars per member to participate at WellMed per year. Ms. Rider mentioned that through a partnership with the city, The Dallas Health and Human Services (DCHHS) Nutrition Program provides congregate meal services to seniors at six of the Park and Rec. locations.

Ms. Rider explained that their programs are promoted through with word of mouth being the biggest way as per surveys responses given in the past. Promotion of the program is also done at various city events, apartment meetings, HOA's. Also, each center has a monthly calendar available and provides a hard copy and is posted online through the centers' web page. Facebook is also utilized as a means of promotion.

Ms. Rider provided a slide on the weekly average attendance for each of the recreation centers by location as well as by council district. Finally, Ms. Rider provided a Save the Date overview of events and mentioned some strategies for the Park and Rec program with re-vamping the program being the overall strategy with the new version being rolled out by Oct. 1, 2024.

Q/A on The Park and Recreation Dept.

Commissioner Jarvis (5) asked if the Umphress senior recreation center would be offering meals through the DCHHS Nutrition Program. Ms. Rider stated that she would check into this.

Chair Kline (13) asked if the 1.1 million dollars budgeted was all for staffing. Ms. Rider stated no and that the budget is used for contractors/instructors that teach classes for seniors, expenses for program fees, and other big events, i.e. the Golden Games, holiday celebrations, etc.

Commissioner Verna Mitchell (3) asked if some of the senior activity classes can be offered more than once at a senior center because it limits the time seniors can participate. Ms. Rider stated that the biggest challenge has been getting instructors onboard to teach the classes.

Chair Kline (13) asked if there are any regular full-time instructors on the city staff that are rotating throughout the centers. Ms. Rider stated that there are two full time staff employees that do rotate throughout the senior centers. She also stated that there are some part-time employees that are instructors at the centers as well.

Commissioner Jarvis (5) asked how many recreation assistants there are at the centers. Ms. Rider responded that there are 25 assistants across the 43 recreation centers. She also stated that there are about 10 full-time rec. assistants as well. She also stated that the fitness centers are available for seniors from the hours of 9 to 5.

Commissioner Nurre (15) asked Ms. Rider why there can't be more "only" senior centers built with budget money. Director Galleshaw reminded commissioners to be mindful of the fact that bond recommendations have already gone to council and that discussing specific projects and could be construed that as a "public body" as advocating for or against specific projects at this time.

Commissioner Roberts (14) made a recommendation that Park and Recreation promote on the social site Nextdoor.

Commissioner Austin (8) asked what are the plans for DART Older American's Month in May. Ms. Rider stated that they will be participating and that they will have an interactive area set up for seniors as well as Jeff from WellMed being on stage doing programs.

Chair Kline (13) asked about transportation for seniors to rec centers being a big challenge and what can be done to combat this challenge to have more seniors participate. Ms. Rider stated that is a challenge she will be working on. Commissioner Austin (8) mentioned My Ride, Uber/Lyft through Community Council of Governments and DART paratransit as options for transportation for seniors with medical needs.

The Senior Services Dept.

Mirka Norman, Supervisor for the City Senior Services dept. provided an update. Ms. Norman stated that the dept. has been very active in the community and thanked Park and Rec. for working with senior services in allowing the dept. to visit senior centers to promote the program on a monthly basis. Ms. Norman stated that senior services will be partnering with the Senior Source to provide outreach to the LGBTQ senior population next month. She mentioned The Senior Adult Health Fair and DART Older American's Month as outreach as well for the dept. Further, the Senior Services dept. will be developing an outreach event for Older American's Month as well. Ms. Norman stated that the dept. has remained fairly consistent with the number of calls with the majority of calls seeking financial assistance, housing, and home repairs respectively.

Q/A on The Senior Services Dept.

Commissioner Jarvis (5) asked if the Senior Services staff would be at WellMed, Marcus Annex, etc. in March. And Ms. Norman stated yes, the dates are posted where staff will be doing outreach. Commissioner Jarvis also asked where the LGBTQ outreach would be held. Ms. Norman stated that it would be at the Senior Source in April and that a flyer with that information would be shared with the commissioners as well.

Commissioner Tyson (10) asked for those centers not considered dedicated facilities, how are those centers served, i.e. Lake Highlands community center. Ms. Norman stated that the senior services

dept. has shared the dept. flyer with Park and Recreation, however, there will be more planning on how to serve more of those centers.

Other Concerns

Commissioner Austin (8) voiced her concerns about not being able to log in to her email for the last couple of months and doesn't know why. She stated that she is getting emails from the IT dept. stating that another device is logging in to her website.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, STANDING COMMITTEES

Senior Affairs Commissioners District Updates

Due to meeting going over the allotted time, district updates were not discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

After all the business of the Senior Affairs Commission had been considered, Commissioner Mike Nurre (15) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Tyson (10) and unanimously accepted. The Senior Affairs Commission meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

James Ramirez
Drafted by:
James Ramirez M.S.
Caseworker II
Office of Community Care / Senior Services

4/10/2024
Date


Approved by:
J. Peter Kline, Chair
Senior Affairs Commission

Apr 16, 2024
Date

WebEx Recording of SAC Meeting:

[Senior Affairs Commission March Meeting-20240318 1703-1 - Webex](#)