



*City of Arts & Innovation*

**MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION ON AGING**  
Monday, October 18, 2021, 4:00pm  
In-Person and Hybrid Meeting

Commissioners Present: DuBois, Jimenez, Keller, Kelley, Straight, Van Vegten, Welch

Commissioners Absent: Gillis, Whitehead

Staff Present: Noemi Lopez, Interim Deputy Director  
Anthony Zamora, Recreation Supervisor  
Marnie Smith, Recreation Services Coordinator

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Keller called meeting to order at 4:10pm

**Public Comments**

1. Cathy Jablonsky, Ward 4, commented on Dales Senior Center as an unsafe location, seniors concerned with being attacked and approached by the homeless.

**COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS**

2. **BRIEF REPORTS ON CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, MEETING ATTENDED BY COMMISSION ON AGING MEMBERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING EVENTS.**

Co-Chair Keller asked if Commissioners had anything to report. Commissioner DuBois stated she attended two meetings. On Tuesday, September 28, Councilmember Edwards hosted a Ward 1 Dinner from 6-8pm for all Ward 1 commissioners and board members. On Thursday, September 30, Special City Council Safety Workshop.

**PRESENTATION**

3. **Guest Speaker – Phellina Castillo-Rivera, Senior Office Specialist (SOS), RPD – You Are Not Alone Y.A.N.A.**

Brief discussion and questions, Co-Chair Van Vegten asked can they receive emotional and spiritual support? Chaplin Annetti Bullock responded we do not offer religion support, if they have a certain belief, we connect them with resources. Commissioner Kelley asked how do you get new seniors? Phellina Castillo-Rivera responded there is a link on the City of Riverside Police website and a number to contact if they should choose to. We contact them and assign them to the volunteer that will be the best fit. Commissioner Kelley asked how do you become a volunteer? SOS, Phellina Castillo-Rivera, reported also on the City of Riverside website there is a link to

become a volunteer. Once we receive their application, we follow up with them. Commissioner Kelley asked are the seniors always contacted by phone? SOS, Phellina Castillo-Rivera reported seniors are given a phone buddy that contacts them weekly, they never visit them at home. Commissioner Jimenez asked if the participants ever talk about criminal activity? Sergeant, Tory Banks responded if the volunteers receive information or criminal concerns, they pass it on to me, Chaplin Bullock or SOS, Phellina, we follow up and address any issues. DuBois asked how many seniors are in the program? SOS, Phellina Castillo-Rivera responded they currently have 40 seniors. Commissioner DuBois asked how many volunteers do you have? SOS, Phellina Castillo-Rivera responded they currently have 5 volunteers. Commissioner DuBois asked how do you become volunteers for Y.A.N.A.? SOS, Phellina Castillo-Rivera responded they can apply online; we currently have 200 in the database. Commissioner DuBois asked if there is a training they go through? Chaplin Annetti Bullock responded they receive a pamphlet with dos and don'ts, handful of resource guides and she reaches out monthly via text and/or calls. Commissioner Straight asked do you have holiday parties? SOS, Phellina Castillo-Rivera responded pre-covid they did a yearly Y.A.N.A tea for volunteers and participants. We also do A Santa to Seniors, the PSR's, Chaplin Annetti Bullock and I go out and delivers gifts.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

After discussion, the Commission accepted the minutes from the October 18, 2021 meeting.

Motion: Co-Chair Van Vegten  
Second: Commissioner DuBois  
Ayes: All Agreed

### **5. DETERMINE WHETHER COMMISSIONER GILLIS'S ABSENCE FROM THE COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING 9/20/2021, SHOULD BE RECORDED AS AN EXCUSED ABSENCE.**

Motion: Co-Chair Van Vegten  
Second: Commissioner Kelley  
Ayes: All Agreed

### **6. Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

- i. Advocacy
  - a. AARP Partnership  
Co-Chair Keller reported no update. Commissioner DuBois contacted Councilmember Edwards to be involved with homeless issues.
- ii. Events  
Co-Chair Keller asked if Commissioners had anything to report.
- iii. Resources  
Co-Chair Keller asked if Commissioners had anything to report.
- iv. Emergency Preparedness  
Co-Chair Keller asked if Commissioners had anything to report.

**7. Discussion on Writing Letters and Cards for Seniors**

Commissioner Kelley reported they held a sub-committee meeting today and will simplify the letter and meet again next week. Commissioner Straight reported they will utilize city service to print and will collect commissioner signatures at the November 15 meeting. Commissioner DuBois reported the decision was to make it inclusive and simple, do this possibly seasonally reach out to Y.A.N.A for list.

**8. Update on Current COVID-19 Status**

Recreation Supervisor, Anthony Zamora, reported no drastic changes, the city team continues to meet weekly. La Sierra Campus and Springbrook Clubhouse offer drive thru testing sites. City Hall is a walk-up testing site. La Sierra Campus will hold a Blood Drive Tuesday, November 23 from 12-7pm. He will reach out to Emergency Services Administrator, Mark Annas for updated numbers and protocol for November 15 meeting. Co-Chair Van Vegten asked what is the turn around on the covid test results and does everyone except those results? Supervisor Zamora reported the response time is usually 24 hours and they have been excepted at most places. Commissioner Kelley asked how do you go about signing up for testing? Supervisor Zamora responded best to make an appointment with Curative online.

**9. Update on Senior Classes**

Recreation Services Coordinator, Marnie Smith, reported the hours of operations at Dales and La Sierra Senior Centers, and Stratton/Bordwell, Orange Terrace, Villegas Community Centers, Trunks and Treats Scavenger Hunt at Dales Senior Center on Tuesday, October 19 from 11am to 2pm; Seniors 50+ Golden Future Expo Doubletree Hotel Ontario, Saturday, October 23 9am-1:30pm, Halloween Costume Contest at La Sierra Senior Center on Wednesday, October 27, from 1 to 4pm.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION AS REQUEST BY COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Co-Chair Keller asked if any Commissioners had any items for future consideration.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Co-Chair Keller reported next meeting will be an In-Person and Hybrid Meeting on Monday, November 15, 2021 at 4pm, and then adjourned the meeting at 4:55pm.