

RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES
SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 13, 2010 - 11:00 AM
LAS PALMAS PARK
505 S. HUNTINGTON STREET, SAN FERNANDO, CA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Marco "Tulio" Escobar, Michael Kmet, Clara Krum
and Benita Rivera

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Angel Avila

STAFF PRESENT: Al Hernandez, Interim City Administrator
Virginia Ufano, Community Services Supervisor
Maribel Perez, Program Specialist
Linda Bowden-Moreno, Office Specialist

I. CALL TO ORDER

Michael Kmet called the meeting to order at 11:07 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Michael Kmet

III. ROLL CALL

Roll call led by Linda Bowden-Moreno

Present: Marco "Tulio" Escobar, Michael Kmet, Clara Krum
and Benita Rivera

Absent: Angel Avila

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda for December 13, 2010 Senior
Citizen Advisory Board Meeting.

Motion: Clara Krum
For: Unanimous
Against: None
Abstained: None

Seconded: Benita Rivera

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Preciana, A senior citizen and participant of the ENP, commented on the overall feeling of the ENP participants regarding visiting other centers in the area. Most seniors are familiar and happy attending this center and are not interested in visiting other centers. In addition, transporting seniors to other centers would be an added cost to the City. Those funds should be applied towards this meal program instead of transportation to other centers.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- No New Business

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Elderly Nutrition Program

- Al Hernandez, City Administrator, reported that he would be addressing short-term, immediate options to address the current reduction in meals served at the Elderly Nutrition Program.
- Mr. Hernandez addressed rumors regarding the City closing down the ENP. This is not correct information. The City has no plans to close this program. Mr. Hernandez encouraged everyone to ask questions and verify information with staff when rumors and misinformation is being shared.
- Mr. Kmet added that reports in the *San Fernando Sun* may have taken information and sensationalized it when reporting on the meal program.
- Mr. Hernandez discussed the option of seniors being transported to other local centers, which are reporting excess meals in their program for seniors. This is a short-term solution for those who wish to visit other facilities on a voluntary basis. Ms. Ufano and Ms. Perez have visited various centers in the surrounding areas to gather data on the availability of meals, safety issues and the overall conditions of the centers. Mr. Hernandez discussed arranging transportation for a group of seniors who are friends and are willing to visit another center during their meal program. This is a short-term solution, which would help address the current shortage of meals.
- Mr. Hernandez also discussed moving City funds around to help meet the demand of the senior meals. This may take several months during

the approval process from granting authorities. In the meantime, the City is looking for immediate options to address the shortfall of meals.

- The City is also working with the County to increase the allocation of congregate meals. There are four facilities in close proximity that do not have sufficient participants while Las Palmas has a large number of seniors and insufficient meals to meet this need. The County should allocate more meals where the demand is higher.
- Ms. Rivera requested that the information just discussed be translated to accommodate Spanish-speaking seniors. Mr. Hernandez translated the information previously discussed into Spanish.
- Andy, an ENP participant, commented that many seniors do not drive and transportation is an issue when discussing visiting other centers. He also stated that he has visited one of those centers in Pacoima, which has a large Filipino community. The music and activities are much different from what Las Palmas has to offer.
- Mr. Hernandez reported that transportation would be made available. This service would not be an added cost to the City as bus routes would just need to be restructured to accommodate transportation to senior centers. Again, this is just an option. This is not a mandatory change.
- Ms. Ufano reported on the four senior centers she and Ms. Perez visited. The centers are: **Olive Manor Apartments** in Sylmar, **Alicia Broadous Duncan Multipurpose Senior Center** in Pacoima, **Sunland Senior Center** and **Nikkie Village Senior Apartments** in Pacoima.
- Each site reported an availability of 15-20 meals. The meals are allocated to the individual site and would have to be eaten at that site. The meals cannot be transported to Las Palmas.
- Ms. Ufano provided a hand out with the menu and activities of each of the four sites.
- Mr. Kmet commented that people should consider that funds are a problem and that this is an option.
- Nick, an ENP participant, had questions regarding funds collected from the San Fernando Court House resulting from collecting ticket fines and other fees.
- Another woman who is an ENP participant commented that the cold weather is a factor to consider when transporting seniors to and from centers. Most seniors at Las Palmas are not interested in visiting any

other centers. They have become accustomed to this center and the people.

- Patty Folb commented that she requires bus transportation to bring her to Las Palmas. She would then need additional transportation to visit another center. She stated that she likes Las Palmas and does not wish to go elsewhere.
- Lupita agreed with previous commentary. She is not interested in going elsewhere. She likes Las Palmas and will not be going anywhere else.
- Julia Martinez commented to staff that seniors can be stubborn at times and do not like change. Those who visit Las Palmas have voiced their displeasure with the idea of visiting other centers.
- Mr. Marco Tulio Escobar suggested a trial group agree to visit another center prior to rejecting the idea altogether.
- Joe, an ENP participant, commented that he likes the meals, the people and the activities here.
- Mr. Hernandez reminded seniors this is only an option that will not be enforced. The number of meals currently served will continue here at Las Palmas.
- Ms. Krum asked about securing funding in the future. Mr. Hernandez assured everyone that staff is working hard to address this issue.

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

- No additional commentary at this time.

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Ms. Krum commented that she finds it difficult to cook for herself due to her age and health. She is 91 years old and appreciates coming in to Las Palmas for a meal every now and then.
- Ms. Rivera reported that lighting at Las Palmas Park continues to be a problem. Numerous light posts are out on the walkway and children's playground. This has previously been reported.

- Ms. Rivera discussed the lack of holiday decorations in the City. This City deserves more than a four-foot Christmas tree as a holiday decoration.
- Ms. Rivera remarked that council members need to be appear more presentable and better groomed when representing the City as council members. There are times when council members show up to meetings looking un-kept and not properly groomed.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Senior Board meeting adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

Motion:	Clara Krum	Seconded by: Marco "Tulio" Escobar
For:	Unanimous	
Against:	None	
Abstained:	None	