

MINUTES

SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION

Teleconference

September 17, 2020

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Nicholas Yagar, Chair
Emma Burns, Vice-Chair
Janet Brown
Alden Esping
Sharon Linderman
Ray Shah
Paul Vicknair

STAFF PRESENT:

Wendy Hernandez, Community Services Supervisor
Beth Lapkowski, Administrative Assistant

AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Yagar called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Vicknair led the Commission in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Chair Yagar presented the minutes of the July 16, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Vicknair made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Esping; minutes approved unanimously.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None received.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **Providing Seniors with Information on Issues to be Voted On** – Vice-Chair Burns is concerned that seniors aren't receiving information they need to make voting decisions. Wendy Hernandez will send the commissioners the link to the City website where they can find information and noted that any member of the public can go to the website at www.anaheim.net/2917/election to see voter information but that there isn't anything specifically offered to seniors. Wendy Hernandez shared that additional voting information can also be found on the election and ballot information mailed out to voters.
6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
 - A. **Senior Citizen Commission Collection & Distribution of Face Masks** – Chair Yagar thanked those on the commission who have been working on the mask distributions, specifically Commissioners Vicknair, Brown and Linderman. Commissioner Brown and Chair Yagar will provide information about future scheduled mask distributions to Wendy to notify the commissioners. Chair Yagar remarked about the excellent job City staff has done with the food distributions, as well as Hazel from the Senior Citizens Club. Chair Yagar asked if there was a way the City could send thank-you letters to the organizations that have been donating masks; Wendy stated that she will work on that.
 - B. **Advertisement of Face Masks at Grab-n-Go Food Distribution** – Chair Yagar asked if other commissioners felt there was a need to advertise the distribution of the masks. Vice-Chair Burns stated she

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feels it would help get more people involved. Commissioner Vicknair stated his concern that if it is advertised there may not be enough masks to go around. Chair Yagar stated that in order to proceed with advertising there would need to be approval by the Commission. Commissioner Vicknair made a motion that once sufficient masks are available, that whatever publications are available are used to advertise the distributions, seconded by Commissioner Esping. Chair Yagar asked Commissioner Vicknair to repeat his motion and explain how the advertising would happen. Commissioner Vicknair restated the motion that the Senior Citizen Commission supports notification by any and all available means of the distribution of face masks at any available community centers; motion seconded by Commissioner Esping. Commissioner Brown stated that the Library and Altrusa have been distributing kits to seniors that include art kits, and she isn't sure how that is being advertised but she suggested perhaps partnering with them. Wendy will look into Commissioner Brown's request. Commissioner Yagar called for a vote; motion carried unanimously.

- C. **Senior Concerns Regarding COVID-19** – Commissioner Vicknair stated that seniors are concerned about people not wearing masks consistently or properly. Chair Yagar agreed with the concerns raised but stated he isn't sure what can be done. Commissioner Shah added that the mask issue has become politicized and proper instruction for wearing masks needs to be advertised. Commissioner Vicknair asked if the commission could make a recommendation to City Council to require masks of Anaheim residents when they are in public places, specifically indoors. Wendy Hernandez stated that that is currently the policy in Anaheim.

- D. **Newsletter-Informational Communication to Seniors on Resources Available during COVID-19, including COVID Safety and Prevention** – Commissioner Brown stated they need direction from City staff; the Anaheim magazine is not currently being published due to budget constraints and if they prepared a newsletter, she asked how they would get it distributed to just seniors. Commissioner Shah found a flyer on the City website today, but stated it doesn't address all of the information seniors need, such as social events, etc. Commissioner Brown asked if the City was offering any virtual classes; Wendy stated that they are unable to offer virtual classes at this time.

Wendy confirmed that the Anaheim Magazine is on hold for now due to budget constraints, and stated that if the Commission still wishes to send a newsletter, this is the opportunity to vote on that so it can be discussed at the City level to see if it's possible. She also referred the commissioners to the City website at www.anaheim.net/newsletter to receive updates by the City electronically. Commissioner Vicknair discussed ways to partner with other groups. Commissioner Brown made a motion to ask the City to investigate the possibility of a newsletter distribution, seconded by Commissioner Vicknair; motion passed unanimously.

- 7. **PUBLIC COMMUNICATION ACTION ITEMS**: None.

- 8. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**: Wendy provided more information on the Anaheim website link for election information. She also updated the commission on the Senior Safety Net Program that assists seniors 55 and over with rental assistance and case management; the contact number is (714) 765-4500. Wendy reported that Community & Economic Development is also looking to reopen an emergency rental emergency assistance program for those experiencing a loss of income due to the impacts of COVID.

- 9. **ADJOURNMENT**: Chair Yagar adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

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NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 19, 2020**, at 2:00 p.m.