

# Commission on Aging Minutes

Wednesday, March 2, 2005  
10:00am – 12:00pm

## Call to Order

Chair Frank Rose called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

## Roll Call

**Commissioners Present:** Frank Rose, Chair, Bobbie Bond, Vice Chair, Ronald Chan, Ronald Timpson, Brenda Crawford, Anne Spanier, and Stanley Garcia.

**Commissioners Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Tracy Jensen (Senior Services Administrator), Jessica Robinson (Administrative Assistant)

## Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Bond moved that the February 2, 2005 minutes be approved. Commissioner Chan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- NOTE: At this point the Commissioners agreed to start item 8, Open Forum, while Ms. Mary-Louise Zernicke finished preparing for item 4.

## Open Forum

*John E. Caner, Rebuilding Together Oakland*

Mr. Caner told the Commission that the Rebuilding Together Oakland Board wants to double the size of the impact their organization has on the City of Oakland. Mr. Caner informed the Commission that his organization will be applying for seed funding to develop a year round program to improve accessibility for senior and disabled residents.

## **Food Access and Availability Issues for Oakland Seniors**

*Mary-Louise Zernicke, M.P.H., R.D., Nutritionist~ Alameda County Area Agency on Aging*

Ms. Zernicke reported to the Commission a study on the eating habits of Alameda County seniors. Ms. Zernicke explained that 10% of all Meals on Wheels clients are over the age of 90. She said that 84% of seniors are living on a fixed income with a \$20,000 cap. Half a million California seniors are living on SSI, money that people receive because they are not eligible for social security but are living with a long term disability. Seniors living on SSI are not eligible to receive food stamps. Ms. Zernicke said that if any one should need a list of local resources or a booklet of information that supports seniors living and cooking at home, they should call the Senior Information & Assistance number at 1-800-510-2020.

## **Senior Center Without Walls**

*Terry Englehart, Director~ Senior Resources at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Oakland*

Ms. Englehart is a part of a Senior Center that operates through the telephone to reach out to home-bound and isolated seniors. Information & Flyers regarding Senior Center Without Walls are available at local senior centers and are distributed by the Meals on Wheels program. Senior Center Without Walls promotes healthy social interaction via the telephone with classes such as: Senior Support Groups, Cultural Exchange Groups, Bingo, Yoga Groups, and Sing Along Groups. All facilitators are volunteers and they are trained to be alert to problems over the phone and to make home visits, if necessary. The facilitators also give out helpful advice and information to seniors. Senior Center Without Walls is hoping to open a Spirituality Group as well as groups in other languages as it grows.

## **Approval of 2005 Senior Services Set Aside Priorities and Awards**

*Tracy Jensen, Senior Services Administrator~ City of Oakland  
Department of Human Services*

- This is an ACTION ITEM

Ms. Tracy Jensen explained that the expected grant amount per organization should be \$45,000 this year. The 2005 grant application is intended to help develop true partnerships between agencies in the City of Oakland.

**2005 Oakland Senior Services Set- Aside Contract Calendar**

- February 8:** Steering Committee meets to determine project areas and award caps
- March 2:** Commission announced decisions regarding project areas and establishes Set-Aside Committees.
- March 14:** Distribution of RFP
- March 22:** Bidders Conference
- April 15:** Proposals due
- April 18-29:** Review committee(s) meet
- May 4:** Commission votes on Committee recommendations
- May 6:** Letter to successful applicants
- May 9-27:** Contracts drafted by Commission staff
- June 6-24:** Internal contract review and approval
- June 27-30:** Contracts signed
- July 1:** Set-Aside Programs begin serving Oakland seniors

Commissioner Bond motioned to accept the Steering Committee Calendar. Commissioner Spanier seconded. Motion Passed.

Tracy Jensen suggested to the Commission that the 2005 Set-Aside Committee should be made up of the entire Commission.

Brenda Crawford motioned for the 2005 Set-Aside Committee be a "Committee of the Whole" Commission on Aging. Commissioner Chan seconded. Motion Passed.

### **Committee Reports**

a) **Steering- Chairperson Rose**

The Steering Committee needs funds donated so that farmers can buy net to cover their organic crops from the birds. Chairperson Rose said that without the netting, access to nutritious foods for seniors could become more difficult.

b) **Access- Commissioner Crawford**

The Access Committee met on February 8<sup>th</sup> with the Community Support Committee to discuss the Set-Aside Grant Calendar.

c) **Community Support- Commissioner Bond**

The Community Support Committee had a joint meeting with the Access Committee.

d) **Transportation- Commissioner Chan**

The Transportation Committee has no report. The Transportation Committee will meet on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Announcements/Correspondence**

*Tracy Jensen, Senior Services Administrator~ City of Oakland  
Department of Human Services*

Ms. Jensen announced that Older Americans Month is celebrated in May and the City of Oakland will be holding festivities on May 20<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 1pm. Ms. Jensen also announced that Oakland City Attorney, John Russo, will present his Community Update at the next April 6<sup>th</sup> Commission on Aging meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:03pm.**