

CITY OF RICHMOND

Commission On Aging

Friday, July 7, 2023, 10 AM

Richmond Memorial Auditorium, Farallon Room, 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA

PRESENT: Michelle Hayes, Chair, Myrtle Braxton, Vice Chair, Regina Whitney, Secretary, Rose Brooks, Treasurer, Bev Wallace, Kiran Agarwal, Cate Burkhart, Bryan Harris

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request disability related accommodations to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact City Attorney's Office, ADA Coordinator, at 510-620-6509 at least five (5) business days before the meeting date.

MINUTES**1. Meeting called to Order by Chair Hayes – 108P****MOTION:** at 1201P, Chair asked for a vote to expand the meeting 15 mins. **APPROVED****2. Roll Call – Secy. Whitney late, Com. Harris took minutes & roll call. We have QUORUM.***ABSENT: Naomi Williams, Darlene Drapkin***3. Liaison to COA, Vice Mayor, Gayle McLaughlin – (absent) No Report****4. TECH Training by Steven Lipson – Did a brief overview on using social media services such as Instagram, Twitter & Threads via cell & laptop. Discussed pros & cons of each service. Training available for any commissioner needing/wanting to learn how to use.****5. Open Forum – Chair debriefed on her recent trip to DC****6. Review and Approve Minutes – (no June minutes available to approve)****7. Staff Report: Department updates – Kymberlyn stated that the department is hiring staff. Unfortunately, the department is not receiving applications. Thus, unable to re-start the senior center lunch program until at least 2 persons can be hired. If anyone knows of anyone wanting a job to please refer to the senior center ASAP. Staff affirmed that they are establishing a program for “senior rights” by the Justice Center. And free food vouchers are available for seniors for the Farmers Market (flyer sent by email). The 3rd of July Fireworks were in good attendance, a quiet and mellow crowd.****8. Presentation on Fall Prevention – Michele Alba, Fall Prevention Project Manager for Meals on Wheels, Diablo Region Division – We had a wonderful presentation by our guest, Michele Alba. She gave a brief overview of fall prevention and gave updates on**

the rules and procedures using their services. Much of the material was new information for the commissioners. Lots of questions and answers. The Vice-chair asked if she could be available for our upcoming Fire Safety Prevention workshop; she affirmed. The vice-chair asked Com. Harris to assist and serve as a liaison. He agreed.

9. Committee Reports – Action if need

A. Executive/Activities – Chair

1. Updates on proposed COA calendar for 2023:

Plans for Fire Safety Workshop – *Per VC Braxton, a date was set for 9/27/23 from 10a-12n). “Save the Dates” flyers available, please take and pass out. A “free” continental breakfast will be offered. Coffee & pastries confirmed. More details of presentations & presenters at the next meeting. VC Braxton asked Com. Harris to help co-chair the workshop with her. He agreed.*

Line dance event (Inaugural RICHsoul Line Dance Event) – *Per VC Braxton, a new date was set due to scheduling of another event. The new date is August 26, 2023 from 3p-7p, Cost is \$15 per person with lite refreshments included. Final update at the next meeting. “Save the Dates” flyers available, please take and pass out.*

October Retreat - *Per Chr. Hayes, the objective for the retreat is to set the 2024 agenda and calendar. The date is set for October 6, 2023 from 9a–2p at the Auditorium. We will be having a “Breakfast Potluck” so commissioners bring a dish/items to share. Lunch will be provided by the COA and catered.*

Winter Ball – *Per Chr Hayes & VC Braxton, all is on track for Saturday, December 16th 2023 from 6p-10p, Cost is \$45pp/\$360 per table of 8. The auditorium is confirmed, the Band is being confirmed, they are still seeking a bartender service and setting the details on the caterer. More information at the next meeting.*

2. Debriefing of Juneteenth Festival – *The celebration event was well attended; however, many city officials were not present. Per Com. Whitney, we got a lot of new names to sign up for our events mailing list and newsletter.*

3. Participation of commissioners at planned events – *Coms. Whitney & Harris announced that they plan to outreach at the Pt. Richmond Music Summer event on Friday July 14, 2023 with the “Save The Date” cards.*

4. New Business: COA Imaging – *Due to the shortage of time, Com. Harris asked to table until next month. He noted that Liaison to the COA/VM McLaughlin is assisting him with additional research for the city’s protocols for brand marketing.*

B. Finance – Treasurer – *Chair Brooks stated that she is working with Hope in Finance.*

C. Education – Chair Burkhart – *There will be a legal assistance workshop to fill out forms on October 11th, 2023. Details will be shared at the next meeting.*

D. Health, Nutrition, & Senior Centers – *Com. Harris reported that there is a new Interim Directors named Tabitha Hughes for the Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for West County. The frozen meal program has expired 7/1. They are re-setting to pre-COVID standards and eligibility criteria. NO MORE DISTRIBUTION CENTERS. MOW have been telling “all senior centers” to reopen their hot lunch café effective immediately. Anyone who is ambulatory (walking) and can get to a senior center, has been asked to do so if they want to participate in a nutritional lunch program. MOW is in the progress of updating all active recipient accounts. They are no longer taking new sign ups without medical referrals. Income variables will be disqualifiers. In addition, IHSS recipients will no longer be able to receive home delivery services as they have caregivers who prepare their meals. This is a NEW mandate. It is expected that 1/3 of all registered participants will become disqualified and dropped from the program by the end of 2023.*

- Letters, home visits and telephone calls are being made to notify people of changes. This began in MARCH 2023 and continues today.

The bottom-line, MOW wants the community to know that they are returning to pre-COVID standards for which they are only handling “home delivery services only.” Frozen meals will continue to be passed out weekly but only at the qualified home delivery level. FINAL NOTE: there is now a waiting list for sign-ups, even with a doctor’s referral. This IS because of the over-inflated enrollment levels due to COVID, nationwide. It is not just a California thing nor a Contra Costa County problem.

E. Transportation – *Chair Agarwal reported that all bus services have returned to full operating schedules. For the new fiscal year, 1.5 billion has been budgeted for all transportation services. And Richmond has been selected to benefit from the expansion of services.*

F. Legislative – Chair Whitney – No Report

10. Agenda Protocols - *Chair Hayes reminded everyone of the protocol for requesting agenda items to be added for meetings should be emailed to her by the Wednesday before executive board meeting, the 3rd Wednesday of the month.*

11. Announcements – *a reminder was given to the commissioners that the board and committee training is set for July 12, 2023, 2p by the City Councils office. Everyone was encouraged to attend. It is an online workshop. All new commissioners were asked to attend. Com. Harris stated that he registered and will attend.*

And there will be an up-coming PowerPoint presentation on Brown Act Training soon.

12. Adjourn – 1245p

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