

CITY OF RICHMOND

Commission On Aging

Friday, March 1, 2024, 10 AM
Richmond Memorial Auditorium, Farallon Room,
403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

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

ABSENT: Regina Whitney, Secretary, Naomi Williams

STAFF: Kymberlyn Carson-Thrower, Carlette Harris-Virgil

GUEST: LaShonda White, Betty Blackmore-Gee, Nathetta Pree, and Shawn Dunning

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 – 10:05a**
- 2. Roll Call by Secretary Whitney – per Chair Hayes, she asked Com. Harris to serve as acting secretary for the meeting; to record and report the minutes. Com. Harris tallied 7 present commissioners, 2 absent and 4 guests. *Quorum is achieved.***
- 3. TECH Training by Steve Lipton - no report, absent**
- 4. Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin – per Councilmember liaison, she reported that the city council members are working on the mid-year budget & will review at the next COA meeting. In following up with the request for Spanish translation services for COA flyers and press releases, the city managers' office CAN provide those services as needed. Gayle reminded the following calendar events:**
 - Saturday, March 16th – Sisters in Solidarity at the LaVonya DeJean Middle School from 10:00A to 2:00P. *(Coms. Braxton & Harris will table at the event)*
 - Saturday, April 13th – Richmond 2024 Annual Literacy Festival at the Richmond Auditorium from 10:00A to 2:00P. This year's theme "Freedom to Thrive."
 - Sunday, March 24th – Farmers Market at the Marina Bay Park from 10:00A to 2:00P. *(tentative date)*
- 5. Guest Speaker – LaShonda White – our guest speaker is the Deputy City Director of Community Services. She disbursed a flyer of listed services to her department. She noted that the summer Library program for seniors, we can get from the website. In addition, the library will be offering their books in digital and download formats including audiobooks. LaShonda also expressed that the city is now extending private security (Richmond Explorers) for all COA events when hosted. The commissioners**

are extremely happy and extended a gracious thank you. She concluded that a new transportation service is now being offered called eBikes. These are green colored bikes that can be rented via your credit/debit card to be used to get around town. More information is now available on the city's website. She thanked us for inviting her and hopes to return again.

6. **Open Forum** – per Chair Hayes, she asked the guest to introduce themselves:

Shawn Dunning – a long-time resident of Richmond wanted to see how the Commission conducted business for the senior population and within the community of Richmond. He also announced that he is running for City Council, District 6. (Note: he ran for Mayor in 2022). He thanked the commission for their time and service. Shawn was the guest of Com. Harris.

Nathetta Pree - thanks everyone for the gracious opportunity to be apart of the meeting. She officially retired in 2015 but is now looking for some supplemental activities to keep her busy. Kymberlyn announced that she was the recent part-time new hire for the senior center; that she'd be doing more clerical based projects along with organizing senior related social activities.

Betty Blackmore-Gee – she too thanked everyone for letting her sit-in on the meeting. Betty has been working for Contra Costa County in various Public Health programs for over 30 years. She's known Com. Harris for the same amount of time. She is considering membership with the COA. Betty was the guest of Com. Harris.

All of the commissioners introduced themselves to the guests.

7. **Review and Approve Minutes** – February minutes were **APPROVED**.

(Motion: Com. Burkhart, Second: Com. Braxton, Motion passes unanimously with 7 votes.)

8. **Recommend and vote on Senior Winter Ball band, "Top Shelf Classics Band" cost of \$3500.00** – per Staff, the price has stayed the same for the past 2 years.

(Motion: Com. Braxton; Second: Com. Wallace, Motion passes unanimously with 7 votes.)

5 Minute Break was given at 10:53A

9. **Recommend and vote on grant referral letter from COA on behalf of Steve Lipson to AARP to do a senior art program in Richmond in conjunction with the Richmond Art Center.** – per chair, she asked the commissioners to give our AI Tech liaison approval to apply for the grant and for COA to right a letter of recommendation for him.

(Motion: Com. Burkhart, Second: Com. Harris, Motion passes unanimously with 7 votes)

10. **Staff Report: Department updates** – per support staff, they introduce the new part-time staff (Nathetta Pree) for the senior center. The transportation committee asked staff to provided light refreshments for the Transportation workshop on March 14th. It was Agreed. And Com. Harris asked if an assorted of continental breakfast food items be provided for the health clinic on April 18th. It was

agreed. Staff concluded that it still needs a main article for the newsletter along with a recipe. Deadline March 5th. Com. Harris offered his Great-grandmothers Dr. Pepper Cake recipe.

11. Reports – 30 minutes

1. Senior Health Clinic Update – *per Com. Harris, he has affirmed the partnership with Lifelong Medical and confirmed the walk-in health clinic for April 18th. In addition, he has found Dr. Desmond Carson. Lifelong Medical is arranging to have him be our keynote speaker as he is on their staff. Details will be discussed at the April meeting. The only final task is finding a “bone density testing portable machine” (via Kaiser) as Lifelong does not offer this service. Note: light refreshments will be offered like we have had at past COA events. Support staff will arrange the details and provide set-up arrangements at the event. The flyer for the Senior Wellness Health Clinic is being worked on, final edits and a debriefing with Lifelong staff next week via Zoom.*

2. Open for commissioners reports of meetings that were attended –

- a. Com. Burkhart, the OAEF (Older Adults Education Forever) are traveling to Sacramento next weekend to lobby for education rights for seniors.*
- b. Com. Harris followed up with the MXCAB & the Advisory Committee for the MXCAB reports stating that persons/groups seeking funding should be attending these meetings so as to ask for assistance in applying for money. In addition, commissioners should be sitting in on the meetings to learn more about how the \$29 Million revenue funds are going to be spent in 2024.*
- c. Chair Hayes stated that she, Steve Lipton, and Com. Burkhart will be attending the next ACOA meeting March 20th. They will debrief at the April meeting. She also mentioned the ACOA Housing committee would be presenting a PPT slide presentation at their next meeting to discuss the eligibility process. And regards to the CA Poor Peoples Campaign, she & a few others would be going to Sacramento on March 2 to advocate for the rights of poor people. Chair Hayes stated that she was donating a poetry book for the Sisters in Solidarity door prize.*

3. Discuss planned 2024 Calendar workshops. Would like to put a document together with the name of the project, date of the project, what needs to be done, who is doing it, etc. A timeline when things should be completed, etc.

- Per Support Staff, the senior center new hire (Nathetta) offered to assist with this project as she experienced in creating “workplan timelines.”*

4. Finance Report by Rose Brooks – no report

Announcements

- ✓ **Senior Information & Health Fair – May 22** (*flyers are now available*)
- ✓ **2nd Annual Senior Line Dance – August 24** (*working on the SAVE the Date cards & event flyer.*)

Adjourn – 12:11P

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