

CITY OF RICHMOND

Commission On Aging

Friday, March 7, 2025; 10:00AM -12:00PM
Richmond Memorial Auditorium, Farallon Room,
403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

PRESENT: Michelle Hayes, Chair, Myrtle Braxton, Vice Chair, Bryan Harris, Secretary/Treasurer, Kiran Agarwal, Lorene Holmes

ABSENT: Bev Wallace, Rose Brooks, Cate Burkhart, Gerry La Londe-Berg

COUNCIL LIAISON: Jamelia Brown

CITY STAFF: Kymberlyn Carson-Thrower

GUEST: Regina Whitney, Cordell Hindler, Logan Robertson, Vice-mayor Cesar Zepeda, Jackie Alexander, Pat Young and Sheri Tattenham.

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

RCOA Meeting MINUTES

1. Meeting called to Order by Chair Hayes (*meeting started by Vice-Chair Braxton*) 10:09 AM
2. Roll call by Secretary/Treasurer Harris - *Present 5, Absent 4* QUORUM YES
3. Tech Training (Steve Lipson) – *Steve announced that AB 239 (Hybrid tele-communications) hearings are in progress, more information at future meetings. SB 508 (Out-of-state Tele-health services) is pending, may be stalled due to the Trump's Administration recent political uproar. Note: all tele-health procedures are being revised. Measure X funding is coming through the district, there are grants pending for mental health services including for Alzheimer's and dementia awareness. More information to come at future meetings. Elder tech classes are returning mid-March, watch for email notices. Steve closed stating the between the new AI tech and a new software called SUNO (music), that it could help care for seniors who are elderly and/or more advance in years.*
4. Presentation – Home Match Contra Costa, Logan Robertson, Director – *Logan introduced herself to the committee, expressed happiness and excitement to be presenting. She passed out brochures. And gave a brief overview of the Home Match program, they helped place people in a shared living setting. The services are free and work exceptionally well for seniors living on a fixed income. At present, there is one office location in Contra Costa County (Pleasant Hill/Concord). Home Match is looking to expand into the West County area and would like to establish a second office in Richmond. They are looking for partners with both the Commission and the City of Richmond. The other commissioners were very excited to have knowledge of this wonderful, shared housing, living environment in Richmond. Updates will be coming in the coming months.*
5. Welcome our new council liaison, Jamelia Brown and vice mayor, Cesar Zepeda – *Both city council members introduced themselves and thanked everyone for electing them to represent the people. Both extended an "open door policy" to emails and for in-person visits. And actually, they both encouraged in-person meetings.*
6. Open Forum – *Cordell Hindler gave an update on the city council stating that on both 3/18 and 3/25, that the council will be review pending commissioner membership applications. And he announced that the next Contra Costa Mayors conference will be in Clayton on April 3rd. And he said in closing that on April 4th that RotaCare will be hosting another plated dinner at the Richmond Country Club. Pat Young introduced herself as a resident of Richmond wanting to learn more about the commission. She's a member of the Soul line Dance group. Sherri Tattenham introduced herself as a resident of Pinole wanting to learn more about the commission as well. And she's a member of the Soul Line Dance group. Both ladies were invited by Vice-chair Braxton to attend.*
7. Review and Approve Minutes – M: Myrtle Braxton, 2nd: Kiran Agarwal APPROVED YES
8. Secretary/Treasurer Report (Commissioner Harris) – *Both Secy & Chair have been attending online Leadership classes on how to better recruit & to fundraise. Our last class is on fundraising in April. In addition, most of the executive*

board have been attending workshops and presentations on both housing and transportation issues affect seniors in the Bay Area and Contra Costa County. Secy has been in touch with Cindy Howell. She's a Nutritionist on plant-based meals and blood type diets. She is available to give a presentation to the commission. Would we like to invite her? We are also considering having her table at the Senior Wellness & Nutrition Clinic in the Fall.

RE: the treasurer's report, unfortunately no report is available. The Finance manager was not available as the department is in the midst of preparing the annual budget report for May. I will ask for a full accounting report for our next meeting.

9. **Transportation Workshop Updates (Transportation Chair Harris)** – *The workshop is all set to go. Flyers are available to pass out. Digital flyers have all been sent to you. Please share & post them with friends and associates. A mass email was sent Monday (3/3) to all our community supporters. Another flyer was created in Chinese. Invitations to the Mayor's Office and the city council members have been sent. Both the city's newsletter and the CSD newsletter will feature the transportation workshop and press releases have been submitted to the local TV stations (KCRT & CCTV). The Richmond Standard ran our story on 2/19, and plan re-run a reminder notice on 3/19. All our vendors are confirmed.*
10. **Last month follow-up on committees and the need for people to sign up; to be on the committees and to be the leads. (Housing, Health & Nutrition, Finance & Fundraising, etc.)** - *A sign-up sheet is being passed around and forward via email for people to sign up. If you have skills, please consider being the chair for that committee.*
11. **Transportation workshop sign-ups** – *A sign-up sheet is available, or you can email your availability to the Secretary or the Transportation Chair.*
12. **Recommend that all the commissioners have 1 on 1 meetings with each other by Chair Hayes.**
13. **Quarterly newsletter** – *need ads as soon as possible. If anyone has a story, recipe or an article related to senior issues, please submit it to the Secretary or Staff (Kymberlyn) ASAP.*
14. **Staff Report: Department Updates**
 - A. **Update on Calendar dates** – *all dates is locked in & holding. We just need to submit the rental contracts based on everyone's agreement. And the executive board will affirm at the next meeting.*
 - B. **Need to form special committees for Senior Winter Ball and survey.** – *The executive board will discuss the survey at their next meeting in April. Meantime, city staff (Kymberlyn Carson-Thrower) stated that we need to secure prices quotes "now" and to lock in the band for the next two years. She will reach out to the contact and announce at the next regular meeting in April. There was a discussion about going with a different caterer next year. As it was reminded, 3 bids will be needed thus the commission can decide once the bids are submitted. Catering bids will be sent out in April.*
15. **Any comments/changes on calendar items?** **None**
16. **Announcements** – *Secretary Harris announced that AC Transit Macdonald Cutting Transit Improvement Project will be hosting a Community Open House on Thursday, March 13 from 4:00P to 7:00P at the Richmond Auditorium in the Bermuda Room. Commissioners were asked to attend. And flyers for the Senior Information and Health Fair are now available for distribution including vendor applications. An email will be sent to the Commissioners later today. Check you emails and to please share with friends and your groups including community partners.*
17. **Adjourn** Meeting adjourned at 12:14 PM

*Community Services-Recreation Staff Liaison: Kymberlyn Carson-Thrower
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