ROLL CALL

Present: Elizabeth Carty, Lillian Daniels, Mark Guthrie, Kimi Honda, Mary Queen, Thelma Soldavini, Willa Sudduth, and Chad Shepard
Absent: Janet James, Joanna Selby and Callie Major
Council Liaison: Janet Abelson is excused from the meeting.
Staff: Ellen Paasch, Liza Espadilla and Nousheen Chaudry
Guests: Miriam Joscelyn, Shirley Cressey and Jan Duckart

1. Minutes for Approval
Approve the November 18, 2009 Meeting Minutes. Action: Approved Minutes.

2. Public Comment
Ms. Duckart, St. John Senior Center Program Coordinator, reported the status of older adult programs under the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) Adult Education. WCCUSD announced funding only the English as a Second Language (ESL) and General Education Development (GED) programs. WCCUSD proposed adding a fee for service to support the other adult education classes and programs offered at the day care activity centers. The following adult day care activity centers affected by fee-based programming in El Cerrito are St. John Senior Center on Tuesdays, Christ Lutheran Senior Center on Mondays, Alzheimer’s Respite Program on Tuesdays and Sakura Kai on 1st & 3rd Saturdays at the Open House Senior Center.

3. Nominating Committee
Ms. Sudduth read the Slate of Officers as follows: Elizabeth Carty (Chair); Callie Major (Vice Chair); Willa Sudduth (Corresponding Secretary); Lillian Daniels and Kimi Honda (Member-At-Large). Action: Moved, seconded, carried (Daniels/Shepard) to accept the Slate of Officers with unanimous vote.

Ms. Carty read and assigned Subcommittee assignments as follows:

Transportation Thelma Soldavini and Mary Queen
Legislative (State & Federal) Elizabeth Carty and Mark Guthrie
Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council Joanna Selby
West County Coalition Joanna Selby and Chad Shepard
Health Care Willa Sudduth and Kimi Honda

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Ms. Cressey expressed her interest in joining the Legislative Subcommittee once City Council approved her membership to the Committee on Aging.

4. Reports

A. Council Liaison

No Report. Council Abelson excused from the meeting.

B. Transportation Subcommittee (Soldavini)

Ms. Soldavini expressed her concern about the increasing toll-bridge fare in the Bay Area, especially the Bay Bridge. She stated that the transportation fare will continue to rise affecting many working people who need to cross the bridge but live outside the San Francisco area. On a personal note, Ms. Soldavini reported not having telephone access and lifeline for five days due to AT&T telephone line problem. She explained the importance of having telephone access and lifeline connection in case of an emergency.

C. Legislative: State & Federal (Carty)

Ms. Carty reported In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and other adult day care programs are threatened with budget cuts in Sacramento. **Action:** Discussion held.

D. Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council (Selby): No report. Absent.

E. West County Coalition (Selby): No report. Absent.

F. Health Care Subcommittee (Sudduth): No report.


I. Membership (Daniels)

Ms. Daniels nominated Shirley Cressey for membership to the Committee on Aging as she has attended three consecutive meetings. Ms. Cressey’s nomination for membership will be forward to the City Council for approval.

J. Proposed New Senior Center (Paasch)

Ms. Paasch reported that the funding reserved for the building of the new senior center will be returned to the state as a result of State takeaway of Agency funds. On a local level, Senior Services Division eliminated a part-time 20-hour a week Senior Center Assistant and 6-hour Monday morning Registrar as part of Recreation departmental budget cuts. She added that the city is looking into using the General Fund to balance the budget. Discussion followed on senior center staffing, new classes, and generating revenues for senior services. **Action:** Discussion held.

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Ms. Carty proposed to send a letter to the City Council to address the proposed budget cuts affecting senior programs and services in El Cerrito. The letter will focus on senior transportation, health & wellness/nutrition, and isolation. Discussion followed on bi-laws, senior center programs and services, and adult day care activity centers in El Cerrito. **Action:** Moved, seconded, carried (Honda/Sudduth) to send a letter to the City Council with unanimous vote.

Ms. Carty shared to present the letter to the City Clerk and attend the City Council Meeting on Monday, March 1, 2010 to present the Committee on Aging’s concerns about the budget cuts affecting senior programs and services. **Action:** Discussion held.

5. **Items for January 2010 Agenda**
   **A. Needs Assessments, Older Adult Population City of El Cerrito**
   Ms. Carty read the *2003 Key Informant Summary* naming health care, transportation and housing as the most serious problems facing older adults in the United States. Discussion followed on older adult programs and services available in El Cerrito. **Action:** Discussion held.

   **B. City of El Cerrito General Plan**
   Ms. Carty discussed Committee on Aging’s input into the Housing Element of City’s General Plan. Discussion followed on affordable housing, senior housing, and Eskaton Hazel Shirley Manor’s wait list. **Action:** Discussion held.

6. **Staff Liaison Report**
   Staff Liaison Paasch introduced Ms. Chaudry as the new part-time Program Coordinator at the Open House Senior Center. Ms. Chaudry shared working for 20 years with the City of El Cerrito under the Recreation Department Child Care Services. She looked forward to working with Ellen Paasch, *Adult Programs Supervisor*, at the Open House Senior Center. She reported creating additional fee-based classes, workshops, computer classes, and senior trips to increase revenue at the Open House Senior Center. **Action:** Discussion held.

7. **Items for Next Agenda**
   Regular Items on the Agenda

8. **Adjournment**
   The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Submitted by:
Ellen Paasch, Adult Programs Supervisor
Liza Espadilla, Admin. Clerk Specialist
Senior Services Division

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