Roll Call

Present: Elizabeth Carty, Lillian Daniels, Mark Guthrie, Kimi Honda, Janet James, Callie Major, Mary Queen, Thelma Soldavini, Willa Sudduth, Chad Shepard

Absent: Joanna Selby

Council Liaison: Janet Abelson

Staff: Monica Kortz, Ellen Paasch, Liza Espadilla and Nousheen Chaudry

Guests: Shirley Cressey and Miriam Joscelyn

1. Approval of Minutes
February 17, 2010 Minutes approved unanimously.

2. Public Comment
Ms. Daniels reported on Tele-Care program offered at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Berkeley, CA. The program encourages and supports older adults through daily phone service from dedicated volunteers. Discussion followed on the availability of program at the Open House Senior Center, referral information, and case management. Action: Discussion held

Ms. Sudduth reported attending the Annual City of Richmond Community Guide event held in March. This event was sponsored by the Richmond Committee on Aging and was well attended by the general public.

3. Reports

A. Council Liaison
Mayor Abelson shared her concerns about the threat to the Adult Education program due to budget cuts in West Contra Costa School District. Programs affected by closure due to budget cuts were older adult day care on Monday at Christ Lutheran, Tuesday at St. John’s, Alzheimer’s Respite Program on Tuesdays and Sakura Kai on 1st and 3rd Saturdays at the Open House. Action: Discussion held.

B. Transportation Subcommittee
Ms. Soldavini reported on the rampant abuses of able-bodied drivers using handicap placard. She advised reporting to the authorities about the misuse of handicap placard. Discussion followed on new bus line route, El Cerrito Easy Ride and East Bay Paratransit. Action: Discussion held.

C. Legislative (State & Federal)
Mr. Guthrie reported the Governor’s 2010-11 budget proposal to cut state funding for...
Department of Aging Nutrition Services by 7% and eliminate the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program. A sample letter opposing the budget cuts addressed to the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee was provided. **Action:** Discussion held.

**D. Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council**
No report. Absent.

**E. West County Coalition**
Mr. Shepard reported updates on West County Coalition’s volunteer recruitment efforts, $10,000 reward from Chevron towards ombudsman program, Mental Health Grant, IHSS, Senior Transportation Provider Awards and Measure J Sales Tax revenue for transportation. **Action:** Discussion held.

Ms. Carty proposed to nominate Easy Ride Transportation Service to the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging’s Annual Senior Transportation Awards. **Action:** Moved, seconded, carried (Sudduth/Major) to nominate Easy Ride Transportation Service with unanimous vote.

**F. Health Care Subcommittee**
See report under Public Comment.

**G. Housing Subcommittee.** No report.

**H. Eskaton Hazel Shirley Manor.** No report.

**I. Membership**
Ms. Paasch confirmed Ms. Shirley Cressy’s nomination was forwarded to the City Council for approval for membership to the El Cerrito Committee on Aging.

**4. Old Business**

**A. Letter to City Council on Budget Cuts**
Ms. Carty reported attending the City Council to provide a presentation on vital senior services programs in El Cerrito on Monday, March 1, 2010. She shared her intention was to make the City Council aware of the depth of senior services provided by the Open House, Christ Lutheran and St. John’s Senior Centers. **Action:** Discussion held.

Ms. Carty read the draft letter to send to the City Council concerning the budget cuts on senior services programs in El Cerrito. Discussion followed on Open House staffing, budget cuts and role of Committee on Aging as representative of the El Cerrito senior population. Ms. Major recommended to postpone sending the letter to the City Council to address clarifications on the contents of the letter.

**5. Staff Liaison Report.** No report.

**6. Items for Next Agenda**
West Contra Costa Adult Education and Easy Ride Transportation Service Presentations

**7. Adjournment**
Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.