**SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center**

**Tuesday, November 12, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**

**MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Janie Aguirre called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL

 *Members Present:* Gilbert Aguirre, Janie Aguirre, Dolores Duran, Nancy Krueger, Josefina Lara, Paul Nakamura, Yoko Nakamura, Astrid Shesterkin, Hilda Zamora

 *Members Absent:* Johnny Hernandez

 *Staff:* Jose Carrillo, Community Services Supervisor/Executive Secretary

Adriana Ramirez, Administrative Assitant ll

 Ed Ramirez, Community Services Manager

 *Guests:* Santa Fe Springs Fire Rescue

1. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Hilda Zamora and seconded by Josefina Lara to approve the minutes for the October 8, 2024 meeting.

1. PRESENTATIONS

Captain Brian Bingham and his team from Santa Fe Springs Fire Station No. 4 provided several key fire prevention tips, particularly as the holiday season approaches. They emphasized the importance of never putting a frozen turkey into hot oil when frying, as it can cause a dangerous explosion, and urged to fry turkeys in open, outdoor spaces with a hose nearby. They also recommended testing smoke detectors regularly, changing batteries twice a year, using artificial Christmas trees and LED lights for safety, and avoiding overloading extension cords. The team highlighted the need for fire extinguishers in homes, particularly in the kitchen, and suggested having one that handles grease and electrical fires. For small grease fires, baking soda can be used to smother flames, while carbon monoxide detectors are crucial for homes with gas appliances. Additionally, they advised against using stoves or ovens for heating and recommended fire safety blankets as an alternative. Lastly, they urged the community always to call 911 in case of any fire, no matter how small, to ensure it is fully extinguished.

1. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

Jose Carrillo provided updates on several upcoming holiday programs and events.

* The Thankful Neighbor Basket Program, will take place on Friday, November 22, from 4 to 6 PM. Volunteers will help sort and assemble 175 food baskets for families in need.
* The Library’s First Friday event will be on December 6 at 7 PM, featuring Christmas carolers, a hot cocoa bar, and a photo booth.
* The Annual Tree Lighting event will be on Saturday, December 7, from 4 to 9 PM at Town Center Hall, offering live entertainment, food, crafts, photos with Santa, and a snow sled area.
* The Breakfast with First Responders event will be on Tuesday, December 10, from 8 to 9:30 AM, and attendees are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for donation.
* Las Posadas will be held at Heritage Park on Saturday, December 14, from 6:30 to

9:30 PM, featuring music, dancing, holiday crafts, and the procession.

* The Home Decorating Contest entries are due by December 6, winners will receive a plaque and lawn sign.
* Letters to Santa can be submitted from November 18 to December 14.
* The Neighborly Elf Basket Program will be on Saturday, December 21, from 9 to 11 AM, with free pancakes, photos with Santa, and community vendors. Additionally, the program requests $20 gift cards (Walmart or Target) for families with teens so they can purchase clothes or other necessities.
1. OLD BUSINESS

Jose Carrillo asked for feedback about the DJ for the Older Adult Dance. Members said the DJ’s playlist was not mixed, with some attendees unhappy about the lack of variety, as only Cumbia music was played non-stop without breaks or slow songs. Others felt the DJ didn’t engage with the crowd. Mr. Carrillo and Mr. Ramirez acknowledged the feedback and assured attendees that a new DJ would be hired for the next dance, with more variety in music. Jose also encouraged the advisory members to make song requests and mentioned that turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and cranberry sauce would be served for the upcoming Thanksgiving-themed dance.

1. NEW BUSINESS

None.

1. DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

Executive Secretary Carrillo provided a brief overview of the older adult programming that is currently in session and the upcoming special events.

1. *Family and Human Services Division Program and Project Updates*
2. Bingo takes place Tuesdays – Fridays (unless there is a Friday activity) from

9:00 – 11:15 a.m.

1. Monthly Birthday Cake Celebrations take place on the last Wednesday of the month at 11:45 a.m.
2. Café con José takes place on the third Thursday of the month at 11:45 a.m.
3. The Movin’ N’ Groovin’ Chair Exercise classes take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:15 – 9:15 a.m. In November this class will be offered at Los Nietos Park.
4. Pickleball takes place on Mondays and Wednesdays at Los Nietos Park from

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

1. Latin Dance Cardio takes place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. beginning in January.
2. Yoga takes place on Mondays from 1:00 – 2:20 p.m.
3. The Garden Fun Under the Sun takes place on Mondays from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.
4. The Older Adults Thanksgiving Feast will take place November 15th from

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1. The Jingle Bell Ball will take place Dec 6th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
2. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Members suggested that the newly elected members of the council attend an upcoming Senior Advisiory Committee meeting.

1. MEMBERS COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

1. ADJOURNMENT – CHAIRPERSON JANIE AGUIRRE

 Chairperson Janie Aguirre adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

**The Next Meeting of the Senior Advisory Committee will be held in-person at the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center on February 11, 2025.**



Jose Carrillo, Executive Secretary Adriana Ramirez, Administrative Assistant II