

MINUTES OF THE INITIAL MEETING OF THE SENIOR COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, HELD MARCH 13, 2008 AT THE COTTONWOOD OLD TOWN POLICE SUB-STATION, 817 NORTH MAIN STREET, COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA.

Marianne Jimenez, Cottonwood City Clerk, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Members Present

Evelyn Couturier
Ron Goldman
Beth Carrigan
Elaine Bremner
James Strande
Janice Montgomery

Commission Members Absent

Max Brown

City of Cottonwood Employees

Marianne Jimenez

Council Members Present

Duane Kirby
Linda Norman

ROLL CALL

Marianne Jimenez called the meeting to order and started the meeting by introducing herself, Council Member Kirby and Council Member Norman. In turn, each of the Commissioners introduced themselves and told a little about themselves.

REVIEW OF OPEN MEETING LAW AND COMMISSION'S CHARGE & DUTIES

Marianne Jimenez handed out information about the Open Meeting Law, and reviewed the Senior Commissioner's charges and duties.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

The Commissioners were invited to volunteer as the Commission Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, or make nominations. Beth Carrigan volunteered to serve as Chairman, and Elaine Bremner volunteered to serve as Vice-Chairman.

Marianne Jimenez informed the Commissioners that Linda Norman had volunteered to act as Secretary for the Commission, but if they had rather elect someone, it was their choice. Linda Norman was nominated and selected as Secretary.

ESTABLISHING REGULAR MEETING DATES, TIMES & LOCATIONS

Chairperson Carrigan opened the discussion for the Commissioners to agree on a day and time for the Senior Commission Meetings. After some discussion, it was agreed the meetings would be held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 1:00 P.M. It was also agreed that there should be a meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 27th, rather than delay the next meeting until April 24th.

ISSUES TO LOOK INTO AND DISCUSS AT NEXT MEETING

Council Member Kirby said he would like to see the City provide a Hot Line for any Senior Citizen who needs information. Vice-Chairperson Bremner stated she could provide a space at the Senior Center, if the City could provide the phone line. There was also discussion about finding and training volunteers to man the phone for a few hours a day.

Chairperson Carrigan suggested having a different person come to the meetings to provide some of the needs of our Senior Citizens, such as transportation and Social Security issues. If this could be done on a monthly basis, maybe it could be worked in with the Hot Line information.

A group of Non-Profits came to the Senior Center last April to provide information. It was stated that 25% of Yavapai County is over the age of 65, and 33% of Cottonwood is over the age of 60. Commissioners discussed having another event.

Vice-Chairperson Bremner stated that we also need to remember those that cannot get out of their homes to attend events.

Marianne Jimenez committed that maybe the Commission could develop a Companion relationship for the Senior Citizens who have no one to do things with.

Chairperson Carrigan said the Commission also needs to find a way to match people up with new friends, but Vice-Chairperson Bremner stated it should be done with great caution. There are so many instances of individuals taking advantage of the elderly.

Chairperson Carrigan recapped the issues discussed as:

- Hot Line for Senior Citizen Information
- Location and sources for resources
- Relationship building
- Make everyone aware there are things to do, and how they can help.

Council Member Kirby said his Church is thinking about developing an Adult Day Care Center along with their Children's Day Care Center.

There was a discussion of preparing a survey for Senior Citizens that could be distributed to the citizens of Cottonwood. Almost everyone is involved with a Senior Citizen, even if they have not reached that age as yet.

Commissioner Montgomery asked about including the Hot Line phone number on the City's water bill each month, since not everyone reads the newspaper or listens to the radio. The possibility of maybe asking A.P.S. to also include the phone number on their

bill was discussed, but it might be difficult to limit that information to the 86326 zip code.

Chairperson Carrigan summarized the needs as follows:

- What kind of questions would be placed on the survey.
- Does the Commission want to put an event together for Senior Citizens

Marianne Jimenez suggested that each Commission member think about questions for a survey and bring them back to the next scheduled meeting.

Another need that was mentioned, was car pooling for Senior Citizens. There are also some very important needs of the local Vets.

Recap of ideas:

- Hot Line – What is needed, and good skills trainings is needed for the volunteers
- Questions for a Survey
- Providers that have access on the week-ends
- Possibility of the Hot Line being forwarded on the week-ends
- Everyone who calls will need a referral
- Sedona Senior Coalition has agreed to share information that might be needed

Vice-Chairperson Bremner stated that she would like for the Commission to meet at the Senior Center for the April 24th meeting. She even suggested the Commission come to the Senior Center for lunch, and then have their meeting afterwards.

Items for the March 27th agenda:

- Survey Questions
- Target Date for a Senior Citizen Event to circulate surveys
- Ideas for interns for the Hot Line and Training Needed

Commissioner Montgomery volunteered to send information about the Commission Meetings to the local newspaper.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 A.M.