FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

June 20, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

Nelda Antunez
Celia Caldera
Santiago Gonzalez
Rocio Lozano
Ruben Rodriguez
Maritza Ruley
Maria Luz Elena Villanueva

GUEST

Frank Lopez

ABSENT

Trini Acosta
Armida Arredondo
Romana Grijalva

STAFF

Maria I. Valdivia
Beatriz Rivera
Rosario Ortiz
Janet Gonzalez

Quorum met.

CALL TO ORDER

Santiago Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes for the previous meeting were reviewed, no correction or discussions made, motion made by Ruben Rodriguez to approve, Maritza Ruley seconded, motion passed.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Santiago Gonzalez welcomed everyone and introduced himself. The council members and staff also introduced themselves.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

There are currently 146 active foster grandparents. The service has slowed down during the

summer. Currently there are about 70 foster grandparents serving. This is normal for the program. A lot of the volunteers will be getting their vacation paid as well.

Maria advised the members that the evaluations have also been completed.

She also advised that the grant with the Housing Authority did not go through. This grant would have funded 18-24 foster grandparents. There might be an opportunity later on during the year to apply for a very small amount.

The recognition banquet is still scheduled for December 14, 2007 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Maria did contact the Hilton Garden but it is too small. The Vista Del Sol conference room was to far; no bus or transportation available. The program will hold the banquet at the Wynham, formerly the Hilton, again this year.

This year Maria is looking for new entertainment for the banquet. Chito Gonzalez passed away. The band is needed for only one hour.

COMMITTEE REPORT

None to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Maria advised the members that the council is still short on members and recruiting members. She encouraged anyone who knows people interested to please let her know. Maria announced Rocio Lozano as the new council member. She works for the YWCA of El Paso. The council and staff also welcomed Frank Lopez.

Maria also spoke to the members about fundraising. This year a letter was sent to various organizations and the FG stations. It will let the program print an ad in the recognition banquet program. So far the program has received only one ad back. Trini suggested a letter be sent to AARP and Maritza suggested the Wynham. Frank Lopez suggested a letter be sent to the Electric Company. The members were given letters and ad information.

NEW BUSINESS

A small grant was awarded to the program from Goodwill Industries. This would fund one foster grandparent to work within the Goodwill Industry Program based at Ysleta High School.

Next Tuesday, June 26, 2007, city council will award the program with $25,597.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maria advised the members about seeking door prizes for the recognition banquet. We currently do not have any for this year.

The program is also working on getting the volunteers to turn in the forms for direct deposit. The city will be making it mandatory for every vendor to have direct deposit. It makes it easier on the city to track monetary transactions. It takes a lot of time to track stolen or lost checks.

Santiago advised that there will be an open house at the Palisades located at 1831 Murchison. Everyone was welcomed to attend.

The next advisory council meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 22, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ruben Rodriguez to adjourn meeting Maritza Ruley seconded, motion passed, meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

_____	_____
Reviewed by Maria I. Valdivia *Coordinator*	Approved by Santiago Gonzalez *Program Advisory Council President*
_____	_____
Date	Date