



Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and MEMBERS WEINSTEIN HALL, PERAZZO, GALATI, MOZDEAN and BIENENSTEIN

EXCUSED: MEMBERS AVILA and PATTARETTU

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, JEFF DOROCAC, Deputy City Attorney, and Cheyenne LaRance, Deputy City Clerk

2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway; Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue; City of Las Vegas Development Services Center, 333 North Rancho Drive.

3. Public Comment: Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

None.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of December 5, 2019

Motion made by Yvette Weinstein Hall to Approve

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

For-Yvette Weinstein Hafll, Kathleen Bienenstein, Vito Galati, Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, John Perazzo, Caroline Mozdean; Excused-Elizabeth Pattarettu, Nora Avila;

5. Report by Gregory Gray, Community Program Technician, Office of Community Services, regarding senior issues and 2020 Senior Services goals with the Office of Community Services – All Wards

Minutes:

GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, reported that his office is receiving calls from seniors asking for more utility assistance. His office would like to work with utility companies such as Southwest Gas and NV Energy to gather information so that they may help seniors with the application process. He was at the Howard Leiburn Senior Center helping a senior with unemployment, who was having a hard time getting ahold of the Unemployment Office staff and wondered if other seniors are facing similar issues. Visiting each of the senior centers to assist with general services and referrals is on his schedule for 2020.

Other goals for 2020 include developing a strategy to visit senior centers, utilizing the subcommittees to execute member senior goals, adding more information to the City senior webpage and compiling a list of previous meetings on to a YouTube playlist. He is also hoping to reach seniors online through the senior Facebook group.

MEMBER PERAZZO asked if a Facebook group was already established, and MR. GRAY confirmed it was.

MEMBER GALATI asked for the link to the page, and MR. GRAY said he would send it. MEMBER PERAZZO asked if his office works with the United Way, and MR. GRAY confirmed that they do. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON inquired about the top priorities for the Office of Community Services, and MR. GRAY replied to make their existence known to seniors. He explained that he was called to the Howard Leiburn Senior Center because the center's coordinator knew who he was and reached out. Another priority is to encourage meeting attendance. He added that the City senior webpage has a form stack for individuals to submit inquiries. MEMBER PERAZZO explained that he was having trouble getting on the City's free Wi-Fi, and had to seek assistance from someone in IT (Information Technologies) because nobody else knew how to get on. MR. GRAY suggested to attempt accessing another webpage first if you are having trouble getting to the City's access page.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL stated that people will give up if it is not user-friendly. MR. GRAY agreed, and noted that if something is not intuitive enough, people are going to assume that is just the way it is. He plans to meet with each member individually and flesh out goals.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON added that putting together a 'Coffee with Your Board Member' event would be great for spreading awareness. MR. GRAY replied that they will likely do a general 'Coffee with Seniors' event and invite the corresponding board members.

MEMBER GALATI wondered if information should be shared digitally and physically, and inquired about setting up a procedure so things are not done haphazardly. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON thought that would be nice because they are going to start having longer meetings. Everyone could review a digital copy ahead of time and then have an overall discussion at the meeting. MEMBER MOZDEAN agreed, and remembered receiving a copy of the Royal Pages which was sent out digitally, but noted that she would like a physical copy as well. MR. GRAY expressed that he was concerned about physical copies because the information becomes outdated very quickly. His office is trying to develop a system where regular agency contacts are established, making it easier to refer seniors knowing that they are reliable. MEMBER MOZDEAN replied that the Royal Pages is only distributed once a year, and anything is better than nothing. MR. GRAY stated that he encourages people to call him when needing assistance, and added that his desk phone is linked to his cell. He explained that his office does not like giving out numbers and links to various resources because it becomes very overwhelming and many seniors do not know where to start. It is best to call one number, and he will find someone to help if he is unable to. MEMBER MOZDEAN stated that she would hate to overwhelm MR. GRAY, who informed the members that they can call on behalf of a senior if they would like. MEMBER GALATI stated that the Board is gathering a lot of information, and he tends to forget important things. He wondered if someone could create a resource page for the Board with links and other key pieces of information you would want to visit such as yearly reports. MR. GRAY suggested creating a Microsoft Team, where members could access files and communicate, but he reminded them that it will also require training. He added that he does not want to create a place with links because that will also become outdated, similar to handing out hard copies of information. It is better to communicate with each other in live time, that way nothing needs to be updated. The more members familiarize themselves with various situations, it will become easier for them to reference information. MEMBER PERAZZO noted that paper is helpful, and his report includes links. He also dates his information so that someone knows if it is old or new. However, he added that the disadvantage to this is that the links are long, so it would be helpful to have those in digital form.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON stated that many times, seniors do not want to do the work themselves, so someone else needs to make the introduction. Resources are always changing, and they need to be treated like it is brand new every time. Her goal is to streamline and fill gaps where needed. Resources may have budgets that vary, and services like SLP (Senior Law Program) are donation only. She learned everything that she knows by diving in and asking questions. She agreed with MR. GRAY in that outreach and awareness is key. Many people are not aware of this Board, and make the City their last resort.

MEMBER GALATI suggested creating a database with important information, and wondered if MR. GRAY would be overburdened. MR. GRAY noted that creating a database is recreating the wheel because there are several services already out there with databases, but they have not been too helpful in his experience. He finds himself texting CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON or vice versa for information. He is trying to prevent people from going through that same rigorous process, and reminded the Board that it is a personal commitment to do his job, not a burden. Information is valuable to him and he is trying to find a better way to carry out their suggestions. Unfortunately, Senior Services is a three-person team, not an entire department. Like other services, they have limited resources and funding. More people are getting involved with all of the information and issues that are being discovered. He stressed that it is not just about holding a meeting, but getting people in the seats. If people

know there are meetings being held on a regular basis where they can voice their concerns, that information can be used to build programs and events that are helpful to the senior communities, which is the ultimate goal. Right now, his office is responding to crisis situations such as homelessness and eviction, and they want to reach a better position where they are proactive in their response. MEMBER GALATI was in agreement that being proactive is key. When he looks at senior issues, he finds that they also border citizen issues. Although it might be more prevalent with seniors, it is still an issue and that is why having information readily available is extremely important.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL wondered how educated the individuals working at the senior centers are. The center that she and MEMBER GALATI attend is not structured for seniors only, and they only have information on exercise. MR. GRAY explained that is why his office took over this Board. He and JULIE PEACOCK, AmeriCorps VISTA, are making it a top priority in 2020 to provide resources to the senior centers. The only other center that provides resources is the Doolittle Community Center, so the City needs to fill in those gaps. He stressed again that this is not a burden, rather this helps make his job easier because he is able to disseminate information and be more efficient in assisting the seniors. Information is not available in the capacity they would like it to be or it is too overwhelming. He also expressed that it is hard to advocate for seniors using other services because so much security is involved. Most agencies prefer to talk to the senior themselves rather than someone advocating for them to avoid any identity theft.

MEMBER PERAZZO stressed that there are different solutions for different problems. Many different agencies are targeting one specific thing and it can become overwhelming. He is building his own tools with information, and will share them when they are ready. He reminded the members that people do not always have the time to learn the little nuances and restrictions of each service provider.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON mentioned that senior centers are a great place to host events. She also informed the Board that the reason why it is best to go through MR. GRAY and his office is because it goes on the record. This will be very important if they are ever going to go in front of City Council or ask for any type of funding. She is always trying to get more people to come to these meetings, but it is hard because they do not feel like they will be heard. The Office of Community Services can vet for this Board and gather the information needed, but they are still in the beginning stages. She has noticed that MR. GRAY is learning more things, and he will reach out to her if he is unfamiliar with a situation which puts her in a call to action to go find information. She pointed out that the senior industry is not simple. There is hardly any oversight or regulation, which can be frustrating. If someone cannot find an answer, she encouraged them to reach out to MR. GRAY because it should be on the record and it will help build the Senior Services division.

MEMBER MOZDEAN thanked MR. GRAY, and asked him to send the Board the dates of his visits to the senior centers so they may team up or stop by. In response to CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON'S points, she noted that she and other members fear that one day they and MR. GRAY will not be here, and the information will become limited. She realized that the framework is harder to build than the information that is going into it, but all of the suggestions will be a wonderful incorporation.

6. Report by Board members regarding senior issues and 2020 senior-related goals within their Council Wards and at large – All Wards

Minutes:

Ward 1 - MEMBER BIENENSTEIN stated that she was going over the charter for this Board, and what she has been seeing is not what is documented and it has caused her grief. It is her and COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN'S understanding that her duty is to provide him information on how he can best represent the seniors in Ward 1. She reported that they went to the four low-income senior housing developments and provided dinner for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Her hope is to get more information on how he can best serve the seniors because Ward 1 is one of the poorest wards. She appreciated all of the information that was given during the presentations at the last meeting, but she was upset that it was so much at one time. Scheduling one at a time was plenty because there was so much information to take in. She noted that nobody was given a time limit when presenting, and she cannot sit in a meeting for several hours without making prior arrangements. The presenters also did not leave time for questions, which breaks down the structure of what this Board is. Each presenter had more information she wanted, but it got too late. She reiterated that whoever is scheduling these presentations needs to spread them out. She would also like the information from the presentations for COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN'S newsletter.

Regarding the issue with her community entrance gate that was brought up at the last meeting, she reported that the gate was inspected by the Fire Department and the owner of the community reported that someone had been tampering with the gate. She thanked GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, who provided the Board with information pertaining to access gate requirements and regulations, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup. Lastly, she noted that COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN gifted her the *Las Vegas, Then and Now* book for Christmas.

Ward 2 - MEMBER GALATI reminded the Board that they are dealing with human beings, and wondered where someone should draw the line between a senior and others. He questioned if they are focusing on crisis or things that benefit everyone. He mentioned traffic safety, which affects everyone, but seniors may be more at risk. He also stated that different wards have different needs. Sun City has a lot of seniors, and there are not any issues with poverty. He mentioned an accident that took place right outside of Ward 2 on Durango Drive and Desert Inn Road where four people died. Two other accidents happened on Fort Apache Road and Lake North Drive and Fort Apache Road and Sahara Avenue. He contacted COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN to communicate his concerns, who was receptive to the information, and posted it on the NextDoor application. He submitted automobile fatality figures from Zero Fatalities NV, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, and reported that Las Vegas ranks the highest for fatalities in Nevada. There were 207 fatalities in Clark County in 2018, and the seniors are concerned. He added that many of these deaths are related to pedestrians that are jaywalking. He also noted that it is now a crime to speed in parking lots and gated communities.

MEMBER GALATI reported on recent legislation that was passed regarding robocalls, which makes it illegal for phone providers to charge customers extra money to block unwanted calls. He is going to share this with his fellow citizens who are most at risk for scams. Seniors also tend to be forgetful in making payments, and suggested the possible use of an automatic payment, but understood that not all seniors are tech-savvy. He contacted COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN again, who was able to assist. He is still in touch with the same three communities that he mentioned last meeting and is trying to coordinate presentations to disseminate information.

Ward 2 - MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL commended MEMBER BIENENSTEIN'S comments, and believed the Board should present to the City Council because they may not be aware of how serious these senior issues are and what this Board is trying to do. She lives in an affluent community, but is now seeing homeless people in her area. She has stopped a few and recommended that they go to the Courtyard. The other wards need to be taken care of, and she expressed that she was perturbed about what the City is doing to the citizens that are not affluent.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON noted that Ward 3 representation was absent.

Ward 4 - CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON reported that she attended a Catholic Charities presentation at Sun City. It was interesting because the person who helped sponsor the event is running for a City Council seat. She heard more about their Meals on Wheels program that serves a lot of seniors. Their food pantry is also nice because it is set up like a grocery store, which she prefers because the seniors get to pick out their items themselves. Case managers who have access to resources were also present, and she was able to connect with some seniors in the craft room.

She performed with her husband at the new Flamingo Pines apartments, and is going to share more information about the establishment with the Senior Living Subcommittee. She took a senior to the Just One Project, which will be moving to Rancho Drive and Washington Avenue. It will also exhibit a grocery store style, and there are no qualifications to receive assistance. While she was there, she picked up a flyer that advertised low cost internet through Cox, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup.

Speaking to MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL'S comments on the homeless in Las Vegas, she explained the discovery of a homeless woman living within her apartment complex. She called her personal security, who then called the Metropolitan (Metro) Police Department. Metro and the security officer looked to CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON for direction on what should be done with the woman, which she described as a very difficult situation. An officer almost had the woman's permission to take her to a mental hospital, but she eventually backed out. The Chair said she remained present because she wanted the knowledge, although it was a very strange situation and realized that many times, the homeless do not want the help.

She also reminded the Board members that seniors in affluent communities are bigger targets for elder abuse. She was in agreeance that the presentations last meeting were long, but she contacts presenters after the

meeting to get her questions answered and encouraged members to do the same. There is a lot to cover on this Board, and they can only handle so much at one time. Anything that members can do on their own to get information would help a lot, and she encouraged members to form relationships with their Councilperson.

Ward 5 - MEMBER PERAZZO passed out a booklet he made regarding goal-setting for 2020, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, and read a section out loud. He also disseminated information on root cause analysis which was submitted and attached as backup. He referenced the fire at the Alpine Motel that took place on December 21st, which was the worst fire in the history of the Las Vegas Fire Department. He wondered why the Fire Department was not called automatically, and why business license renewals are not connected to Code Enforcement. MEMBER PERAZZO attempted to make a motion that asks City Council if business license renewals could be connected to Code Enforcement, but DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAC informed him that no action may be taken on this item, and suggested that MEMBER PERAZZO speak with MR. GRAY about inviting someone from the Code Enforcement department to speak at the next meeting.

MEMBER PERAZZO confirmed that he does want someone from Code Enforcement to speak at the meeting next month about how this could have been prevented. He mentioned an email that Las Vegas Fire and Rescue sends after every incident with any information such as the damage and the number of fire trucks that responded, but wondered where follow-up information would be located. He mentioned another incident that had taken place where 60 civilians were displaced. There was no follow-up information to this event, so he wondered if the displacement database was being updated. MEMBER PERAZZO submitted an in memoriam for the victims of the Alpine Motel fire, a copy of which is attached as backup. He wondered if this was a building that his father designed in the 1970s, and if it was operated with working fire alarms and appropriate heat.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL stated that these places are uninhabitable and cost people a fortune, and believes the City is responsible for not enforcing code violations. MEMBER GALATI thought that a lack in education and communication played a major role in the fire. MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL stated that public service announcements need to be in place for this very reason, and MEMBER GALATI added that someone should be reaching out to residents and empowering them and if they see something, say something. MR. DOROCAC clarified for the record that the item relating to code enforcement would be heard because many of the victims from the fire were seniors and seniors often live in these types of motels, and that is why it would be an appropriate topic for the next meeting. MEMBER BIENENSTEIN added that since there is now a massive lawsuit surrounding this event, Code Enforcement may not be able to provide all of the information MEMBER PERAZZO is looking for. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON was in agreeance, and wondered if this should be brought up after legal matters have been settled. MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL stated prevention is key, and it saves lives, money and litigation. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON stressed that they need to start being more proactive rather than reactive, but it will take time because there is nothing in place now.

Ward 6 - MEMBER MOZDEAN stated that her resolutions for 2020 include: shadowing CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON, delving into the City's Office of Community Services website, having more interaction with COUNCILWOMAN FIORE and encouraging attendance at meetings. She wants to spend more time letting people know to come in and get things on the record. She and MEMBER PATTARETTU scheduled their first 'Meet and Greet' for January 14th at the Centennial Hills YMCA. It was not widely broadcasted, but there was enough advertising to get them started. This first meeting is going to be about gathering the seniors' needs and concerns rather than disseminating information. Once the needs are established, they plan to hold one of these events every month or so and include a presentation. The other task they are both working on is getting out to homeowner association management companies and asking them to disseminate information. They are also going to ask for a list of their contacts and possibly pass it on to COUNCILWOMAN FIORE.

7. Discussion regarding topics for future agenda items of the Board's Senior Living and Senior Outreach Subcommittees. Comments made during this portion of the agenda by individual members must refer solely to proposals for future Subcommittee agenda items and any discussion must be limited to whether or not such proposed items are within the purview of the Board and its Subcommittees and whether such proposed items shall be placed on a future agenda. No discussion regarding the substance of any such proposed topic shall occur and no action shall be taken.

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON mentioned having a speaker from Code Enforcement, and MEMBER PERAZZO

wondered if they should speak to the Senior Living Subcommittee first to look at what complexes need to do to fix issues in light of the recent fire. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON liked the suggestion so they can get a better understanding of how licensing and other regulations work. She added that Fire and Rescue could possibly attend as well to give the Board their point of view.

MEMBER PERAZZO was visiting the Springs Preserve and came across an EVAC Chair (Evacuation Chair) for the first time, which can assist the handicapped in getting down stairs. He would love to see this chair in other buildings and will share more information. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON remembered a time where a fire alarm went off when she was in Texas and there was no way to get the seniors down the stairs, which raised the concern about the casinos and other high-rise buildings in Las Vegas.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL inquired about the Senior Outreach Subcommittee meeting that was scheduled for January 9th, and GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, reminded her that it was cancelled. Adding on to MEMBER BIENENSTEIN'S previous comments about the charter for this Board, MR. GRAY stated that he is trying to understand the Board's goals and concerns and get information out so they may convey suggestions to their respective Councilperson and to City Council as a whole, but it needs to be done in a cohesive manner. MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL wondered if this could be a goal for the month of February, and MR. GRAY confirmed that it would be. That is another reason why he wanted to meet with each member individually to focus on goals, flesh them out in the subcommittees, and then bring them to this Board as a whole. MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL asked when the next subcommittee meeting would be, and MR. GRAY informed her that he will seek their individual schedules, then move forward with scheduling the next meeting. MEMBER MOZDEAN noted that he can schedule her meeting with MEMBER PATTARETTU since they are in the same ward.

MEMBER GALATI inquired about a topic for the Senior Living Subcommittee, and MR. GRAY replied that they must establish a focus prior to meeting again. MEMBER PERAZZO asked why the meeting got cancelled, and thought that the subcommittees were meeting to brainstorm. MR. GRAY stated that they are, but he wants to understand the goals for each ward so that the subcommittees can focus on that as well. MEMBER PERAZZO thought that items were held off for the November Outreach Subcommittee meeting, but he could not remember what they were. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON remembered that one topic was outreach, and the other was discussing MR. GRAY visiting the senior centers. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAL added that another topic was the Facebook page, and clarified that the intent for a subcommittee meeting is to have a presentation on a specific topic, brainstorm and then present ideas to the entire Board. MR. GRAY was in agreement and reiterated MR. DOROCAL'S points. MEMBER PERAZZO explained that he was fully prepared to do his own presentation on gambling in Hawaii and UNLV (University of Nevada Las Vegas) gambling statistics, but the meeting was cancelled without recourse. MR. GRAY spoke of wanting to plan an event for Gambling Awareness Month in March, and suggested that MEMBER PERAZZO present on that topic, then the subcommittee could brainstorm and collaborate to form an event. MR. PERAZZO thought that in order to have a meeting, there must be an event, and MR. GRAY stated that he was only giving an example of a subcommittee meeting where there is a primary focus, and the brainstorming is centered on that focus. MEMBER PERAZZO still thought that the subcommittee meetings were only held to plan an event, and MEMBER BIENENSTEIN asked what the point of his presentation was going to be. MEMBER PERAZZO stated that the topic was problem gambling, and the presenter was unable to come but he had already prepared materials to complement their presentation. There was no discussion, and he thought that the point of the subcommittees is to have time for discussions. In response, MR. GRAY stated that the presenter got confused on the date they were supposed to come, and that is why they ended up presenting to the full Board. He added that he was not aware that MEMBER PERAZZO wanted to present.

8. **Citizens Participation:** Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Board. No subject may be acted upon by the Board unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion on any single subject, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON announced upcoming meetings as follows: the Senior Citizens Advisory Board on February 6th at 1:00 p.m., and the Senior Living Subcommittee will be on February 13th at 1:00 p.m. She also clarified that there will be no Senior Outreach Subcommittee meeting on January 9th, 2020.

9. Adjournment

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Cheyenne LaRance, Deputy City Clerk

Gregory Gray, Community Program Technician

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor
Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway
Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue
City of Las Vegas Development Services Center, 333 North Rancho Drive