



Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and MEMBERS WEINSTEIN HALL (via teleconference), PATTARETTU, PERAZZO, GALATI, MOZDEAN, BIENENSTEIN and DRUMM (via teleconference)

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I (via teleconference until 1:10 p.m. and again at 1:12 p.m.), VAL STEED, Deputy City Attorney V, and BRIAN CARROLL, 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 in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov; and The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov.

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 September 2, 2021

Motion made by Yvette Weinstein Hall to Approve

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

For-Yvette Weinstein Hall, Elizabeth Pattarettu, Kathleen Bienenstein, Vito Galati, Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, John Perazzo, Caroline Mozdean, Jennifer Drumm;

5. Report by Crystal Williams, Senior Management Analyst, and Letaunu'u Faletufuga, Homeless Services Technician, Office of Community Services, regarding senior assistance and the role of the City's Homeless Services team

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON noted that the presenters were not able to attend the meeting and this item should be abeyed to the next meeting. VAL STEED, Deputy City Attorney V, advised the Chair that a motion and vote were necessary to abey the item.

Motion made by Yvette Weinstein Hall to Hold in Abeyance to the next meeting

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

For-Yvette Weinstein Hall, Elizabeth Pattarettu, Kathleen Bienenstein, Vito Galati, Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, John Perazzo, Caroline Mozdean, Jennifer Drumm;

6. Report by Gregory Gray, Management Analyst I, Office of Community Services, regarding senior issues received by the Office of Community Services – All Wards

Minutes:

GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, reported that many seniors are facing homelessness, eviction and increased housing costs. Staff is doing their best to connect these individuals to resources and programs that will allow them to age in place. Seniors are also being encouraged to enroll in flex pay and energy assistance programs to help reduce their monthly costs. He said CRYSTAL WILLIAMS, Senior Management Analyst, and LETAUNU'U FALETUFUGA, Homeless Services Technician, have been in the community speaking with senior constituents and their landlords to make accommodations and get them more acclimated to the current housing crisis. Further, MR. GRAY reminded the public that the Courtyard Homeless Resource Center is a great resource for anyone experiencing homelessness, and those interested can contact a Case Manager who will perform a housing assessment so the individual can be stabilized. With the rise of COVID-19 cases, MR. GRAY noted that there have been several calls and e-mails from constituents that are concerned about attending a Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting and also expressed concern about the Board members attending meetings. He reminded those concerned about the safety protocols in place, and he added that constituents can watch the meeting live on YouTube or the PrimeGov portal. The Board is socially distanced and they each wear a mask, but they also have the ability to participate in meetings via teleconference if they feel uncomfortable attending in person. Seniors are being encouraged to get tested, but rapid tests are hard to come by and lab tests are taking longer than usual.

7. Report by Board members regarding senior issues and events within their Council wards and at large – All Wards

Minutes:

Ward 1 – MEMBER BIENENSTEIN advised that she has been redistricted and is now in Ward 3, but she would be permitted to finish her term representing Ward 1. She said COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN has been active in trying to finish projects he started in the parts of the ward he lost. They visited senior centers together and served dinner for Christmas and Thanksgiving.

Ward 2 – MEMBER GALATI reported that he attended the monthly meetings hosted by COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN to obtain feedback from the constituents. The main concern surrounded housing and its lack of affordability; therefore, he suggested forming a housing subcommittee to see what the Board can do. He took a few seniors to the hospital, but it was hard to communicate with them. MR. GALATI also spoke with seniors who receive home care services, but many are unaware of their benefits and therefore do not receive many services. He also wondered if many of these companies are bonded and licensed, and these loopholes need to be addressed.

Ward 2 – MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL reported that she has been attending virtual seminars hosted by the National Center of Law and Elder Rights (NCLER) that are pertinent to seniors. One in particular was regarding connecting older adults with emergency rental assistance, and she spoke of a senior that she helped by providing her with information from this seminar. Other seminar topics included appealing drug denials and nursing home evictions. She said this is an important resource to keep in mind because there are attorneys available to help.

Ward 3 – MEMBER DRUMM said she is also concerned with the rise of housing costs and the new COVID-19 variant. COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ is making sure her constituents have access to the booster shot, and she looked forward to a resolution to senior evictions.

Ward 4 – CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said housing is a multi-faceted issue. She said many seniors are experiencing rent increases, but they are on a fixed income. Additionally, many elder communities have removed their amenities but the monthly costs have not decreased. She advised those looking for senior housing to consider multi-family development such as those offered by Nevada HAND and Fore Property Company. These properties have income minimums and maximums, and they are going up, which makes it

easier to find housing. She asserted that these properties are on a first come, first served basis, and it may take up to two months to acquire housing. The Chair stressed that planning is key, and it is important to stay mindful of when your lease is expiring. She added that the senior needs to secure the housing, and nobody else can do it for them. Speaking to the City's RAFT (Rental Assistance for Tenants) Program, the Chair understood that these funds may have been depleted but she will follow up with GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON then reported that utilities are now being charged at 55+ community apartments, but there are no meters, which means that everyone is being charged at fixed rates. She has also seen processing fees associated with the utilities, and this is a great concern to her.

The Chair then spoke of the lack of security in senior communities, and she is doing her best to address this issue. She will continue to reach out to local and State leadership to express her concerns, and she encouraged the other Board members to do the same. She is still in communication with DR. CHAD KINGSLEY, Southern Nevada Health District, who has been a great resource to the senior community. She then reported that Refill Pharmacy in Sun City has rapid tests available. Speaking to MEMBER GALATI'S comments regarding home care agencies, the Chair said most are licensed and bonded, and insurance companies will usually verify that information. If a senior has contracted with a personal care agency (PCA), that individual will need to check for licensing and other related information. She has also heard of issues surrounding nursing home admissions, and she recommended gathering more information on this for the next meeting.

Ward 5 – MEMBER PERAZZO made mention of his personal health, getting a new job, waiting time for time off and the trauma of recovery. He wished to explore how trauma prevents individuals from seeking help. He recognized the citizen of the month that came from Ward 3, and the Southern Nevada Health District for the COVID-19 testing and vaccine pods they set up in Ward 1. A family in Ward 5 has made adjustments in their home to take on an additional family. COVID-19 cases are spiking in 89108, and he asked everyone to recognize that the problem is against the virus and not the people that have the virus. It is important to unite against the common enemy in times of crisis.

Ward 6 – MEMBER MOZDEAN reported that household income has not risen as fast as expenses. She has also been hearing constituents voice concerns regarding food insufficiency. It is important for seniors to have proper food and care, and they should not cut back on this. Food banks need to be replenished, and she asked the public to be generous in their donations. She wished the City Council, City representatives and all residents a happy and healthy new year.

Ward 6 – MEMBER PATTARETTU expressed it had been a challenging year. As a nurse, she spoke of the lack of beds available and the staffing issues hospitals are facing. She empathized for each person in a hospital bed and their families, and she wished them success and sound mind and health. She recently visited the Centennial Hills Active Adult Center, and she was excited to see the rooms filled with seniors partaking in conversation and exercise. One issue she noticed was that seniors have not been able to get their annual bus pass because the RTC (Regional Transportation Commission) has not visited this center in two years. A private agency was supposed to assist with this matter but they did not show up, and she expressed confusion regarding the relationship between this agency and RTC. Many seniors are unable to travel and cannot wait in line for their pass at the Bonneville Transit Center. The center's assistant sent several e-mails to RTC but they informed her that they are not allowed to visit any senior centers. She spoke of an individual with severe health issues who does not have any other method of transportation to appointments, and although she walked 1.5 miles to the Bonneville Transit Center, she was denied a pass. She wished everyone happy new year.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON offered to assist MEMBER PATTARETTU in resolving the RTC situation. She thanked all of the Board members for their reports and their service. She looked forward to addressing some of these issues and working more closely with the Councilmembers.

8. Discussion regarding topics for future agenda items of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board. Comments made during this portion of the agenda by individual members must refer solely to proposals for future agenda items and any discussion must be limited to whether or not such proposed items are within the purview of the Board 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:

MEMBER PARAZZO asked for someone to speak about trauma. He said if someone is unaware of their past

traumas, they may not seek help. The pandemic has made things very tough, and such education could bring helpful, long-term healing to seniors. He spoke of a Ward 3 constituent who grew up during the Korean war and needs absolute silence at night. He wondered about others who are facing these challenges. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON clarified that MEMBER PERAZZO wanted to see a speaker on the subject of trauma that is attributed to the pandemic, to which he responded that the unconscious trauma that was there before these challenging times is what he is concerned with. The Chair added that there are veteran groups that assist with war-related trauma.

MEMBER GALATI wished to explore ways to assist seniors with housing. Specifically, he wished to inform people how to fill out forms and where to go to get on housing waitlists. He said a lot of seniors do not have the skills to navigate the internet, and many of them may rather accept a bad life because it is too hard to get the information. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON reiterated the request for clarification and agreed this would be a good topic to expand on. GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, said he will put this on the agenda for the next meeting, and any information they gather will be placed in the senior newsletter.

MEMBER MOZDEAN wondered if the Board could locate resources to help seniors move, and suggested assembling a volunteer list. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON liked the suggestion, but noted it is difficult to find such resources. MEMBER GALATI noted the liabilities that may come with a volunteer list. He said there are companies that charge a small fee to load/unload moving trucks, and this would be good information to disseminate. MR. GRAY added that CHAP (CARES Housing Assistance Program) funds have been used to help people move to ensure they are stable.

9. **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:
None.

10. **Adjournment**

Minutes:
CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON announced the next Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting would be held on February 3rd, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Brian Carroll, Deputy City Clerk

Gregory Gray, Management Analyst I

Minutes Prepared by:
Cheyenne LaRance, Deputy City Clerk

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:
The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov
The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov
City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor