



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 GALATI, MOZDEAN, PERAZZO, BIENENSTEIN and DRUMM (via teleconference)

EXCUSED: MEMBERS WEINSTEIN HALL and PATTARETTU

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, ELLEN DUFFY, AmeriCorps VISTA, JEFF DOROCK, 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 in accordance with the State of Nevada Executive Department Declaration of Emergency Directive 006: 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:

KEVIN PLENCNER, Oak Brook Realty and Investments, dropped off a packet for the Board members to look at in regards to properties they are working on located at 916 and 922 South Casino Center Drive. The properties are currently home to office space, a consignment thrift store for women veterans and LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) senior housing.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of November 5, 2020

Motion made by Kathleen Bienenstein to Approve

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

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

5. Presentation by Randy Robison, Deputy Government and Community Affairs Director, regarding the City of Las Vegas legislative process

Minutes:

RANDY ROBISON, Deputy Government and Community Affairs Director, thanked the Board for the invitation and explained that Nevada's Legislative Session kicked off this week. Most sessions are held virtually, and City staff members are listening in at all times. Generally, the City starts their part in the Legislative Session by reviewing the last session and then consulting with each department on their needs. Each department Director then reviews the ideas and puts together a list of proposals that get reviewed and voted on by the City Council. At that point,

his department will make sure they understand each request clearly and then begin their advocacy efforts with State legislators and other interest groups in the community. All of the involved parties attempt to come to a common understanding of the issue at hand and hope it gets to the Governor's office for a signature. Some administrative regulation work may need to happen after the session to implement some of the provisions, but many times no further action is necessary.

MR. ROBISON said he is fairly new to the City, but he has been working in the advocacy world for about 25 years. He said there are very intelligent, capable and qualified individuals working for the City on behalf of the residents and he was very grateful for that.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON asked what the process is when the Board wants to see things done in the Legislative Session, and GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, said the request would be directed towards him and then go to his Director who would then express that request to MR. ROBISON and the City Council.

The Chair then asked how many senior issues are seen at the Legislative Session, and MR. ROBISON said there are quite a few, and there is a standing committee that deals with senior issues which was started about 10 years ago. The committee meets on a regular basis and they are allotted a certain number of bill draft requests, and he offered to send more specific information about the committee to MR. GRAY. He further added that healthcare, housing and employment are amongst the main issues they deal with. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON looked forward to receiving further information about that committee, and said many seniors do not know about groups like this and therefore feel like they are not being served.

JEFF DOROCAR, Deputy City Attorney, clarified that the committee being discussed is the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs.

MR. ROBISON encouraged everyone to contact their individual Legislator, who can be found on the Nevada Legislative website. When they receive information from the constituents, the Legislators really listen and want to help.

6. Report by Gregory Gray, Community Program Technician, Office of Community Services, regarding senior issues received by the Office of Community Services – All Wards

Minutes:

GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, wished to report on some of the senior related calls his office received. On December 2, 2020, the Ward 5 Office was contacted by a senior in Ward 4 who was given an eviction notice. She was trying to secure enough time to find alternative housing because she injured her knee and she was feeling fearful and intimidated by her landlord, who had allegedly given her a one day notice to vacate the premises. This was brought to the attention of CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON, who forwarded the information to Seniors in Law Enforcement Together. The senior was advised by the committee to contact the Elder Abuse and Neglect Unit with the Metropolitan Police Department, provide documentation of her stay and contact Legal Aid for further guidance.

MR. GRAY and his office assumed the situation was resolved, until December 3, 2020 when he was informed that the senior and her daughter were evicted from their home. They claimed the police came into their home and threatened to arrest them if they did not vacate. City staff asked if they had presented police with paperwork that documented their legal right to stay, and they were told that the senior and her daughter did not have the opportunity but the paperwork was posted on the door. When the senior and her daughter followed up with CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON, they revealed that they did not have any documentation regarding their stay. They were also informed that the Constable showed up two to three days prior and had given them an order to vacate, and the senior had waited until the last day to seek assistance. After discussions with the Ward 5 Office, staff came to the conclusion that the rent on the property had not been paid. If they had known this, they could have changed course and given the senior a different solution to resolve this particular issue. MR. GRAY said staff was unsure if the senior had a cognitive issue or had other hysteria that led to a misrepresentation of the facts and the chain of events that followed. The senior was referred to Homeless Services for further assistance, and there was no further update surrounding her whereabouts.

On January 14, 2020, the Ward 1 Office informed the Office of Community Services of a senior living at the Country Club at Meadows who received a Non-Renewal of Lease notice. The senior is 92 years old and could not find other housing due to his age and mobility. MR. GRAY'S office spoke to Legal Aid, who informed them that landlords making attempts to evict their tenants using other means goes against the moratorium that is in place. Residents

that are receiving these notices are encouraged to reach out to Legal Aid before taking any action. Tenants that receive these notices will need to respond and appeal the notice, and let a judge decide if it is valid.

On January 25, 2020, MR. GRAY received a call about a 58 year old daughter who is taking care of her 91 year old mother full time, who is paralyzed on the right side due to a stroke suffered years prior. She cannot walk and is at great risk of falling. The mother brings in about \$1,400 per month from Social Security which pays for the mortgage and groceries, but they have little left for anything else. A family friend brought this to the City's attention to see if there was a program that could assist with their situation. City staff spoke with the State of Nevada Aging and Disability Services, and they were told that downsizing their home would be the preferable option because there is no program in place that would allow them to stay together. MR. GRAY noted that the mother's Social Security may be outdated, and there is also concern about the use of her Social Security. The family disagrees with separating the mother and daughter due to health and emotional reasons, and said there was decline in the mother's health and mental state which resulted in her being removed from an assisted living facility ten years ago. They do not want to downsize because it is the family's home. The family is also concerned about the daughter's independent living after the mother passes, as she is not working or bringing in any income. City staff gave the family all of the information they could and they are deciding how they would like to proceed.

On February 3, 2020, the Office of Community Services received an e-mail from a daughter who is concerned about her 68 year old father, claiming he needs emergency dental work. The father is on Medicaid, but they do not cover dental services unless it is a hospital related emergency and covered under Medicare Part A. Staff asked the daughter if he was hospitalized or if she talked to his doctor, and she has not yet responded.

MR. GRAY then gave an update on EVELYN BONNER-DRAPES, who was discussed during the November meeting. She is currently residing in an independent care home in North Las Vegas and is awaiting her move in date at Harmon Pines apartments.

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

Minutes:

Ward 1 – MEMBER BIENENSTEIN said she and COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN dropped off boxed lunches at various senior homes for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Last week, they went to a couple of senior housing complexes and updated their libraries by receiving donations of adult books from a local organization.

MEMBER MOZDEAN asked if she had the information on the organization who received the books, and MEMBER BIENENSTEIN said she will share it with her.

Ward 2 – MEMBER GALATI was glad to be at the meeting and said he had a frustrating week. He was contacted by COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN who gave him three large boxes of KF94 masks to distribute to seniors. He has been able to distribute about 1,200 masks and he has about 800 left. He has been targeting senior facilities and it has also served as a good opportunity to see if the seniors need anything else. In doing so, he was able to help a couple secure appointments for their COVID-19 vaccine. He said the website to schedule vaccines is still difficult to navigate but he was finally able to secure appointments at 3:30 a.m. With that said, he was inspired to find an easier way for seniors to get vaccinated. After speaking with COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN, he said she is attempting to secure the Veterans Memorial Leisure Center as a satellite location for vaccine distribution. He also spoke of the positive efforts Walgreens and Smith's grocery stores are making to distribute vaccines. In closing, MEMBER GALATI said he continues to reach out to seniors and make sure they have an opportunity to get vaccinated and passes out masks to keep them safe.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON recommended that MEMBER GALATI encourage seniors to call 702-759-1900, a number for COVID-19 vaccine appointments, for further assistance if needed. MEMBER GALATI said he has called that number before, but it will bounce you back to the website. He hoped the health district would gain the capability to address the influx of seniors needing their vaccine. The Chair thanked MEMBER GALATI for being proactive and being there for the seniors.

Ward 3 – MEMBER DRUMM said Ward 3 distributed over 1,800 holiday bags in partnership with the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority. The Ward has also been hosting pop-up food drives, and there are three more scheduled in February.

Ward 4 – CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said she is getting an influx of calls surrounding housing and home repairs.

Seniors have been displaced due to the pandemic and she spoke of the increase in month-to-month leases. She has seen workarounds to the eviction moratorium, which has left many seniors nearly homeless. She said it will only get worse as things progress, and asked the Board members to remind their Councilmembers to encourage seniors to call the City and put their information on the record. She provided an updated report from NINA TEN, Spotlight Senior Services, regarding EVELYN BONNER-DRAPES, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup. In summary, she is still not in her new apartment and spent time in a rehabilitation facility due to a fall which resulted from the stress of moving. She is now in a group home, and there was a delay in getting her medication transferred to the new facility. The Chair said there are gaps between various agencies and resources that she wants to see addressed in the near future. She encouraged more public comment so that the Board becomes aware of various problems and learns how to solve them. MS. BONNER-DRAPES' situation prompted her to learn more about Section 8, and she discovered that many senior housing facilities are allowed to stop accepting Section 8 recipients at any time. She was scared to learn this information, especially in the midst of a pandemic. She has been doing her best to distribute information that has been given to her from the Southern Nevada Health District. The inaccurate information being distributed is making seniors panic and does not benefit their health. She also noted that she is not finding a lot of resources for senior dental work. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON concluded by stating the overwhelming amount of calls she has been receiving is worrisome.

Ward 5 – MEMBER PERAZZO said COVID-19 cases in Las Vegas are declining, but there is still a lot of work to be done and wondered why contagion tests have not been conducted. He reported that as of February 2nd, the Southern Nevada Health District reported that 65,000 individuals that are 65 years of age and over have received the COVID-19 vaccine, which is about 20 percent of the 65 and over population. A copy of the report and other trends was submitted for the record and attached as backup. MEMBER PERAZZO said the City and Clark County are working together to honor certain individuals at Legacy Park, and he noted that they all are seniors. He presented a handout that listed the honorees and their backgrounds, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup. He said we learn a lot about people through stories, and he appreciated the effort CHAIR O'REAR- CAMERON put in to share MS. BONNER-DRAPES' story.

Ward 6 – MEMBER MOZDEAN thanked MEMBER GALATI for his comments about the vaccination appointment process. She has been working with several seniors to arrange their appointments. Once sites such as Walgreens and Smith's started offering the vaccine, she found it much easier to schedule appointments and the seniors enjoyed it as well. She said it appears that these sites release new appointment times at 8:00 p.m. every day. Additionally, she noticed that individuals were also able to make the appointment for the second vaccine while making their first appointment. MEMBER MOZDEAN said she has been told that the second COVID-19 vaccine dose may be administered outside of the 28 to 30 day window, but individuals should confer with the agency giving the vaccine. Coming from an immunocompromised household, she has been working on distributing more information online. She received handouts from COUNCILWOMAN FIORE'S office with information for the community at large, and offered to share with any other Board member if needed. MEMBER MOZDEAN has been reaching out to seniors via e-mail to check in on them and ask if they need assistance with scheduling a vaccine appointment. Since her e-mail list is rather small, she has since started a campaign with the Homeowners Associations in the area and asked them to share meeting minutes with the community, and advise them of opportunities and facilities in the area. Her goal was to continue spreading information in the community in hopes of assisting more people.

MEMBER GALATI said after the second COVID-19 vaccine dose, most people will experience some discomfort. He spoke of an app where individuals can check in on each other, and MEMBER MOZDEAN confirmed that is the Be Safe app. MEMBER GALATI encouraged all Board members to check in on their seniors during this difficult time.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON added that she has been busy getting information out to the public and will do a better job at disseminating it to the Board members. She commended the Board members for their efforts in the community and said their service is needed more than ever.

8. 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 reminded everyone that Subcommittee meetings will not be held until further notice; therefore, any suggestions would be for the next Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting.

MEMBER PERAZZO requested a conversation surrounding the Senior Facebook page. He has given up on the pursuit of truth when it only brings an argument, and wished to discuss this in more detail with the Senior Outreach Subcommittee.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said staff could refer back to the previous recommendations given at other meetings for future agenda topics.

MEMBER MOZDEAN requested that staff keep an ongoing list of the recommended discussion items rather than the Board members having to review the meeting minutes every time.

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:

DR. CHAD KINGSLEY, Southern Nevada Health District, said he was in attendance at the request of the Board to provide an update. He said their website is a challenge for many, and he thanked the Board for their patience and disseminating information to other seniors in the community. Everyone will get their first and second doses, but there has been a rush in the market and the supply was not as abundant as expected. He said UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) is focused on vaccinating educators, and there will be a focus on administering vaccines to Clark County School District teachers and children in Kindergarten through third grade throughout February. DR. KINGSLEY said many of the issues surrounding senior outreach have been addressed. The main issues surround the limited supply of vaccines and the human resource aspect. The health district can pull resources from other agencies, but they need to make sure those systems are not left in critical condition and leaving them unable to respond to other emergencies.

DR. KINGSLEY explained the Pfizer vaccine has a 21-day minimum timeframe between doses, and the Moderna vaccine has a 28-day minimum timeframe. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) has since advised that individuals may receive their second dose two to four days outside of their vaccine's timeframe. He said many of the volunteers administering the vaccines are giving out the wrong information, and many people are in a panic thinking they must receive their second dose on a specific date. He spoke of the Las Vegas Convention Center, which will serve as the primary site for second doses, and said 2,000 people signed up for first doses even though the site was set up for second dose recipients only. Those individuals have been contacted and told their appointments were canceled. Now that those 2,000 appointments have been canceled, the site will be able to accept walk-ins for the next four weeks. Each Monday, dates and times for the walk-in option will be released that will coordinate with the date one's first dose was administered. DR. KINGSLEY recommended that everyone bring a chair, water and snacks because there will be long wait times.

MEMBER GALATI asked if any senior can walk in with their vaccine card and receive their second dose, and DR. KINGSLEY clarified the Las Vegas Convention Center is only administering the Moderna vaccine. He also noted that you must receive your second dose at the same site that administered your first dose. He added that a very small amount of Pfizer vaccines were administered through the health district, but most of them were Moderna.

MEMBER BIENENSTEIN said she received the Pfizer vaccine at the convention center, and DR. KINGSLEY confirmed that some of the first doses were Pfizer but they have since switched to Moderna. He added that the communication released from the health district indicated that those who received the Pfizer vaccine will not be able to get their second dose at the convention center, but he will look for a way to correct that. MEMBER BIENENSTEIN asked if individuals who received the Pfizer vaccine from the health district can visit a Smith's or Walgreens to get their second dose, and DR. KINGSLEY was unsure and understood the frustration. He will look into the matter and be in contact with the Board when he gets an answer. He recognized that second dose appointments should have been scheduled with the first dose, and commended the agencies that have already been practicing those efforts.

DR. KINGSLEY advised that Medicaid will provide same-day transportation to and from any of the vaccination sites for free, and individuals can call 702-759-1900 for assistance. Additionally, the State set up a 1-800 number to field

some calls, and 211 is updated every few days with information.

MEMBER BIENENSTEIN said she was told that she would be contacted when it is time for her to schedule her second dose, and asked if that would still happen. DR. KINGSLEY hoped that communication would come, but recommended that she try to schedule her own appointment if she sees an opportunity.

MEMBER GALATI congratulated DR. KINGSLEY for running a smooth operation, and asked if the walk-in information will be available online. DR. KINGSLEY confirmed that walk-in information will be available online every Monday.

MEMBER BIENENSTEIN said when she went to Cashman Center for her appointment, it was a smooth operation and there was hardly any wait time. DR. KINGSLEY thanked her for the compliment, and confirmed that most of their problems surround the scheduling aspect and not the vaccination sites themselves. He added that the health district would be receiving 36,000 doses from the federal government in the coming week. He said the ideal situation would be to get vaccines to every pharmacy in town, but he expected things to stay the way they are through March.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said there is a panic over the second shot, and appreciated the clarification from DR. KINGSLEY. She does the best she can to disseminate the information she receives from him and felt bad for those receiving misinformation. The Chair then spoke of caregivers, and said many have been told that they are ineligible to receive their first dose. DR. KINGSLEY said all medical staff are eligible to receive a vaccine. He added that many sites have had to heavily scrutinize the validity of each appointment to prevent individuals who are ineligible from receiving a vaccine. Health care workers need to assert that they are eligible to receive the vaccine to whoever is checking individuals in because many of the volunteers are not well versed on who is considered a health care worker.

Speaking to COVID-19 testing, CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON asked where the city currently stands. DR. KINGSLEY said Cashman Center is still a testing site, but they require individuals to submit their insurance card which will only be charged the administration fee and not for the test itself. A site located 2080 South Decatur Boulevard also performs testing by appointment only. Texas Station is not open at this time, but DR. KINGSLEY noted that strike teams are available for specific areas that are seeing an increase in positive cases. UNLV is also still offering testing, and he added that states will not see money allocated for testing until a new stimulus package is passed by the federal government. DR. KINGSLEY then spoke of the significant drop in positive cases, deaths and hospitalizations, although he was not sure what is specifically driving this decline.

GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, asked DR. KINGSLEY to provide staff with his availability for future meeting dates so these discussions could be properly agendaized. DR. KINGSLEY said he would be available any time the Board needed.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON inquired about any guidelines post-vaccinations, and DR. KINGSLEY said the CDC has not issued any guidance and people should continue to wear masks and quarantine if necessary. He hoped the CDC would provide further guidance in the next few weeks.

MEMBER MOZDEAN spoke of giving blood, and asked for guidance on donations. DR. KINGSLEY said each donor site should have specific guidance within their organizations. He recommended that potential donors call ahead and ask prior to making an appointment. MEMBER MOZDEAN confirmed that there is no broader guidance, and DR. KINGSLEY said that was correct, but he would perform further research on the topic.

DR. KINGSLEY wanted the public to be aware that they must wait to receive the COVID-19 vaccine if they received a different vaccine within the last two weeks. If someone contracted COVID-19, they are eligible to get the vaccine after 10 days.

MEMBER PERAZZO spoke of an individual who was traveling home to Hawaii but tested positive for COVID-19 and asked if beds were still available at the health district's quarantine site, and DR. KINGSLEY confirmed beds were still available.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON expressed her gratitude for what DR. KINGSLEY does, and thanked him for attending.

10. Adjournment

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON announced the next Senior Citizen Advisory Board meeting would be held on March 4, 2021, and there would be no Subcommittee meetings until further notice.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 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
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE OF NEVADA EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE 006
The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov
and
The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov