



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 PATTARETTU (excused until 1:01 p.m.), GALATI, MOZDEAN, BIENENSTEIN and DRUMM (via teleconference)

EXCUSED: MEMBERS WEINSTEIN HALL, MOZDEAN and PERAZZO

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, JEFF DOROCAK, Assistant 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 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 February 3, 2022

Motion made by Caroline Mozdean to Approve

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

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

5. ABEYANCE ITEM – 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 announced that the presenters were not able to attend the meeting.

Motion made by Kathleen Bienenstein to Strike

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

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

6. Discussion for possible action regarding potential nominees for the Senior Recognition Award – All Wards

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON recalled the conversation about the Board collectively looking for nominees from each ward. She has not been able to pinpoint anybody herself, but she is actively looking for those in the healthcare industry that also live in Ward 4.

MEMBER GALATI felt the Board should survey the community for feedback as to who should be nominated for this award. The Chair recalled having well documented information for the last recipients of the Senior Recognition Award, but she agreed this effort should be continued.

GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, said MEMBER PERAZZO submitted a nomination for DR. CHARLEEN PHAM and the Emergency Room (ER) staff from Valley Hospital. MEMBER BIENENSTEIN was supportive of the nomination. MEMBER GALATI did not recall seeing a biography for any nominations in the past, and MR. GRAY said he has previously read the biographies of each nominee into the record followed by a vote from the Board. The Chair encouraged him to visit the meeting recordings and the supporting documentation that are available online.

MEMBER PATTARETTU said care is provided by a group of people, and she wondered if only the doctor would be recognized. MR. GRAY said MEMBER PERAZZO mentioned DR. PHAM as well as the ER staff, but no specific names were mentioned. MEMBER PATTARETTU said Valley Hospital has experienced many challenges and the staff works very hard; therefore, she felt they should all be recognized.

ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAK said a motion could name both the doctor and the staff as the nominees, and MR. GRAY could then find out who can come and receive the award. He read MEMBER PERAZZO'S nomination submission, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup. DR. PHAM was the attending physician during his ER visit, and she along with her staff not only gave clear and consistent communication, but also offered consistent peace in a traumatic situation. Their attitude was never condescending, and these are crucial communication skills to be received by seniors.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said much of the Board, including herself, have had recent personal experiences with hospitals. She felt the award should be for the staff rather than just the doctor. She wondered if only one award should be given out, noting that there are various hospital systems that deserve recognition. MR. DOROCAK said that is up to the Board's discretion, but advised that it may be prudent to acknowledge one nominee per meeting.

MEMBER GALATI said by highlighting an organization rather than an individual, the Board is promoting excellence. He also expressed that the Board needed to be careful in their selections in order to avoid promoting only one organization. MR. GRAY said that is why staff looks to the Board for nominations, and he reiterated the understanding was that each Board member would have a nominee to then be discussed amongst the Board.

MEMBER MOZDEAN expressed concern about selecting one organization over another, and she preferred to wait until there was somebody else to consider. The Chair requested clarification, and MEMBER MOZDEAN reiterated that she would like to consider someone outside of the healthcare system. She felt the entire healthcare system has been exemplary, and she did not know how they could single out one organization. MEMBER BIENENSTEIN agreed, and felt the Board should look to the previous recipients as examples.

MEMBER PATTARETTU agreed, and noted that healthcare providers are working under certain guidelines and with a standard. Someone may feel they have gone above and beyond, but that is an individual opinion. She felt that someone who is taking their own personal time and resources to help a senior should be nominated.

MEMBER MOZDEAN wished for a discussion on what area(s) the Board members should be seeking nominations. MR. GRAY clarified that nobody is arbitrarily selected for this award. These are individuals who have contributed an excellent service to the senior community as a whole, and the Board is responsible for approving the nomination or not. Regardless if it is an organization or individual, the merit for the award is providing excellent service to the senior community. MEMBER MOZDEAN clarified that she was seeking a more specific direction to seek potential nominees. MR. GRAY said any areas the Board members feel are important, be it healthcare, childcare, etc., are valid and can be presented to the Board for consideration.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said anything that has to do with a service to seniors and can be accompanied with supporting documentation should be considered. She also opined that it may be more appropriate to find a senior who has helped other seniors, and she reminded the Board to bring a biography so the other members can make a more informed decision.

MEMBER GALATI agreed, and said this discussion has broadened their vision. In order to be fair to the entire community, each Board member needs to do their research. He felt that personal experiences were okay to consider during nominations, but he reminded the Board that not everyone may have had that same experience with that individual or organization.

MR. DOROCK said the topic had been summarized well and as a result, no motion was needed. He advised the Board to think about all of the components that each member raised and return to the next meeting with nominations. MR. GRAY added that members could use their personal experiences as a lens to recognize an individual to be awarded. He recognized that many members have been personally involved with assisting seniors and it is important to go beyond that personal experience to determine if that individual is worthy of receiving this award.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said she looks for who has gone above and beyond for the seniors. Each Board member brings a lot to the table, and she looked forward to seeing everyone's nominations at the next meeting. MEMBER PATTARETTU was in agreement.

7. 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 the Office of Community Services is still receiving a number of calls from seniors regarding rent increases, finding affordable housing, and those moving from California, and staff is doing their best to come up with efforts to mitigate housing concerns. Seniors who visit the active adult centers are being asked to speak with the front desk, who will complete a brief intake process before referring them to the Office of Community Services for further assistance.

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

Minutes:

Ward 1 – MEMBER BIENENSTEIN reported that the Friendship Walk was taking place on March 6th at the Las Vegas Sports Park. The walk starts at 11:00 a.m., and it is free and open to the public. On February 23rd, COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN hosted a formal dinner for Ward 1 residents. He distributed various awards, and she received one for her assistance in Ward 1.

Ward 2 – MEMBER GALATI said he did not have anything to report.

Ward 3 – MEMBER DRUMM said COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ is making seniors aware of the City's utility assistance program that runs through March 15th. Qualifying individuals must be at least 60 years old and have a maximum annual income of \$16,500, or \$18,900 if you are the head of household. She is also concerned about affordable housing and assisting seniors who are on a fixed income.

Ward 4 – CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON reported that so many people are having challenges with housing and crime. It is great to see the community coming together on the mobile applications, and she encouraged

residents in all wards to check on each other and stay in touch. Those who are struggling with housing must be proactive and continue seeking resources. She did not have any updates on senior events, but she will communicate with COUNCILMAN ANTHONY'S office about anything upcoming.

Ward 5 – ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAK read a report provided by MEMBER PERAZZO, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup. He thanked MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL for the story she shared at the last meeting, and agreed that distractions are an opportunity for an accident. His wife had her purse stolen while being on her phone, and he was recently shot in the eye by a pellet gun because he ignored situational awareness on his bus ride home, and he is focused on seeing the interference of trauma in one's path to peace. He has learned to listen to a person's emotions. The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) has a regular feature on scams and fraud that can be accessed through their website or through the local library. His work in the casino takes up most of his time, and he appreciated the many senior customers that still visit. He was also recently awarded team member of the month. The Doolittle Senior Community Garden, which is 30-years-old, has enlisted the Boy Scouts to help rebuild three garden beds this month. MEMBER PERAZZO hoped the Derfelt Senior Center would reopen this summer. He also wondered what the 2020 Census would report about the change in demographics in the 89108 area. He found that two-thirds of the residents 60 years of age or older pay over 30 percent of their income on rent, and the median gross rent for that group is \$942.

Ward 6 – MEMBER MOZDEAN offered her condolences to CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON for the loss of her mother. With the recent passing of her husband, she has found herself searching for a lot of information, and she is in the process of compiling everything she finds for people in similar situations. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) advised her of a potential widow's exemption by going to the Clark County Assessor's Office, and it may result in a tax credit. In speaking with visitors at the Centennial Hills Active Adult Center, the top three concerns she heard were affordable housing, food insufficiency and transportation. She asked anybody listening to consider donating to any of the local food pantries. Additionally, she has been hearing about seniors who have had to surrender their pets due to the cost of pet food, and she reminded everyone that food pantries also accept pet food donations.

Ward 6 – MEMBER PATTARETTU said she did not have much to report, as she is very busy working in the hospital. She said many patients are in the hospital for three months to a year, and they are frustrated because group homes are full and guardianship is behind. It is difficult to provide any answers for them, so she provides the seniors with snacks and comforts them where she can.

9. 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:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON felt that a speaker who assists seniors with gambling problems may be a good discussion topic as seniors are getting back out since the pandemic. She knows of five different instances of gambling being a catalyst to an individual's homelessness, and she wished for more information on how they could help.

MEMBER PATTARETTU requested a speaker who can provide information on group homes or any affordable options for lower-income citizens. The Chair said she is working on getting information on group homes from the State. She recommended www.vegashealthcare.com for additional information in the meantime.

MEMBER MOZDEAN asked for a speaker who can share resources for tax services and how seniors can avoid financial and housing scams.

MEMBER GALATI said seniors are in a precarious situation because they are forced to use technology and therefore become more prone to scams. This has led to seniors losing thousands of dollars, and he has also seen this happening in Europe. He might hold a presentation on this topic at the local library and post information on the NextDoor application.

10. **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.

11. **Adjournment**

Minutes:
CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON advised the next Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting is to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Cheyenne LaRance, Deputy City Clerk

Gregory Gray, Management Analyst I

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