



Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and MEMBERS WEINSTEIN HALL, PERAZZO, GALATI, MOZDEAN, BIENENSTEIN and DRUMM (excused until 1:11 p.m.)

EXCUSED: MEMBER PATTARETTU

ALSO PRESENT: ANNE KILPONEN, Neighborhood Outreach Specialist, JULIE PEACOCK, AmeriCorps VISTA, 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 January 2, 2020

Minutes:

MEMBER PERAZZO did not feel a correction was warranted, but said he had asked GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, for clarification on the top of Page Two of the minutes. He stated he was not sure who 'they' was when MR. GRAY was talking about their top priorities for 2020, but MR. GRAY clarified that 'they' is the Office of Community Services.

Motion made by Kathleen Bienenstein to Approve

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

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

5. Presentation by Deborah Ace, Family Service Counselor, Davis Funeral Home, regarding Pre-Planning for seniors – All Wards

Minutes:

DEBORAH ACE, Family Service Counselor, Davis Funeral Home, said their motto is to make it personable by servicing families with compassion and respect as professionals. Davis Funeral Home is a full service funeral home, crematory and funeral park. They have two locations, and their job is to help families in a time of need by bringing them into their care. Death can be a very stressful and emotional time for families, making it hard to

make arrangement decisions, so she tries to get out in the community and express the importance of a pre-plan. Many people do not know what they need to do and what their options are. Options include a funeral service, visitation, memorial service, cremation, burial or being placed into a mausoleum wall. Some people know what their loved one wants, but they are often shocked when they realize the cost. Currently, 83 to 87 percent of people are choosing a cremation due to the costs associated with burial. The importance of considering a pre-plan is that it makes things easier for the family, there are less decisions to be made and they will get current pricing which can be substantially less if you plan early. MS. ACE said she has yet to meet any family members that were not happy with the care they received.

MS. ACE also wanted to discuss veterans, most of which have not pre-planned. She has found that many do not realize the VA (Veterans Affairs) does not cover the cost of a funeral or the cost of a funeral home to pick up the body. The VA will only provide the individual with a basic bronze memorial with their name, date of birth and date of passing. Individuals who pre-plan can make monthly payments, purchase insurance or pay in full.

Davis Funeral Home also has a travel plan available for those who tend to travel outside of Las Vegas. It would cover the cost to get the individual's body back to Las Vegas if you are 75 or more miles away from home. Funds can also be set aside for flowers, food and death certificates. Currently in Nevada, the first death certificate costs \$38 and each additional copy is \$25. MS. ACE said information on a pre-plan is free to receive and she described it as the gift one gives to their family or kids.

MEMBER BIENENSTEIN wondered if the pre-plan included pre-pay, and wanted to know if it would be transferrable to another funeral home if they move. MS. ACE said it is transferable, and the Regional Manager will check to make sure it can be honored. She estimated about 98 percent of funeral homes would honor other pre-plans, but markets are different so it would vary. Davis Funeral Home partnered with Funeral Directors Life Insurance Company (FDLIC), who helps funeral homes across the country. The funds are put into an annuity or an insurance policy and at the time of need, FDLIC will pay Davis Funeral Home directly. She added that the funeral home of choosing can also be named as the beneficiary.

MEMBER MOZDEAN inquired about the security of funds and if they are insured and permanently guaranteed. MS. ACE said the funds are not insured by the federal government, and she has seen other funeral homes go out of business, but the plans were picked up by other funeral homes. Although there is no guarantee, she has not heard of anybody in Las Vegas who has had that experience. MEMBER MOZDEAN thought MS. ACE said FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation), but she clarified what FDLIC stood for.

MEMBER MOZDEAN asked if Davis Funeral Home is able to arrange to take someone's remains to another city other than Las Vegas. MS. ACE explained if someone has a plot in another city or state they want to use, they must have a completed pre-plan in the city they were currently living in. The travel plan only covers the cost of getting your remains back to Las Vegas.

MEMBER PERAZZO said he knows someone who wants a plan but does not have the money, and wondered if they could still pre-plan. MS. ACE said she will sit down with the individual and find out what they can afford as a down payment. Monthly payments for up to 10 years are available depending on the person's age and health, but a down payment is still required. If the individual has insurance, the first premium is the down payment. Without insurance, 10 percent of the total funeral cost is required as the down payment.

MEMBER GALATI inquired about the average funeral cost, and MS. ACE said it depends on what the individual wants because there are so many options. If it is a direct cremation with an alternative container, a low cost provider will likely charge \$1,000. Burial with a casket could be \$14,000 to \$25,000 depending on how elaborate the individual wants to get with their casket and memorial. Overall, an average cremation with services would cost \$6,000 to \$7,000. Pricing widely varies, and that is why she encourages people to come see her.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said what MS. ACE is doing is so important because when a loved one passes away, everyone is stressed and grieving. She knows the City gets many calls about this and she has directed GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, to several places that could help. She knows of bodies that sit in the funeral home and wait until something can happen. MS. ACE added that a next of kin must also be identified or you cannot be cremated. A pre-plan saves time, money and grief. She encouraged everyone to consider receiving information on pre-planning even if they decide to use a different funeral home.

MEMBER MOZDEAN asked MS. ACE if she is available to speak with other organizations, and MS. ACE said she would love to. She is also holding a Donut and Chat event at the Rainbow Chapel on March 21st to share

information.

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:

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCACK advised that GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, was not present, but other staff would make comments.

JULIE PEACOCK, AmeriCorps VISTA, reported that MR. GRAY was looking into hospital discharge procedures throughout the Valley. He is also looking into Aging and Disability and social services to understand what is available and how his office can help fill in any gaps.

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

Minutes:

Ward 1 – MEMBER BIENENSTEIN reported she met with GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, and she showed him how dangerous it is to cross Valley View Boulevard. The prior Councilwoman addressed some of the issues, but more needs to be done. She announced COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN is having his Brews with Brian event on March 19th at Count's Vamp'd. He likes to hear from her on what is going on, but she has not had much to tell him because she is still trying to understand what their work product is as a Board.

Ward 2 – MEMBER GALATI reported he had a situation where he received a phone call from COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN'S office, who asked for his assistance with a 91 year-old senior who had an issue with her HOA (Homeowners Association). Two years ago, Republic Services gave her the larger sized cans. She was unable to bring them in herself, so the HOA issued her a violation and a \$2,000 fine. MEMBER GALATI called Republic Services to explain the situation but did not contact the HOA because it was a previous management company who was handling it. While in communication with the woman's daughter, she explained to MEMBER GALATI that her mother had a reversed mortgage, so the bank paid the fine and now she owes the bank \$2,000. He sought help at the Senior Law Program, and a day later an attorney called back and said they have someone who would represent her. MEMBER GALATI was glad he could help, and accredited some of it to the presentations because they become a good resource. He also mentioned that the Office of Community Services website is getting better, but he would like to have even more information on there so the Board members can direct individuals who need help with the website.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said they should discuss this topic more during Item 8, and added that members should reach out to MR. GRAY if they have an idea for a presenter.

Ward 2 – MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL reported the Summerlin area has a new police station, and she was able to meet LIEUTENANT SACHA JACOBS. The facility is great, and the police presence in the area has increased by at least 50 percent. She also spoke to a member of the Veterans Memorial Leisure Services Center, and she would like to meet there with MEMBER GALATI to discuss a possible presentation.

Ward 3 – MEMBER DRUMM said she was happy to be a part of the Board. She had nothing to present at this meeting but will be meeting with COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ. She lives in the historic Beverly Green neighborhood and there are many wonderful seniors in the area. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON asked her to give the Board some more information about herself, and MEMBER DRUMM said she moved to Las Vegas in 2001, and had only planned to be here three years. She has been in the Beverly Green neighborhood since 2008, works with Microsoft and has a son who is 11 years old. Her niece is excited that she is on this Board because she loves to talk to seniors and wants to help.

Ward 4 – CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON reported she also attended the grand opening of the new police station in Summerlin. She commended LIEUTENANT JONES, who had been instrumental in helping with things in Sun City. She also attended Coffee with a Cop, and COUNCILMAN ANTHONY was only there for a short time because of protesters. MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL asked what they were protesting, and CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said it was about the recently adopted homeless ordinance. She recently attended a senior ownership workshop for reverse mortgages which was extremely enlightening. There have been a lot of changes in laws and she can now see how it can be great in solving some of the Valley's housing issues. She is working with a title company and plans to bring them in for a presentation. She went to the Law Library where Nevada

Legal hosts different series, one of which was about sealing eviction records. Her intent was to see how the new law that was recently passed can help seniors because many are getting evicted as rent increases. A major issue is that property managers decided to change when the rent is considered late which can really mess with the individual.

She attended Law Enforcement Appreciation Day where COUNCILMAN ANTHONY was a speaker, and she also met with U.S. SENATOR CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO and U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SUSIE LEE in regards to senior matters, and she will be following up with appointments. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON helped with three elder abuse events with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro), and she distributed a flyer from the event, which was attached as backup. She wanted to point out that she came across a scenario where a senior needed family assistance for a few weeks but then the family would not leave. Upon calling Metro for assistance, they informed the individual that they had to follow the eviction process. Seniors should make sure they have different directives in place, and refer to the Senior Law Program or Nevada Legal for help. Lastly, she attended a health fair and received some information from Three Square, which was distributed and attached as backup. She noted the Dignity Centers also have a lot of classes that seniors can take advantage of. During the fairs, she hears a lot about housing and healthcare, which are things that should be addressed through the subcommittees.

Ward 5 – MEMBER PERAZZO had a question about the Just One Project's location. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON explained there are mobile pop-up pantries throughout the city and the new fixed location will be located at Washington Avenue and Rancho Drive.

MEMBER PERAZZO said he was attending a Korean calligraphy class and they experienced a shelter in place drill. He discovered that there is a division of City Marshals that are detectives dedicated to shelter in place drills. He also learned that the local library launched a Neighborhood Watch in the Twin Lakes neighborhood, which is where he lives, and wanted to find out more information. He attended the re-opening of Fire Station #3, which is the oldest continuous service station for 38 years. He signed up for the City's Senior Facebook Group, but he was still waiting for approval. He is using the City of Las Vegas Senior Special Events calendar for his ward, and he is scheduling them on Facebook one week prior to the event date.

MEMBER PERAZZO is on the Safety Committee at his workplace and received a fact sheet on COVID-19, which was distributed and attached as backup. He also spoke of a sheet he created for documenting safety issues or concerns, which was distributed and attached as backup. He lives across from Lorenzi Park and noticed they were spraying the park with herbicides. He spoke to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and asked them to keep track of what herbicides are being used. He also noticed that every time it rains it washes the gravel away so he brought that to their attention as well. He received a complaint from a fisherman who thought people are feeding the birds. MEMBER PERAZZO passed the complaint on to COUNCILMAN CREAR and the Parks and Recreation Department.

His workplace manager told him that most dangers are in the cross walk, and you have to look left and make contact with the driver's eyes. He then created a graphic for "Look Left – Driver's Eyes Save Lives", which was distributed and attached as backup. A resident at Oakey Assisted Living helped another resident after their fire alarm went off. This made him think of the chairs that help individuals down stairs in an emergency. March is Problem Gambling Awareness month, and Senior Day with Boyd Gaming is now on Tuesdays.

Ward 6 – MEMBER MOZDEAN said she signed up for all of the ward newsletters which contain helpful information, and she encouraged everyone else to sign up. She presented the maps that she and MEMBER PATTARETTU used for their meet and greet, which helped many people understand the various ward locations. She visited Floyd Lamb Park, where the City has done a great job cleaning up and the price is still reasonable. A groundbreaking took place recently where plans for new bike trails were revealed. Many trees were taken down at the park due to age, but they are going to be replenished. She presented a flyer for COUNCILWOMAN FIORE'S Adaptive Swing Set Celebration. She added that COUNCILWOMAN FIORE has autistic grandchildren so she is particularly interested in adaptive equipment.

MEMBER MOZDEAN asked if there was a date set for the Youth Mentoring Program, and JULIE PEACOCK, AmeriCorps VISTA, said she was not sure.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL wanted to remind everyone that it is tax season, and people over 50 can visit certain community centers and get services for free through April 14th. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said there are a lot of tax workshops, and Board members should keep directing people to the senior centers. She added

that the Office of Community Services is actively working on getting the mentoring program completed, and MR. GRAY has been posting information in the NextDoor application about meetings. She encouraged that other Board members get on their neighborhood applications to spread the word about what this Board is doing. MEMBER GALATI added that he has sent out cards via the Next Door application, and it has been very helpful.

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:

MEMBER PERAZZO thought COVID-19 should be addressed through the Senior Outreach Subcommittee because seniors are the most vulnerable.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON referenced the comments made earlier by MEMBER GALATI regarding the Republic Services, and JULIE PEACOCK, AmeriCorps VISTAS, confirmed she had taken the information down for a future agenda item.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON reminded the members that information is always changing, and that is why it cannot all go on the website. If members are finding things that are not static, they should bring it to GREGORY GRAY'S, Community Program Technician, attention so he can better assess the needs of seniors. MR. GRAY also offers his contact information on the NextDoor application so people can contact him if they need help.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON suggested having companies such as Nevada HAND give a presentation to the Senior Living Subcommittee to talk about what is going on in senior living communities. She would like to know how can they help with these communities and understand their guidelines.

MEMBER GALATI suggested getting a presentation from a Homeowners Association company to make them aware of certain issues and make suggestions regarding the way things are done.

MEMBER BIENENSTEIN suggested discussing the grant opportunities that the City provides with the Senior Living Subcommittee. The grant provides a maximum of \$5,000 to bring a community together. Her community has put on resident appreciation dinners and other events. It does not have to be a senior community, and she spoke of another community that rented a bounce house and played carnival games. She shared this information with Catholic Charities, who manages a senior facility. She clarified that the grant is not for corporations, it is for the residents that live in that community. The last resident appreciation dinner had 260 residents in attendance, and they had a lot of fun.

MEMBER BIENENSTEIN wanted to mention that she contacted the Fire Department about her community gate that would not open, and the management company made the adjustments a few days later. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON suggested discussing this same issue with the Senior Living Subcommittee because other communities may be experiencing the same issue and reminded the Board members to stay proactive.

MEMBER MOZDEAN asked if there were any direct donation locations that do not resell items. MEMBER DRUMM said the Shade Tree is a good location. MEMBER MOZDEAN said she was asking because a gentleman passed away who had high quality clothing and she would like to donate it. MEMBER BIENENSTEIN also suggested Dress for Success. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said the Senior Outreach Subcommittee should have a presenter who can educate the members on donation services.

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:

LEX ANDERSON introduced himself as the Historian for the Northwest Area Residents Association. Last June, a resident found half a dozen bottles of unopened medication in an area where homeless and vagrants were known to congregate. The address on the bottles belonged to a day care center. He went over there, and he was

informed the homeless use that address when they are seeking healthcare because their location was considered to be a resource center. There is a second location in Ward 1 near Arizona Charlies. He noted that there are four different categories for non-resident occupants: squatters, mentally ill, homeless and the vagrants, and vagrancy is used in Nevada Revised Statutes.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON announced there is no Senior Outreach Subcommittee meeting, and the next Senior Citizen Advisory Board meeting would be held on April 2nd.

10. Adjournment

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 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