



Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

Items listed on the agenda may be taken out of the order presented; two or more agenda items for consideration may be combined; and any item on the agenda may be removed or related discussion may be delayed at any time. Backup material for this agenda may be obtained from LuAnn D. Holmes, City Clerk, at the Office of the City Clerk, 495 South Main Street, 2nd Floor or on the city's webpage at www.lasvegasnevada.gov.

1. Call to Order

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

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

EXCUSED: MEMBERS MARSHALL and AVILA

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, KELLEENASH, Sr. Management Analyst, JEFF DOROCK, Deputy City Attorney, and DEBRA A. OUTLAND, Deputy City Clerk

2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

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:

GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, introduced VITO GALATI, the Ward 2 representative. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON asked MEMBER GALATI to tell the Board about himself.

MEMBER GALATI stated he moved from New York four years ago. Prior to that, he was an educator for 37 years, and retired in 2010. Since then, he has been doing the things he always wanted to do. Although the opportunity to serve on this Board was unsolicited, he thought by being a senior citizen himself, he could empathize with them. The Chair welcomed MEMBER GALATI to the Board.

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCK introduced himself stating he previously backed up CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY VAL STEED, but he was now officially the legal counsel for this Board.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of October 4, 2018

Motion made by John Perazzo to Approve

Passed For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

For-Yvette Weinstein Hall, Elizabeth Pattarettu, Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, John Perazzo, Vito Galati; Excused-Nora Avila, Robert Marshall

5. Discussion for possible action on reports given by Board Members regarding senior issues within their Council Wards and at large – All Wards

Minutes:

Ward 2 – MEMBER GALATI stated he was new, so he did not have anything to report at this time, but he would in the future.

Ward 3 – There was no representative present for Ward 3.

Ward 4 – Since the Board last met, CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON attended Coffee with a Cop and various other community events. She noted she is working with Sun City Summerlin on an Aging in Place Program. The event will cover topics such as health, wellness, safety and transportation to include acquiring a golf cart, maintenance of such and how to use the Uber app.

The Chair stated she plans to attend the upcoming Coffee with A Cop event and spoke about the Spotlight Spectacular Event on March 16th at The Orleans, which is one the largest senior events. The Board has again been invited to have a table this year, and she noted how well they were received at the same event last October. She thought this to be a great opportunity to interact with the several thousand seniors walking by and to get their feedback. It also coincides with some of the things the City is doing with their GoVegas app.

The Chair mentioned although COUNCILMAN SEROKA has resigned, the Military Employment Summit was still taking place in Ward 2. KELLE NASH, Sr. Management Analyst, confirmed the City would still have a table at the event which will be held Friday, April 5th, at City National Arena in Downtown Summerlin. She indicated more details would be shared about the table set up as they got closer to the event. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON submitted the event invite and details for the record.

Ward 5 – MEMBER PERAZZO stated he also participated in last year's Spotlight Spectacular and submitted a list of action items for the record. He noted the meeting with the Las Vegas Review Journal was on hold due to his injury. Regarding past discussions on the Veterans Memorial facility being open weekend evenings, he noted he compiled some statistics relating to the usage confirming that to be a popular time, but no conclusions were made. He also stated that in November, he signed a certificate commemorating the 100th year of one of the community's oldest living members.

MEMBER PERAZZO noted the members have been meeting informally when possible as a Task Force between normal meetings of the Board. He did not know if this was a problem, but found them to be very helpful in focusing on tasks and getting things done.

Mentioning how the Bonanza underpass used to flood similar to the Charleston underpass, he noted the City made improvements to that storm drain about 20 years ago, and he commended the engineers and construction workers that did the work. He noticed there has been a subsidence on the western side of that drain where it now collects water and splashes up on the sidewalk creating a hazard. This is where he slipped and fell, breaking his ankle. He wondered if the City could reevaluate this from a safety perspective and/or consider the need for a modification as 2,000 to 5,000 pedestrians use this sidewalk to go west from downtown.

MEMBER PERAZZO reported he also attended a webinar on aging and dementia, with a focus on those in the military and trips and falls.

GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, commented per KATHI THOMAS-GIBSON, Director, Office of Community Services, he was to get clarification from legal counsel with regard to workgroups or a task force beyond the Senior Citizens' Advisory Board so as not to violate any laws, but that she recognized the members

as an invaluable group who have great perspectives and resources that would be useful to Senior Services. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCACK stated they could set up smaller subcommittees per their mandate within the Las Vegas Municipal Code. He suggested three-member subcommittees where formal meetings would take place at City Hall that would adhere to the Open Meeting Law like this meeting does. He suggested placing an item on the next agenda to discuss the kinds of subcommittees, officially form those subcommittees on a subsequent agenda and then go from there in terms of scheduling. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON thought this was wonderful news.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and the members offered their well wishes to MEMBER PERAZZO.

Mayor Representative – MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL reported she also attended Coffee with a Cop and noted burglaries in Summerlin have increased dramatically. She stated she got the Neighborhood Watch App for her subdivision which keeps her informed and suggests precautions that can be made. She mentioned the importance of seniors taking caution when exiting their garage and of not forgetting to lock their doors because break-ins are on the rise. She suggested a representative from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department speak to the Board about that app as it relates to crime prevention. She would like solicitor phone calls to also be discussed at that time.

Mayor Representative – MEMBER PATTARETTU reported for the past two to three months, she was mostly involved in her mother's care who was experiencing dementia/forgetfulness. She saw how someone can change from being independent to someone who needs many resources. While she was in the rehabilitation facility with her mother, she noticed how the children of these individuals, who were also older, did not know what to do. The parents cannot be left alone, yet the children cannot take them home with them. She also mentioned how people are being discharged after the number of days Medicare allows them to stay regardless if they are ready. She informed these individuals there are resources available and asked them to reach out to the City. She mentioned the possibility of people helping these individuals on a volunteer basis.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON piggybacked on MEMBER PATTARETTU'S comments saying she has seen this for years. There are more transitional care facilities trying to get into the circle to help, but resources are limited, and she thought the problem was confusion caused by the lack of resources being centralized. She thought how to address that as a Board needed to be discussed. She found the problem with calling 2-1-1 to be that the prompts are confusing. She stressed the need to put together these subcommittees and possibly even changing Legislation. She is passionate about this topic, and thought as a City collectively, they needed to do more. Although she has a lot of resources, they dry up sometimes.

MEMBER PATTARETTU stated her vision was for the City and County to provide a safe place for these individuals where volunteers can help and the seniors can be a part of a group and feel like they belong. This may provide some relief for the family and loved ones. MR. GRAY agreed this is a barrier that they face. Senior Services alone is mostly referrals to programs that do that type of work. He did not believe the City would be able to set up that type of program utilizing volunteers due to the liability that would be involved. There may be programs and resources that are already available, but many times the issue is becoming aware of and contacting them. He noted he and his team address things on a case-by-case basis and it is a learning process for them. He stated when the members receive emails that a senior needs services, it is because the City has exhausted all possible options on their end, and they reach out to the Board to see what resources it might have. They are trying to establish subcommittees in order to have a solid referral system in place.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL asked about the possibility of a location in Summerlin where a senior could be dropped off whereby they are supervised by a volunteer to ensure they do not wander off. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON acknowledged the red tape and compliance issues that would be involved and that the City could not take this on. She mentioned she is HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), certified and they may consider HIPAA certification for the Board because citizens share private things with them. She thought the key was getting the resources in to speak to the Board. Even if the group homes and elder care services are full, they need to be aware of them and obtain information regarding exactly what they do and do not do. A list of resources could be compiled to be used when they are out in the community.

MEMBER GALATI added his mother had dementia but was otherwise healthy. He thought the major issue children face was making the right decision, and usually without the right information, they select the first place

they find which may not always be the best. He also spoke to the liability issue with having volunteers and expressed the need to be careful; as even good intentions can become a problem.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON agreed adding that when referring individuals, they want to represent the City well. She stated her list of resources have been vetted, and she reiterated the importance of bringing in community resources to speak to them.

MR. GRAY agreed with the sentiment about vetting in order to make well-informed decisions. He noted his intern, RENE McNEIL, has been helping him with senior services, and when they receive calls from seniors, they take the extra step and call the service first to see if they will be able to help that senior prior to referring them or handing them off. They also want to make sure the senior provides feedback as far as how the service was so they know whether to continue referring seniors to that service.

MS. NASH stated staff will also be tracking the types of calls they receive to find out how many are related to housing, medical-related services, etc. Over time, tracking this information and determining the percentage of the types of calls will help them in handling them moving forward. MR. GRAY added this data will be essential when the Board presents to the City Council.

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

Minutes:

GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, stated the majority of the calls they receive relate to senior housing; some places have a wait list of two to three years, some waitlists are closed and the Housing Authority is full. Some seniors have issues with credit so even though they have the income, they do not qualify for a regular apartment. In other cases, there are income requirements that the seniors cannot meet. There has been discussion regarding a possible service that does roommate matching to help those seniors that do not make enough money where they can combine their income with another senior to find housing.

MR. GRAY noted a barrier that is becoming more prominent is entitlement where the senior does not want to live in a certain area of town and wants certain amenities for less than \$600 per month. He shared circumstances where social security and filing a claim with the Veterans' Administration was a barrier. Sometimes situations get to the point where the senior needs to be referred to Nevada Legal Services or to an attorney because staff cannot provide legal advice.

He also shared how a gentleman took a lady into his home at the request of his church, and for the past year, he has been unable to get her to leave. This plays into the volunteer aspect; there are seniors that take advantage and manipulate their way into these types of situations. He did not think there was one best solution for these types of issues.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON mentioned she has worked with MR. GRAY where a senior did not think the group homes were up to their standards. She spoke highly of Elder Help which does the monthly health fairs in the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority and is now doing roommate matching. They are very knowledgeable as far as what services are available, but a complete list of resources is still needed. She noted there are a lot of reputable attorneys that can help with improving credit. She specifically noted she has worked with Michaelson and Associates, and they are very good. With housing blowing up in this area, income is a big problem with seniors, and work needs to be done with regard to rent control; otherwise, these individuals will become homeless or move out of the state. She stressed the importance of protecting the senior communities. She also noted they should be working with the owners of the senior communities, not the property managers, as she thought the property managers needed more oversight.

MR. GRAY stated one of the major issues staff faces when it comes to Senior Services is stigma and the perception of what it means to move into a group home after having lived independently for so long. A lot of issues also deal with the lack of awareness of services and resources that are available to them. The City is guilty of this as well, as currently they are reactive rather than proactive.

MR. GALATI stated he was not familiar with Nevada law, but in noticing all of the apartments that are being constructed, he wondered if Nevada offered a tax break if a percentage of the apartments were earmarked for senior citizens based on income. This would always make available a certain amount of housing, and not put them in an area that is far away as accessibility is a primary goal. He noted this is done in New York, especially in those neighborhoods that are being rediscovered and becoming expensive. He thought this might be a possible solution. He noted the aging mind becomes less active, and there is also the situation where either the husband or wife passes away, and the burden then falls completely on the one left behind. He also thought a list of reputable contractors could be useful. With regard to Homeowner Associations (HOAs), he thought it important to educate citizens that if they are not active, the HOAs will think no one cares and will take it upon themselves to do whatever they wish. He thought this tied into educating seniors in technology because a lot can be done via email as a phone call may not always work. HOAs can do a lot if you voice your opinion. He pointed out the seniors will benefit the most because they are the ones who take the walks and want a safe crosswalk and clean blocks, etc. He suggested exploring these, and then disperse that information. He noted there are two senior homes in the immediate vicinity where he lives, but there is no button for flashing lights on Fort Apache for pedestrians to cross similar to those used for schools. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON added how the topic of seniors crossing the street was discussed at a meeting sometime last year and that if it was being done for children, it needed to be done for the elderly.

MR. GRAY stated staff could research this but funding is always an issue, and/or the demand may not be there. With regard to tax breaks and earmarked apartments, he stated affordable housing is one of the Office of Community Services' projects, and they are experiencing the end of affordability periods for a lot of apartments and housing as they are opting out of these programs which means they can increase the rent and eliminate earmarking certain apartments. He agreed there should be a list of reputable contractors seniors can reach out to. He stated sometimes it is not always about finding someone to do the work but finding someone that can help them purchase the required materials and equipment necessary to repair their home. Another issue is that major housing repairs are outside the scope of their fixed income which creates a snowball effect with deterioration of the home to where it is no longer livable. What seems like a simple solution is not cut and dry due to the many variables involved.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON mentioned trying the Foundation for Assisting Seniors. While they are in Henderson, they cover the entire valley. She recently had a meeting with one of the co-founders, and discovered they have a lot of resources and are servicing 20,000 seniors a month. She thought they should come and speak to the Board. She also mentioned the nonprofit Independent Senior Foundation which is holding a gala with the Foundation for Assisting Seniors to raise more funds to do more things for seniors. She described some of the resources provided by the Foundation for Assisting Seniors.

MS. NASH added the Office of Community Services has a lead abatement program, where they canvass different neighborhoods with homes built prior to 1978. They are finding lead along with many other issues. They also are hearing about a lot of companies going into older areas and offering seniors \$10,000 to buy their house. The seniors are taking the money and leaving their home, but staff is not sure where they are going. They could end up at the Courtyard or in the hospital. The seniors see this as a quick opportunity to get some money, but they do not consider what happens after that.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON had heard about this as well and mentioned a reverse mortgage may be an option for some. She also noted it is tax season and the scams associated with that. She stressed the importance of education, knowing the best community resources and doing their best to eliminate those that are taking advantage.

MR. GRAY stated this is the reason his Director, MS. THOMAS-GIBSON recommended the subcommittees. He told her the Board was a passionate group, and he appreciates working with each one of them. She recognizes that and realizes there is so much more they can do. It is just a matter of setting up the right systems and work groups together to be able to address these issues effectively and to be able to present them to the City Council so they can be addressed properly as well.

7. **Discussion regarding topics for future agenda items.** Comments made during this portion of the agenda by individual members shall refer solely to proposals for future agenda items and any discussion shall be limited to whether or not such proposed items are within the purview of the Board and/or 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 wished to add topics regarding the formation of subcommittees and their structure as well as working with GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, to find speakers who can present to the Board on available resources and who are flexible in those instances when the Board cannot obtain a quorum. Although they are a small group, MEMBER PERRAZZO suggested having subcommittees related to housing, transportation, communication, safety and outreach/events.

MEMBER GALATI stressed the importance of technology. Senior citizens may not be as familiar with technology, and he thought having the right place to learn which was accessible was important, such as the library. Most seniors have a computer, but sometimes they need that extra push. MR. GRAY stated KATHI THOMAS-GIBSON, Director, Office of Community Services, suggested this as well. MS. THOMAS-GIBSON is working with DR. LISA MORRIS HIBBLER, Director of Youth Development and Social Innovation, on the digital divide; seniors are a part of that, and she thought having a senior subcommittee was essential as far as educational awareness.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON thought one of the biggest challenges that needed to be addressed was the number of shut-ins. There are senior centers that offer technology courses, but the problem is getting them there, which goes back to transportation. She wanted to brainstorm how to get them excited about technology, which would spill over into everything else.

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:

None.

9. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON stated the next meeting was scheduled for April 4, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Debra A. Outland, Deputy City Clerk

Gregory Gray, Community Program Technician

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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