



Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

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

PRESENT: CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and MEMBERS WEINSTEIN HALL (excused at 2:18 p.m.), PATTARETTU, PERAZZO, and GALATI (excused until 1:01 p.m.)

EXCUSED: MEMBERS MARSHALL and AVILA

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, KELLEENASH, Sr. Management Analyst, JEFF DOROCK, Deputy City Attorney, and PATTY HLAVAC, 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 March 7, 2019

Minutes:

MEMBER PERAZZO did not have corrections, only clarifications for the March 7, 2019, minutes, which included the following:

For Item 4 on Page 2, he noted that the minutes did not reflect that he made the motion.

For Item 5 where he discussed meeting with the Las Vegas Review-Journal, he wished to clarify that this was the Age Well Seminar. Additionally, where he spoke about having his accident and referenced 2,000 to 5,000 pedestrians, he believed this was the general population, as he thought it was about 20 percent of that or 400 to 1,000 per month.

Motion made by John Perazzo to Approve as amended

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

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

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

Minutes:

Wards 1 and 3 - CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON noted that currently, Ward 1 does not have a representative and that the Ward 3 representative was not present.

All Wards - MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL discussed the Ward 2 City Council vacancy that will be filled by an election. She shared that she has been working with the City staff assigned to that ward, even though there is no elected official at this time. She commented that she did not have a lot to report because she had been out of town.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL clarified for MEMBER GALATI that she lives in Ward 2; however, she was appointed as a member-at-large by MAYOR GOODMAN.

Ward 2 - MEMBER GALATI expressed concern with how seniors or caregivers can get information on services. He shared that he found some lists that provide guidelines and information on where to go for certain services; however, they were not comprehensive lists. He wondered if the Board could bring together a reference for seniors and suggested that it should be in a place where it could be easily found, which he thought would be the City's website. Additionally, he thought the Board could start by editing a Facebook list he found to see if they could make it better.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON agreed that the Board should work to create a centralized area for resources and suggested that this could be added as a future topic under Item 8.

KELLEE NASH, Sr. Management Analyst, recalled that a similar discussion took place at the last Senior Citizens' Advisory Board meeting concerning Nevada 2-1-1, but also acknowledged that it sounded like another alternative was needed. She asked if any of the Board members had received feedback from those who had utilized Nevada 2-1-1. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON conveyed that the system was sometimes challenging to navigate, especially for individuals who do not have someone to assist them.

GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, said that developing centralized coordination of information for seniors was one of staff's and the Board's objectives. He requested that the Board members refer seniors in need to staff, as staff will do their best to locate the appropriate services for them.

MEMBER GALATI thought Medicare and Social Security were the prime offenders for senior citizens. He discussed the difficulties that seniors experience when they need to access their information, noting that it was a challenge for seniors to keep track of multiple passwords that have to be changed every six months, or which cause seniors to get locked out when they forget them. Additionally, contacting these offices can be very difficult because their communication is typically done through correspondence. Further, he thought the complexity of coverage options was also confusing.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON suggested that Senior Medicare Patrol was a good option for addressing these types of problems, and that through this organization, LORI POWERS, as well as trained volunteers, go out into the community to speak on Medicare.

CHAIR O'REAR CAMERON clarified for MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL that Senior Medicare Patrol and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) attend many events and are great places to get Medicare information, as they understand and promote Medicare. Additionally, they are neutral groups and not brokers.

MEMBER PERAZZO thought that the takeaway for him was to begin keeping a list of the things he has problems with, as well as the people he encounters.

MEMBER PATERRETTU stated, with respect to having a doctor come into the home to take care of a person that usually Medicare and Medicaid help; however, the insurance or designated provider will be the one who decides whether the individual is a candidate for this type of service. She shared her personal experience in dealing with her mother, noting that although her mother was unable to contact service providers on her own, MEMBER PATERRETTU was able to do it for her. However, she acknowledged that this could be a problem for seniors who are living alone.

MEMBER GALATI thought this was the type of information that seniors needed to know because Medicare does not put this information out for the public.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON added that there are several mobile primary care practices, as well as urgent care providers that will go out and work with Medicare, Medicaid, and primary insurance carriers, as it was just a matter of getting to know them. She expressed that for this reason, Board members should be attending events out in the community, as this was how to learn about them. She also thought having speakers come and speak about their services would be beneficial.

MEMBER PATTARETTU mentioned that Senior Centers are holding meetings and providing information on services; however, the people who are attending in her area tend to be those who are more physically, mentally and financially well off. She also noted that financial services appeared to be another area where seniors and their family members were getting abused. Ultimately, she thought the people who were not getting the help they need were those who could not be reached or had some difficulty that kept them from getting exposure.

MR. GRAY understood that the consensus was to increase education and awareness, not just for seniors, but also for the people who are dealing with seniors. His concern was that the system and structure must be an informational and trusted space, as he believes intimidation plays into people's lack of awareness and education.

MS. NASH agreed, noting that this is something they experience in the community with all individuals, not just seniors, and reaching some of the seniors who are homebound will be very challenging, as some of these individuals may not have transportation or be able to leave their home due to mobility issues.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON also felt a discussion should be added to a future agenda on how to reach seniors who are homebound. She believed that these individuals were the ones who would most likely fall prey to television ads and items that come in the mail since this is informational to them and non-intrusive.

MEMBER GALATI wondered how they could identify individuals who were homebound, and provided a few suggestions. He also thought the Nextdoor mobile application was useful for disseminating information to individuals, and he suggested that this could be a tool for the Board to utilize in maximizing their efforts.

MR. GRAY agreed as he uses Nextdoor for the City. He reiterated the importance of having a system and structure in place because of the consequences of giving out false or misleading information.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON added that in her area, City representatives have been sharing information on this app. She suggested that the Board members learn which representatives are connected to their respective wards because then any information that would be provided for seniors would be vetted through the City.

Ward 4 - CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON reported that she attended a meeting on the Master Plan on March 21, 2019, where she was able to have some very good contact with City staff as a result of low turnout at the meeting. At the meeting, she was able to provide a lot of information and suggestions about seniors for City staff, as well as learn from their feedback.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON also attended a workshop on elder abuse called Walk Each Other Home: Pursuing Respect, Justice, and Well-being for Older Adults, which she felt was very meaningful. The training was put on through a partnership between the Nevada Attorney General's Office and Safe Haven's Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse. She asked permission to share some of this information with the Board at a future meeting, as she felt there were many red flags that should be passed on. She also said that her most significant takeaway from the training was when the presenters shared the statistics as to the percentage of seniors who have a faith-based background, which was 89 percent. From this, she learned that when things of a serious nature are being discussed with this sector of the senior population, it must come from a faith-based viewpoint, as this is what guides them.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON noted several other training events she recently attended, such as a webinar with Optum about Renew Active, which she also offered to share at a later meeting. She also attended Spotlight Spectacular with MEMBER PATTERETTU and plans to attend Coffee with a Cop with COUNCILMAN ANTHONY next week. She noted that she keeps hearing that transportation is an issue whenever she goes out to visit buildings with 55 and older residents, no matter what their level of care.

Finally, she stated that she would like for group homes to become a hot topic for the City Council. She had questions as to how the City conducts its oversight with these facilities, as well as how they are monitored. She also wondered if there was any legislation in place. She explained that she recently became aware of a situation with an elderly individual who was abused, noting that it was difficult to get this individual help because the stories between the parties were inconsistent. Additionally, the witnesses were afraid to say something for fear of retaliation since the victim received a letter to vacate shortly after the situation came about.

MR. GRAY noted that this was one of the reasons why it was the Board member's responsibility to present data and information to the City Council, as this will assist them in getting issues addressed. He suggested that the Board should get their system and structure in place, and then see what is going on in the community, as this will allow them to begin quantifying it in such a way that it will be presentable to the City Council.

MS. NASH spoke to the comments concerning oversight of group home facilities, noting that the State of Nevada oversees these; therefore, calls would go to the Department of Health and Human Services – Aging and Disability Services Division through the Long Term Care Ombudsman's program. However, the apartment-type communities mentioned by CHAIR O'REAR CAMERON would be separate from the ones overseen by the State, as they are privately run. As such, she did not believe the City had the ability to intervene; however, she agreed that these types of issues could lead to homelessness, which is something the City would like to prevent.

MR. GRAY felt education and awareness was necessary, noting that even if the City could not do something on behalf of these seniors, it could empower them to do something for themselves or their families.

MEMBER GALATI wondered if there was an abuse hotline phone number, as he thought it might be helpful to post it where it was readily available and seen in these organizations. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON acknowledged that there were several hotlines, but that it was a matter of educating the public about them. She added that one issue she hears from agencies that work with the abused elderly is that they can only act on what is disclosed to them by the abused individual. The agency has a reasonable amount of time to respond to the hotline call; however, if the victim refuses to talk when the face-to-face meeting is held, there is nothing that the agency can do.

MEMBER GALATI wondered how much the religious organizations were in touch with staff. MR. GRAY explained that there is no contact unless the senior requests these services; however, once the request is made, staff can reach out to see if it will be a good fit. MR. GRAY pointed out that staff always ask these individuals to call them back and report about their experience so staff can get feedback on their resources; however, this usually does not happen once these individuals get the help they need.

MR. GRAY affirmed for MEMBER GALATI that staff could check with their faith initiative to see what type of services are offered for seniors; however, based on his experience, he did not believe there was a lot of help for seniors in this area. He suggested that this might be a matter of educating the faith-based organizations on being more inclusive of the senior population.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON noted that her pastors are on the faith initiative and agreed there were little services for them. She appreciated that the Mayor has her faith initiative and thought it would be wonderful if the City's faith partners could become more educated on this matter.

Ward 5 - MEMBER PERAZZO reported on the upcoming astronomical event for the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Parker Solar Probe, which is making its closest approach to the sun. He felt that as this project moves forward, more people will be pulled in because there is a trust in the innocence of science that brings people out. For this reason, he thought that if the Board ever got to a place where they would be placing ads, he would not be opposed to putting an ad in a publication with an astronomy group.

MEMBER PERAZZO reported that he attended an online seminar at the Nevada Geriatric Education Center, which he felt was a trusted source of information. They did a seminar on Dementia and Veterans, which he found very useful.

MEMBER PERAZZO reported that he would forward information from an organization that was doing a zero-net program with the homeless that had been implemented in about a dozen cities. He submitted a copy of a flyer about this information for the record.

MEMBER PERAZZO also thought the Garden Door program was another suggestion for building trust. He explained that the City of Las Vegas Parks and Recreation Department came up with a set of guidelines for community gardens, which they released last month. He discussed the pricing for the garden beds, noting that the seasons will be March-August and September-February. He also talked about the number and sizes of the garden beds, noting that the Centennial Hills, Derfelt, Doolittle, East Las Vegas, Howard Lieburn and Las Vegas Senior Centers, as well as Floyd Lamb Park have community gardens. MEMBER PERAZZO submitted copies of documentation related to the community gardens for the record and elaborated on other garden ideas he thought would invite trust and allow seniors to be a part of an extended garden community.

MEMBER PERAZZO also submitted information on the National Do Not Call Registry and Internet Safety for the record, which he obtained from his wife's Medicare plan magazine.

MEMBER PERAZZO referenced a map, a copy of which was submitted as backup, and talked about a recent trip where he was walking in the Washington Avenue and D Street area, which is where he had his accident.

MEMBER PERAZZO stated that he came up with a list of 23 concerns after attending the Senior Citizen Spotlight Spectacular at Texas Station last year. He discussed an encounter he had with a citizen who shocked him with their comments about political parties and elections. That conversation led him to discover ranked-choice voting as an interesting insight into alternatives to existing election processes, which he thought might empower seniors to a greater extent. MEMBER PERAZZO submitted information related to this process for the record and wondered if the City Council would look into this as a feasible request.

MEMBER PERAZZO shared that COUNCILMAN CREAR and his staff would be taking the Regional Transportation Center (RTC) bus on a couple of routes, as they want to learn about people's transportation concerns.

MEMBER PERAZZO discussed a senior living facility in his neighborhood that he helped with in the early permit process; however, he came to realize that there was no permitting process for management. Ultimately, he wondered, as part of the permitting process, if the City could include a periodic follow-up for management and its practices.

MEMBER PERAZZO discussed a situation where an individual wanted feedback about an incident that MEMBER PERAZZO had reported on; however, MEMBER PERAZZO conveyed to them that the information was confidential. As such, he wondered if a log could be developed that would indicate these types of matters had been addressed.

MEMBER PERAZZO had a few final thoughts, one being with respect to faith-based communities, as he thought utilizing special taskforce groups to address senior issues may be beneficial. Additionally, he indicated that he could use some assistance addressing the 23 concerns that he identified during the Senior Spotlight Spectacular.

MEMBER GALATI questioned where the Community Gardens were located, to which MEMBER PERAZZO indicated they were predominantly at City Senior Centers; however, he was aware that there were additional informal locations spread throughout the community. He thought it would be helpful to have a resource for this so people could find out how to participate.

MEMBER PERAZZO affirmed for MEMBER GALATI that Lowes, Home Depot, Star Nursery, and Moon Valley Nurseries were contacted about providing discounts for the Community Gardens Master Gardener; however, he was uncertain what had become of this request because the Master Gardener had been ill.

MEMBER GALATI thought local libraries were good resources for disseminating information, as well as great locations to hold seminars and activities for seniors. He pointed out that libraries also have free weekly circulars. He also thought the media would be a good option to use once in a while.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON felt that, from the City's standpoint, the Board's responsibility was to ensure that agencies know about these resources so they can help to pass the information along, rather than focusing on the dissemination of information.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON inquired of staff if the City was planning to attend the Veteran's event on April 5, 2019, to which MS. NASH affirmed that it would be taking place but that all of the vendor tables were full. However, she noted that Military Family Appreciation Day was on April 27, 2019, at Aloha Shores Park, and the

City would like the Board to have a table at this event. MS. NASH committed to forwarding additional information to the Board members as soon as the details have been finalized.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON reminded the Board members to take care of their new City email requirements, and MR. GRAY indicated that if any member had issues, they should contact him.

Ward 6 - MEMBER PATTARETTU reported that she attended an event at The Orleans Hotel and Casino. She added that with her experience from the medical side, she has started seeing an increase in families who are dropping elder family members off at the hospitals and then filing for guardianship, which takes months to achieve. In the meantime, these seniors often do not know their bank or how to access their monthly Medicare or Social Security checks. Often these individuals cannot even identify the family members who come to visit them, and most of them will likely end up in senior group homes where it is difficult to monitor their quality of care.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON shared her concerns for those seniors, especially for those who are suffering from cognitive issues since they are the most vulnerable. She was also concerned about the inability to know what the quality of care was in these facilities.

MEMBER PATTARETTU suggested that the Board could utilize the faith-based organizations to form volunteer support groups who could go into homes to help senior residents and observe their treatment and care.

MR. GRAY noted that the Board could not take on everything at once and suggested that a stepped approach be established to begin addressing issues.

6. Discussion on the formation of Senior Citizens' Advisory Board subcommittees – All Wards

Minutes:

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAC asked Board members for the topics they were interested in having for subcommittees, noting that staff would come back with the specifics as to how many subcommittees will be created by the next meeting.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON referred to ideas that were previously addressed. When MEMBER PERAZZO queried as to which of these issues seemed most pressing to staff, GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, indicated they were all important, noting that staff plans to review the Board members ideas to see how they can format them to best serve the interest of the Board.

MEMBER PERAZZO believed the first task was to identify the problem and suggested that a brainstorming session would assist the board in tying together their ideas so they could identify the key areas.

KELLEE NASH asked MR. DOROCAC for his recommendation on the optimal number of subcommittees for the Board to be effective. MR. DOROCAC thought a maximum of three subcommittees would be appropriate, with three members on each subcommittee. He provided some format suggestions on how the subcommittees could meet and report back to the regular Senior Citizens' Advisory Board and reiterated the primary topics that he had heard mentioned in the past, which included housing, transportation, outreach, communications, safety, and health. MR. DOROCAC felt that if the Board started with those six and grouped them in pairs, this would allow staff an opportunity to come back with recommendations at the next meeting. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and the Board members supported this approach for moving forward.

7. 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, indicated that staff had identified an opportunity for the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) grant, which they hoped could be applied towards the Digital Divide for seniors. The grant would provide seniors with technology, classes, and programs related to information and communication technologies. MR. GRAY reported that KELLEE NASH, Sr. Management Analyst, was hoping to finish up the grant by next week.

MS. NASH shared that in addition to considering technology education, staff included another component for class topics such as online banking, scams, fraud prevention, and areas of this nature. Through this grant, staff is hoping to provide seniors important training on iPads, and there has been some consideration about using the

City's Batteries Included program where the youth would be utilized to serve as mentors for the seniors. Once seniors have completed their training, they will be allowed to take the iPad with them, which staff hopes will work as an incentive. MS. NASH said that staff would also be considering individuals who are unable to leave their homes to attend classes, as this is a significant problem.

MS. NASH discussed how this was a quick action grant that must be completed by November 4, 2019, and how they were hopeful of receiving it. MS. NASH thanked the Board for their input.

MEMBER GALATI asked if the grant would apply across all wards, to which MS. NASH affirmed that this project would take place at all six Senior Centers across the city. She noted for CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON that staff would work out the details for Ward 4, given that this ward did not have a Senior Center.

MS. NASH affirmed for MEMBER PERAZZO that the training could be videotaped and utilized for other seniors, such as those who are unable to travel to the classes. She pointed out that much of this process was already being done throughout the City, as other departments were working on similar projects: however, this initiative will be placing the focus on seniors.

MR. GRAY explained that housing was a priority for this grant; however, due to the quick turnaround time, staff did not feel they could do anything substantial.

MR. GRAY also mentioned that World Elder Abuse Day was coming up in June and that he was planning to hold an event during the month of June 2019 for this cause. He is hoping to start it on June 1, 2019, and then host it in the other Senior Centers city-wide. MR. GRAY invited Board members to join in helping with this event, noting that it would be a great way to make the Board's presence known and for the Board members to share their knowledge. MR. GRAY stated that while they want to expand on World Elder Abuse, they also want to make it a resource fair for seniors, as staff hopes to duplicate this event for years to come.

MEMBER PERAZZO shared that he reached out to someone in a faith-based community who started the first Alzheimer's group home in the State of Nevada, and this person indicated they were willing to come and tell their story at a later meeting.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON thought bringing speakers to the Board meetings was beneficial because everyone gets an opportunity to hear the information at the same time.

MR. GRAY talked about the importance of the June event being a big success, as this will create a network between seniors, the City and the Board members, as well as provide an avenue that will allow others to know they can come to speak and be heard.

8. **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 thought the several of the topics had already been discussed during this meeting. She felt that because Board members were going to be out in the community talking to seniors that each Board member should obtain their HIPPA certification; therefore, she thought this should be discussed at a future meeting.

MEMBER PERAZZO requested a follow-up discussion on the ranked-choice voting information he discussed earlier in the meeting.

See Item 5 for related discussion.

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:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON stated the next meeting was scheduled for May 2, 2019.

10. Adjournment

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Patty Hlavac, 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