



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, PATTARETTU, PERAZZO, GALATI and BIENENSTEIN

EXCUSED: MEMBERS AVILA and MOZDEAN

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, JEFF DOROCAK, Deputy City Attorney, and GABRIELA PORTILLO-BRENNER, 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 June 6, 2019

Motion made by Yvette Weinstein Hall to Approve

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

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

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 1 – MEMBER BIENENSTEIN had nothing to report but said she had scheduled a meeting with her Council representative to discuss any possible issues. She briefly commented about her background, stating that she works part-time with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). She came to Las Vegas from Michigan, where she

worked for General Motors as a design engineer for 29 years. She was happy to join the Board. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON welcomed her.

Ward 2 – MEMBER GALATI said he was scheduled to meet with the new Councilmember for Ward 2 the following week. He did have the opportunity to contact the senior center in Ward 2 to introduce himself and to visit the Veterans Memorial Leisure Services Center in Summerlin, which was very impressive to him. He attended a presentation at the Sienna Campus about guardianships, and he was surprised to learn how uninformed he was about this topic. They presented a documentary film exposing financial exploitation in Las Vegas, which led him to do some research on Google, where he found an article about exploitation in the New Yorker that he forwarded to the members. He stressed the importance of being prepared and taking action before tragedy occurs, which can often leave families in difficult situations.

After learning about the documentary through a friend, he started wondering how seniors receive information and about the best way to get information to them, and he came across the Vegas Voice, which is a good venue for sharing information, and Americans Against Abusive Probate Guardianship (AAPG). He intends to discuss his findings with the Councilmember at their meeting.

MEMBER GALATI mentioned that a guardian form could be obtained and put in a lockbox, and the courts have to abide by the information in the form, and he described the process for making the form valid. He also provided information about a CPR Call Blocker device to block robocalls, which he regards as a big problem for seniors, who panic and end up providing personal information.

MEMBER GALATI submitted a copy of Vegas Voice, of AAPG web page, CPR Call Blocker photo and information and Request to Nominate Guardian Form for the record.

Member At-Large – MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL said she has always practiced not answering calls from numbers she does not recognize and agreed wholeheartedly with MEMBER GALATI that robocalls and scams, which are rampant, should be avoided and blocked.

Ward 4 – Regarding guardianships, CHAIR O'REAR CAMERON updated the members that APRIL PARKS was prosecuted in the guardianship case. It was a long process because the assets had to be found so that at the time of prosecution, the families could be returned as much of the assets as possible. Because of her involvement with seniors, she was privy to the many people that were involved in the case. She noted that guardianship information can be found through many agencies and this is something seniors should be made aware of through community outreach, especially to those seniors who are often isolated because of immobility.

She thanked MEMBER GALATI for bringing up guardianship and suggested scheduling a presentation to the members about it.

Regarding cancer screenings, the Chair cautioned that companies are showing up unannounced at senior functions and senior communities talking about cancer screenings. These companies try to get seniors signed up to defraud them. She recommended not letting company representatives speak at senior functions or fairs, unless they are scheduled to speak. These are huge scams that Medicare is trying to get a handle on, and she cautioned that any type of cancer screenings should be done through primary physicians.

She reported that she visited a veterans village in Austin, Texas, where she saw some amazing tiny homes with a lot of style. The veterans she spoke with were very nice and this particular village is a community with many amenities. She offered to provide pictures to the members and to share the DVD on guardianship with any member who would like to view it.

She attended several events with Humana and was surprised to see how widespread elder abuse is. She came across a couple of individuals who need assistance. Unfortunately, agencies are overburdened, and it is difficult to obtain help, especially when financial help is needed. She mentioned that even her mother is going through some issues. She felt the Community Outreach Subcommittee could tackle some of the issues and put on more informational events for seniors.

She also attended the Master Plan neighborhood meeting at the YMCA in her Ward, and it was very discouraging to see that it was not well attended, especially because growth affects everyone and input matters. One of the ideas in the Master Plan is vertical growth; however, this can pose a problem for seniors as they cannot move easily, which can be a big problem in a fire situation. If people have to go down stairs, seniors can hold them up.

She held a party at her house and the biggest topic amongst seniors was lack of affordable housing. She noted that the City Resource Fair was well attended by many vendors.

Ward 5 - MEMBER PERAZZO reported the Elder Abuse Awareness and Resource Fair was held 6/8/2019, and several agencies attended and offered services for seniors, noting that a representative of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro) went over regulations and definitions under Nevada Revised Statutes on elder abuse, neglect, etc. He printed the information and will make it available to the members to share with seniors so they can become well versed in the law.

Regarding the request for assistance to a senior with some housing repair issues from GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, MEMBER PERAZZO said this gave him the idea that the Board should find a way to assemble a team with skilled individuals that can assist seniors without encroaching on contracts and legally protecting the team member. He felt they might be able to find some protections for being a good Samaritan. He felt it is a good idea worth exploring.

MEMBER PERAZZO submitted a list of things everyone can do to prevent elder abuse and enumerated the 12 items listed. A copy of the document was submitted for the record. He mentioned a friend he used to visit who had a handy device in the bathroom to mark the cold and hot water valves so he would not get hot water burns. He added that he posted the relocation of some activities, and that he keeps looking for ways to interact with the community to get the word out about events.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON noted that one of the problems with Sun City is they are very self-contained, which makes it hard to get help to its residents, such as for the elderly lady who MR. GRAY was trying to get help for. She said this should be another topic for discussion by the Community Outreach Subcommittee so they can try to determine the scope of what can be done to help.

Ward 6 - MEMBER PATTARETTU felt it would be a good idea to educate seniors on setting up a trust and designating a family member or trustee to take care of them, as well as providing a guardianship form in case something happens to the trustee. Even though some people think they do not have much to leave to warrant setting up a trust, they should sit down with an attorney because there are matters that can be handled through a trust, which should be set up while the individuals have the necessary mental capacity. She suggested the Board discuss how to educate seniors on this matter, as well as on displacement.

MEMBER GALATI interjected that the family members and guardians need to be well educated on financial matters of individuals they have to take care of.

MEMBER PATTARETTU added that the individuals also need to think about funeral arrangements so that their families do not stress about what do after they die. She thought perhaps a trust attorney could be contacted to speak with seniors. She remarked that she has observed at hospitals that many guardians just drop off the people they are supposed to be caring for, and then the guardians cannot be reached.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON commented that there are several attorneys that visit the senior facilities to speak about these issues; however, the biggest issue is that the isolated seniors are unreachable, and the information on the guardianship form is very touchy. In many instances, the people are being asked to quickly decide on a guardian and sometimes they decide on the wrong person, even if it is a family member they think they can trust. She emphasized that she is familiar with very capable attorneys who can help, and if the Board cannot get legislation changed, then they can at least provide education and find ways to reach people.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN-HALL suggested setting up a seminar to deal with these issues and having someone from the Legal Aid Foundation give a presentation. She asked if the City does any kind of advertising. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON recommended using the Senior Law Project. MR. GRAY stated that senior centers hold legal planning, abuse and resource fairs and provide a lot of information to the attendees. The problem is that a lot of people cannot get to the events. His staff is trying to find better avenues to get the information out.

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, commented that he spoke with the Communications Department about adding the Senior Citizens' Advisory Board meeting to the City's newsletter, as well as about getting a YouTube link on the newsletter for previous meetings, which should help spread the word about what the Board is doing and can do for seniors. He mentioned that the cases of seniors needing repair work are rising

because of the season. Unfortunately, due to contracts, the best advice they can give seniors is to seek legal counsel. He said the senior lady who needed help in Sun City concerned him because her husband is bedridden so it is not easy to move him. He would try to reach out to her to get an update on the situation.

He mentioned that his team, which is the Neighborhood Revitalization and Community Engagement Team, has a new Community Services Administrator, NANCEE NALANI AKI, and they are working on their annual calendar. He encouraged the members to brainstorm on ideas for the upcoming year and for the Community Outreach Subcommittee to implement. The next meeting for this Subcommittee would be 9/12/2019. He indicated he is working with an intern on formulating a senior services strategy plan, which will address issues such as elder abuse, repairs, etc., and he will be providing a draft of the plan to the Senior Living Subcommittee for review. A briefing session was held with his administrator and staff members on the Elder Abuse Fair, and he realized that it is necessary to increase attendance and to reach more seniors by going to highly-attended senior events. He observed that there are employment concerns among seniors, many of whom want to provide their ideas but want to get paid for the implementation of their ideas. Health and wellness will be made a part of the programming and will probably be tied in with senior services and the strategic plan. He will provide more information when it is available.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON appreciated the updates.

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 said she would like some informational presentations by agencies scheduled for the Board.

MEMBER GALATI stated that some of the services, such as grocery delivery, are problematic to receive because a computer is needed and many seniors have difficulty with technology use. He thought perhaps a list of information could be put together on available services and how to access them. He would like to put a plan together for the Councilmembers, who can in turn get the information out. GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, supported producing ideas for the Councilmembers to see and be able to support and execute them. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON agreed and said it ties into community outreach. She noted that personal care agencies could help with MEMBER GALATI'S idea.

JEFF DOROCAL, Deputy City Attorney, said the City Attorney's Office may have a contact at the Senior Law Project to help with the elderly law topic discussed. Perhaps a report could be scheduled on senior legal issues and how they can provide assistance. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said she has a number for an attorney she deals with who could possibly make a presentation.

MEMBER PERAZZO asked for information on the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Elder Abuse Seminar. MR. GRAY said he was underwhelmed because they encouraged reporting elder abuse, but said they could not provide updates and that it would be up to the supervisor if cases would be addressed. MEMBER PERAZZO said he asked if statistics on Las Vegas cases could be provided, and MR. GRAY said he has not been contacted about any information. MEMBER PERAZZO said he would follow up as well. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON stressed that it is hard to get help if all the information is not available, and the information is hard to get because of HIPAA laws. Therefore, she would like information on the process.

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:

OYAIMA CAMMAN-CALVO, Community Technician, Office of Community Services, offered an opportunity to work with "Keep Las Vegas Beautiful" and any possible beautification projects with any assisted living facilities

throughout the City of Las Vegas. She could meet with activity coordinators. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON liked the idea and asked for her contact information.

MEMBER PERAZZO said he was contacted by DOUGLAS GOODMAN, who wanted to call in and talk about how he could help seniors. Hopefully MR. GOODMAN could listen to the meeting on YouTube.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON announced the next regular meeting would be held 8/1/2019 and the Senior Living Subcommittee would be on 8/8/2019. Both meetings are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in the City Clerk's Conference Room. She asked MEMBER BIENENSTEIN to let MR. GRAY know if she would like to serve on a subcommittee as well.

9. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Gabriela Portillo-Brenner, 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