



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, MOZDEAN and BIENENSTEIN

EXCUSED: MEMBER AVILA

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, JEFF DOROCAC, Deputy City Attorney, and ASHLEY FOSTER, 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 July 11, 2019

Motion made by Yvette Weinstein Hall to Approve

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

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

Ward 1 – MEMBER BIENENSTEIN reported she met with COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN who arranged for her to tour all of the senior community centers in Ward 1 on August 6th. The Councilman also asked her to participate on a television show with him being recorded on August 15th.

Ward 2 – MEMBER GALATI reported he met with COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN, and he did not realize that upon the resignation of a Councilmember, one had to be voted in to continue to serve on the Board, but that he was fine. He said they discussed several topics, including safety and getting the message out to seniors, how he could help and his desire to volunteer. He stated the Councilwoman was enthusiastic about a guardianship presentation on Friday, September 20th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the West Sahara Library, and said additional information can be found on the Councilwoman's website. He had suggested scheduling it during the day to make it more convenient for seniors.

MEMBER GALATI also spoke of starting a Neighborhood Watch on his street which he hoped to propagate and duplicate throughout the area because he read articles about the positive results of such programs. He thought they worked by not only getting the news out there, but by connecting an area. He indicated he would share any Neighborhood Watch information he obtained. After relaying how he has seen people smoking marijuana in their cars and found trash throughout the Lake Sahara Park, including an empty bottle of wine and a vial from a marijuana dispensary, he informed the Members there is a company that charges \$2,000 a year for a solar camera that records around the clock. He thought it was worth spending the money as a deterrent and that these are all components of a community watch.

MEMBER GALATI feels that neighborhoods within gated communities are well informed, while those that are not gated are not. He spoke to the editor of The Vegas Voice who informed him this publication is only distributed to 50-and-over gated communities. He was told it was too expensive to distribute it to other communities, but it is available on the website which he said comes back to seniors being able to use technology. He believes there needs to be a dissemination strategy to provide easy access. He indicated he had done some homework and found a study regarding how to disseminate information. He stated he would send the full link of the study to GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, to distribute to the Members. He did not think there could be action without the group identifying a specific approach, goals and objectives. With goals and objectives, there are assessments and exploration of all ways of doing things which ends in results. He thought there needed to be committees that handle each element and to determine how best to spread the word to the community. Additionally, he submitted for the record an excerpt from the CalFresh Outreach Basics Handbook regarding how to reach older adults in your community.

MEMBER PERAZZO noted the community of Woodland Hills Estates/Twin Lakes received a grant from the City of Las Vegas to install security cameras on the light poles in this neighborhood. MEMBER BIENENSTEIN stated there are grants available through the City for community projects relating to safety or community engagement. She noted the grants, which are limited to \$5,000, would become available again in the spring. She briefly explained that process and stated her community has already received three grants from the City related to safety and security. MEMBER GALATI also spoke of the effectiveness of solar radar speed signs.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON thought this was great information and that each member should discuss it with their individual Councilmember so they can be proactive when the grants become available. She noted how much of a difference it made in one of the communities where there was an issue with a lot of break-ins. She also liked how this particular community comes together to talk about the various issues. When visiting the different communities, the Members should find out what the major issues are because they will probably find the same issues in most of the Wards. She commented this could be discussed more in depth at the Subcommittee meetings.

MEMBER MOZDEAN appreciated the information regarding the grant and shared her community has installed a number of cameras which have helped greatly. Although they were at the cost of their HOA (Homeowners Association), in the long run, it is a small amount to pay in exchange for the safety and security they provide. She noted they have had problems with people coming through the back gates by either tailgating or breaking the gate, and they found the cameras are a good way to keep an eye on this activity. They also have a guard at the front gate with a monitor, and the stored footage has proven beneficial. The cameras have also been useful when property such as mailbox units are damaged, etc. MEMBER MOZDEAN also stated many streets in her community of approximately 1,500 homes have a Neighborhood Watch. She noted the Neighborhood Watch presentation is excellent and she offered to share additional information on that with the Members. She noted Ring video doorbells are also helpful.

Ward 2 – MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL mentioned an article in the Las Vegas Review Journal regarding HOA fees for apartment dwellers increasing, which was submitted for the record. Property managers and their actions toward seniors has been discussed in the past and tenants' rights have finally been discussed in the

State Legislature which is a good thing.. She noted the passage of State Senate Bill 151 caps late fees at five percent, but as a result of that, evictions will now occur in two days rather than the normal three days. Eviction notices for some seniors in subsidized housing, however, will remain at four days. She thought the issue of property management companies not understanding when seniors receive their checks presented a serious problem, and she thought it should be discussed at the Subcommittee meeting.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL noted she was going to attend the Coffee with COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN event on August 17th and would make a report in October as she is going to be gone for the Board meeting in September.

Ward 4 – CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON reported she attended Coffee with a Cop on Monday, July 29th, which she enjoys very much because members from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department are present along with COUNCILMAN ANTHONY. She talked to several individuals about various concerns and was able to speak with CAPTAIN SASHA LARKIN, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, who is over the Northwest Area Command. She said CAPTAIN LARKIN was going to send her information relating to the types of elder abuse the Northwest Area Command sees, and she would share this report with the members who fall under that area. She said the Captain also touched on isolation which will be discussed more in depth at the Subcommittee meeting. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON commented how the needs on the west and east sides of the city are very different. She stated she enjoys attending these types of events because of the opportunity to meet a lot of people and what can get done, and she encouraged the members to do the same.

The Chair stated since the last meeting, she has become a Certified Nevada Veterans Advocate; she decided to get certified after hearing there was a shortage of advocates. She completed the 30-module program through the Armed Forces Chamber, and it left her feeling empowered because of what she learned. She stated there was no cost to go through the program and offered to provide information to any of the Members that wished to complete it. She explained the role of an advocate would involve informing individuals of available resources and then referring them to one of the locations.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL said there was an article in the Las Vegas Review Journal about the underserved women veterans. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON agreed, adding there are some things specific to women veterans. She noted Nevada is one of three states, along with Texas and Florida, that has a predominant veteran population so she wants to learn as much as she can.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON shared a personal story of someone close to her that recently experienced elder abuse, and pointed out it comes in many forms – physical, mental and emotional. In this situation, there was every red flag that is taught during elder abuse certification. After hearing the story, MEMBER PATTARETTU asked if Social Services was involved because nurses have the right to file a report of abuse, and a nurse should have been caring for this individual.

The Chair stated she would be scheduling events at community centers throughout the valley following the summer months and will invite the Members individually to those events to avoid a quorum of the Members. Additionally, she thought this issue should be addressed during the Outreach Subcommittee meeting and that outreach should not just be for seniors, but also those serving seniors. MEMBER GALATI stated sometimes just starting the conversation can get seniors to talk about the topic of abuse.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON also encouraged the Members to sign up for the Next Door app to find out what is happening in their community.

Ward 5 – MEMBER PERAZZO thanked CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON for her hard work and leadership and MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL for bringing up the newspaper article saying that oftentimes a law is created, but people still find a way to get around it. He believed in enlarging the vision of the whole industry, not just the seniors. He offered a quote from the book "Thinking in Systems" on the use of language. He noted his company which has 12 properties in Las Vegas had training earlier in the day regarding management style and that approximately 80 percent of the residents where he lives are seniors.

MEMBER PERAZZO stated he still takes the bus to work and was asked for money to help with someone's medication. He thinks there are cracks in the system and a shift in society where it is assumed children will take care of their parents, but that is not happening.

MEMBER PERAZZO noted he and his wife attended a class at the Neighborhood College at the East Las Vegas Community Center where he reconnected with Parks Commissioner ELIZABETH GEBRE and individuals from the Office of Community Services. He stated the Neighborhood College is sponsored by the Office of Community Services; he named the classes, which he compared to having several presentations in one night. The classes are on Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with the next session starting September 19th. The classes are free and take place at various community centers. He said one can register online or by calling (702) 229-2555. Two things he learned were that animals have to be vaccinated against rabies, and you must be able to present that vaccination certificate upon request. Also, your animal needs to be spayed or neutered, and there is a fine if that is not done. He also spoke of the community garden he and his wife are involved with as being a rallying point and a point of communication.

MEMBER PERAZZO stated he called Facebook because he is having trouble viewing messages on pages he created. He noted he receives calls with offers to purchase his home, and he is worried about the exploitation of seniors in this regard. He submitted for the record Nevada Revised Statue 200.5092 which contains definitions for Abandonment, Exploitation, Isolation, Neglect, Older Person, Protective Services, Vulnerable Person, reading in particular the definition of Exploitation.

MEMBER PERAZZO said he sent some housing/apartment statistics to GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, along with graphs relating to rent. He noted Nevada is still Number 4 in the nation regarding housing vacancies, and he believes collaborating with other municipalities is important. He spoke of nanodegrees in programming and design but also free start-up classes that he thought seniors could benefit from that would allow them to network.

MEMBER PERAZZO submitted flyers for the Neighborhood College, Heaven Can Wait's Spay and Neuter Program and Smoke Alarms Save Lives. He encouraged the Members to subscribe to the City of Las Vegas newsletter and verified in which Ward some of the community centers were located.

MEMBER BIENENSTEIN introduced COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN who was in the audience. MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL expressed her appreciation for the Councilman coming to the meeting because she did not remember any other Councilmember doing so.

Ward 6 – MEMBER MOZDEAN apologized for missing the last meeting due to a serious and sudden health concern in the family. She stated she will probably be out of pocket for the next couple of weeks because of this, but planned on being at the next meeting. She reported the Dog Day Charity event was on June 18th which benefited the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department K-9 units. She noted this event may be expanded throughout Ward 6 next year. She offered her assistance to anyone who would like information on holding a dog walk or dog day event and stated the Committee in charge of the event is also looking for a charity, which she would like to be a senior charity. She encouraged the Members to contact her with suggestions or ideas.

MEMBER MOZDEAN stated she follows COUNCILWOMAN FIORE'S newsletter and attended one of her events at the Centennial Hills YMCA. There she heard concerns relating to affordable housing and the high cost of prescription drugs. She will be meeting with the Councilwoman to delve deeper into these issues and to find out more about other events she has. MEMBER MOZDEAN stated the cost of her personal prescription drugs have decreased, but she said there are multiple non-insurance cards available at doctor offices and other locations, and she thought seniors were looking for guidance on such cards and whether they should drop Medicare Part B. This was something she thought the Board could address.

MEMBER MOZDEAN stated she spoke with her management company and advised them of her involvement on this Board. Additionally, even though her community is not entirely seniors, she requested they set up a date for a senior get together in their offices and to place a notice in their correspondence.

MEMBER MOZDEAN commented she was fascinated by the Spotlight booklet and thought it contained a lot of information. She also requested a copy of the Royal Pages. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON commented this was a great resource and she would send it to MR. GRAY to disseminate.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON added money paid when using the prescription cards does not go towards your deductible. They are good to have and when received in the mail, you can look up online to see if the medication you are taking is covered. There are price fluctuations depending on the medication, if there is a

generic available and other variables. MEMBER MOZDEAN stated she listened to a speech by the Governor of Connecticut who was speaking on this subject, and she said it is also dependent on which supplier the pharmacy is using. She pointed out in some instances you have to instruct the pharmacist which supplier to get the medication from. The Chair emphasized the importance of the consultation window at the pharmacy and explained for MEMBER GALATI it is there to get answers to pertinent questions. MEMBER GALATI pointed out the wording the doctor uses on the script is also a factor in which medication is given and the cost of such. The Chair stressed the importance of education.

Ward 6 – MEMBER PATTARETTU said she visited the YMCA and the seniors are happy there. She spoke to a faith-based community member and announced four apartment complexes with 70 units are being opened at Sahara Avenue and Jones Boulevard. She plans to visit that location to find out pricing, requirements, etc.

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 Office of Community Services is moving forward with a software that tracks the number of phone calls received; i.e., senior and veteran calls, etc. It will provide a better way to present data and let them know what is going on in the Wards, what issues they are facing and what is trending in those particular areas. He spoke to the Office of Communications, and every month he will provide a link to the Board meeting and to the previous month's Board meeting so seniors can be aware of the discussion going on.

MR. GRAY reminded the Members of an email he received regarding a senior who was facing eviction, went through the appeal process and was denied. They were able to connect this individual to CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and someone from the homeless outreach team to see about getting him into rapid rehousing, but he has not received an update on his current situation, and the individual has not reached back out to him.

MR. GRAY stated he sent another email to the Members regarding finding resources for a gentleman having a stroke and the concern over his well-being. He has not received an update on this situation either.

Commenting on the article from the Las Vegas Review Journal about rent being due sooner, MR. GRAY stated depending on the community in which they live, seniors can apply for a reasonable accommodation to have the due date extended. He stated he is concerned because he has received calls regarding seniors being evicted and rent increasing so staff is looking into this.

He also spoke about elder abuse and that the story CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON shared was a heartbreaking situation. Staff is looking into a grant opportunity to fund senior services on August 5th. He stated he will begin reaching out to seniors via the Next Door app to see what is happening in the neighborhoods. He had been holding off doing so until they had a solid idea what they were doing as a Board as well as the Subcommittees.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON stated she would hold off commenting on the newspaper article until the Subcommittee meeting scheduled for the following week. She pointed out most seniors do not receive their check until the third of the month which presents a huge problem, but this would be discussed at the next meeting.

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:

GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, said he got in touch with Southern Nevada Senior Law Program who is willing to come and speak to this Board and will be on the agenda for the month of September. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON thought, in her personal opinion, that they were one of the better agencies.

The Chair thought the impact of the newspaper article should be discussed at the Senior Living Subcommittee meeting on August 8th, and how to get out and reach the seniors and those that serve the seniors should be discussed at the Senior Outreach Subcommittee meeting.

MEMBER PERAZZO asked for a reminder who the Subcommittee members were; MR. GRAY said he would email the group the Subcommittee members. MEMBER MOZDEAN asked for an overview of the Subcommittees. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON stated there will be two subcommittees to start with and explained the purpose of each. She noted the two Subcommittee meetings would alternate every other month.

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 pointed out the Senior Living Subcommittee meeting will be held on August 8th at 1:00 p.m., and the next regular Board meeting will be held on September 5th at 1:00 p.m. She thanked everyone for being in attendance and for the great dialogue. She is excited about the change they are going to make and said every contribution is very much appreciated.

The Chair asked the Members that due to time constraints that they consider when giving their Ward reports what can be saved for the Subcommittee meetings. They can provide an overview, but the in-depth conversation should occur at the Subcommittee level and then each Subcommittee member can report back during the regular Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Debra A. Outland, 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