



Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

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

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

EXCUSED: MEMBERS WEINSTEIN HALL and MOZDEAN

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, JEFF DOROCAL, Assistant City Attorney, and CHEYENNE LARANCE, Deputy City Clerk

2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov; and The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov.

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 3, 2021

Motion made by Elizabeth Pattarettu to Approve

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

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

5. Presentation of the Senior Recognition Award to Jo Ann Worthington, Capital North American Movers, Mary Stroughter, Lucy Martinez, and Nina Ten for their outstanding service to the senior community

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON read a statement provided by NINA TEN, Spotlight Senior Services, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, who could not attend the meeting. She said Spotlight Senior Services was grateful to the Board and the City of Las Vegas for the recognition of their community service and advocacy on behalf of older adults and adults with disabilities in the community. It is their honor and mission to assist others in need by providing accurate information for individuals to find programs and resources to

improve their quality of life. In the case of EVELYN BONNER-DRAPES, it was evident that she was in a serious situation when she received the Notice of Non-Renewal of Lease on her front door in September of 2020. It was at no fault of her own that she was forced to move from the apartment she had lived in for 12 years, and Spotlight Senior Services was compelled to help her no matter the cost. Just as they had anticipated, the situation was devastating to MS. BONNER-DRAPES' health and well-being. Her story is just one of hundreds of seniors who live on a fixed income and are victims to the current affordable housing crisis. MS. TEN thanked the Board for documenting this case and their continued diligence in recording these incidents in hopes to affect change for the aging population. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON also submitted the original testimony of MS. BONNER-DRAPES, a copy of which was attached as backup.

The Chair presented awards to JO ANN WORTHINGTON and Capital North American Movers, and noted that MARY STROUGHTER and NINA TEN were not able to attend the meeting. She also advised that LUCY MARTINEZ recently passed away, but the award would be given to the care agency on her behalf.

KARL CATARATA, Special Assistant to Council, thanked MEMBER BIENENSTEIN for inviting him to the meeting. He presented a Certificate of Recognition to Ward 1 business Las Vegas Personal Care Ltd., a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, for their home health services to the community. The Chair advised that nobody from the agency was present to accept the certificate, but she would ensure that it gets passed on.

TERESA WATTS, Capital North American Movers, said they have been serving the Las Vegas Valley since 1962. When MS. TEN called about this particular case, she involved TODD GREY, Vice President, and LAUREN GREY, Relocation Coordinator, who then took over and handled everything. She thanked the Board for the award and appreciated the recognition.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON encouraged others to set the same example as these individuals set with MS. BONNER-DRAPES' case. When we work together, anything is possible and she greatly appreciated everyone who was involved in this case.

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

Minutes:

GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, reported that his office has received over 20 calls in the last two months regarding senior housing due to the lack of affordable housing. Many seniors have also called seeking assistance with home repairs, specifically with air conditioning units faulting due to the rising temperatures.

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

Minutes:

Ward 1 – MEMBER BIENENSTEIN reported that COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN holds events at various locations around Ward 1 for citizens to come and voice any concerns. He has also been very active in helping the Neighborhood Watch programs in various senior communities in Ward 1. The new affordable housing development at Decatur Boulevard and Alta Drive is under construction, and they are looking forward to the grand opening.

Ward 2 – MEMBER GALATI stated he has not been overly active due to the pandemic, but he often posts relevant information on the NextDoor application. He is also involved in his Neighborhood Watch program, and noted that the local police are very responsive and cooperative.

Ward 3 – MEMBER DRUMM said she attended a First Tuesday event at the Downtown Area Command, and she connected with individuals from the Southern Nevada Family Justice Center, which is a great resource for any seniors who are having issues with safety or violence. COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ is encouraging people to complete a survey on the City's website surrounding the American Rescue Plan, specifically the section around non-profits that can help seniors with affordable housing.

Ward 4 – CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON reported she met with COUNCILMAN ANTHONY and his liaisons about holding senior events, and she has informed him of the various senior issues and challenges in the community. She is also working with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Special Victims Unit to put together elder abuse awareness events. As she moves forward, she will be communicating with each Board member if the event is taking place in their ward so they can work together and assist as many seniors as possible. Events may start taking place as soon as September, pending the COVID-19 pandemic situation. The Chair has been attending Nevada Housing Coalition meetings, and there are legislative pieces that will help with housing but many other factors, such as 60-day eviction notices, need to be vocalized and addressed. She has been speaking with numerous seniors and hearing their needs while helping them understand that many resources are not available right now. She is seeing many senior issues posted on NextDoor, and she tries to contact those individuals immediately to get them pointed in the right direction. This is a fantastic resource for all Board members to use, as many seniors are now using this platform instead of making a phone call.

Ward 5 – MEMBER PERAZZO spoke of meeting an individual named NOI who was having trouble obtaining his Nevada identification card because he could not prove his citizenship. He was able to receive assistance from PATTI McGUIRE, Pastoral Associate for Human Concerns, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, and MEMBER PERAZZO wanted to thank her for her service and inform her that NOI did obtain his ID card. MEMBER PERAZZO submitted a copy of the e-mail correspondence between himself and MS. McGUIRE for the record, a copy of which was attached as backup. He has been working with the RTC (Regional Transportation Commission) to learn more about their Silver STAR routes, which he uses himself and is very grateful for. His family visited the Gilcrease Orchard, where individuals can pay a reasonable price to pick fresh fruit and vegetables. Lastly, MEMBER PERAZZO wanted to acknowledge the value of recognition, and he thanked those who participated in EVELYN BONNER-DRAPES' case.

Ward 6 – MEMBER PATTARETTU said as a full-time Registered Nurse, it has been very difficult to serve the community. She said COVID-19 cases are rising, and the entire community should adhere to protocols surrounding masks and social distancing. Some people are coming in without any signs of COVID-19, and she encouraged everyone to see a doctor even for minor concerns. In June, she and other Board members attended an event at the Centennial Hills Active Adult Center hosted by COUNCILWOMAN FIORE, and it was great to hear from the community about their concerns surrounding things such as transportation and exercise. A survey was used to document their concerns, and she will be taking further action.

8. Discussion regarding topics for future agenda items of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board. Comments made during this portion of the agenda by individual members must refer solely to proposals for future agenda items and any discussion must be limited to whether or not such proposed items are within the purview of the Board and whether such proposed items shall be placed on a future agenda. No discussion regarding the substance of any such proposed topic shall occur and no action shall be taken.

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON had a suggestion to recognize individuals on a quarterly basis to bring more awareness to what is being done in the community. She also suggested to hear more presentations surrounding housing and/or transportation.

MEMBER GALATI asked if the Board could submit their suggestions to the City Council at the end of the year, and ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAC said it can be pursued but the Board would need to formulate specific suggestions. MEMBER GALATI asked if a subcommittee needed to be involved, and MR. DOROCAC said this could be agendaized for discussion at the next Board meeting before delegating it to any of the subcommittees.

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:

None.

10. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Cheyenne LaRance, Deputy City Clerk

Gregory Gray, Community Program Technician

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov

The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor