



Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

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

EXCUSED: MEMBERS PERAZZO, MOZDEAN and PATTARETTU

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, JEFF DOROCAR, 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 August 5, 2021

Motion made by Yvette Weinstein Hall to Approve

NOTE: Due to technical difficulties, the audio did not capture the votes for this item.

Passed For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

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

5. Discussion for possible action regarding the nomination of the UNLV MPA Capstone Team for the Senior Recognition Award for their outstanding service to the city of Las Vegas

Minutes:

GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, said the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Master of Public Administration (UNLV MPA) Capstone Team was instrumental in helping the City of Las Vegas capture data related to seniors' needs and wants, gaps in services and any barriers they face in the matter of aging in place. They did an excellent job distributing surveys throughout the community to gather senior input, and he said they have acted as pioneers in the community.

Motion made by Deanne O'Rear-Cameron to Approve the nomination

Passed For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

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

6. Presentation by Jennifer Ruiz, Health Educator and Outreach Coordinator, Nevada Senior Services, to showcase programs and services for seniors

Minutes:

This item was trailed to be heard subsequent to Item 8. Upon trailing, ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAR noted that nobody from Nevada Senior Services was present to give the presentation, but it could be placed on a future agenda.

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

Minutes:

This item was heard subsequent to Item 5.

GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, reported that 25 seniors have called his office regarding housing. A senior called because her roommate received a week's notice to vacate, leaving her solely responsible. Although she can afford the rent, she has little left for bills and has a lot of credit card debt. Many seniors have reported that they are living in extended stay properties, where they are paying at least \$1,200 per month, and they are relying on the eviction moratorium and rental assistance to avoid homelessness. Another senior received a 30-day notice for no cause from her extended stay property, and she is desperate to avoid homelessness. MR. GRAY reported that another senior staying in a similar extended stay property cannot find affordable housing. She was hopeful when Nevada HAND offered to rent a studio apartment to her, but she discovered that they would require her to make two to three times the rent amount, which is impossible for her as she is on a fixed income. Another senior is at risk of homelessness after she discovered her husband's will was deemed invalid by a paralegal, and her house will be inherited by her children. She has since been referred to an elder attorney.

MEMBER WEINSTIEN HALL said she learned that the City has set aside \$13 million for rental assistance, commonly known as the RAFT (Rental Assistance for Tenants) program, and individuals can visit www.lasvegasnevada.gov/housingassistance or call 702-229-5935 for more information. She said eligible households must reside within the city of Las Vegas and have incomes at or below 80 percent of the area median income. Priority will be given to those who have been unemployed for 90 days or more. Financial assistance will be provided for up to 18 months and can include rent, rent arrears, home energy costs and other expenses related to housing. Residents who have not received more than 18 months of assistance through the Clark County CARES Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) may also apply for RAFT. Additionally, MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL noted that RAFT applicants must meet other criteria: at least one person living in the home must have faced financial hardship because of the pandemic, must be able to show that they are at risk of becoming homeless or losing housing, and the household must be defined by federal standards as a low-income family.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said she was aware of the program, and she and MR. GRAY have been referring several individuals. MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL said people cannot find affordable housing anywhere, and she hoped the public would be kept informed of these assistance programs. She suggested television advertisements as another way to spread the word about RAFT.

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

Minutes:

Ward 1 – MEMBER BIENENSTEIN said COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN has been busy visiting different communities in Ward 1 and offering his assistance, and he recently paid a visit to the new Nevada HAND property being built at Decatur Boulevard and Alta Drive, which is for both senior and low-income families. She said he arranged a concert to be held at Bob Baskin Park on September 3rd at 7:00 p.m., and he will be hosting 'Brews with Brian' on September 16th from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Sierra Gold on North Buffalo Drive.

Ward 2 – MEMBER GALATI said he has been staying in touch with the seniors in his immediate area and asking if they need assistance. He offers to distribute masks, and he pointed out that many seniors are very concerned about COVID-19. This is leading them to stay in their homes, which is another major concern for accessibility and communication reasons.

Ward 2 – MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL reported that she had been attending virtual seminars hosted by the National Center of Law and Elder Rights (NCLER), which is a great resource for pro-bono lawyers. The center also issued a report surrounding changes to Social Security Administration (SSA) recipients, which included new rules on how pandemic-related financial assistance can affect an individual's eligibility for benefits. Prior to the pandemic, the SSA was counting this assistance as income, but they will no longer count it against one's benefit eligibility and amounts. In closing, she reported that COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN is hosting a breakfast event at Rachel's Kitchen on September 11th, and Art in the Park will be hosted at Bruce Trent Park.

Ward 3 – MEMBER DRUMM thanked MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL for discussing the RAFT (Rental Assistance for Tenants) program. She said on August 16th, COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ attended a groundbreaking event for Desert Oasis, a 43-unit low-income housing development. Another priority for the Councilwoman is making sure people have access to the COVID-19 vaccine and testing.

Ward 4 – CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON reported that she also attends all of the NCLER seminars and she pointed out that although they are a national resource, there are a lot of local individuals involved. She attended the Aging Wellness Expo at the Red Rock Casino, and she said it was great to get reacquainted with many senior vendors and see seniors enjoying themselves while obtaining information and resources. The Chair said she has been coordinating with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Elder Unit to visit senior communities, and she spoke of an event that was held in Ward 1. COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN and his liaisons were present, and she enjoyed seeing his interactions with the senior constituents. They also arranged for an elder law attorney to be present, who answered a lot of questions, and the Chair felt these community events are a great way to disseminate information. In Sun City specifically, there have been many robberies, which is alarming considering much of the population is comprised of seniors. She was shocked by how many seniors she can reach out to on the NextDoor application, and she felt this platform is a great way to get involved without having to physically go out in to the community. The Chair said she has received a lot of calls surrounding housing, and she has been reaching out to all of the resources she knows of because many agencies are having trouble securing volunteers. She also spoke of the different tactics landlords are using to evict their tenants, and she encouraged those in need to seek resources and assistance in a timely fashion. She also asked landlords with senior tenants to be more receptive and understanding. The Chair said she spoke with CONGRESSWOMAN SUSIE LEE'S office, and she now provides reports on a regular basis to her. She reported that a two-day Senior Expo hosted by Agible is being held at the World Market Center during the first week of November. In closing, she asked everyone to sign up for their respective ward newsletters.

9. 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:

MEMBER GALATI opined that dealing with the housing crisis should be the Board's priority. He said seniors are sacrificing things such as food and medical care, especially dental care, to afford the soaring rent prices. He understood the federal government has plans to enhance Medicare, but more needs to be done. He spoke of

making contact with other elected officials such as the Governor. MEMBER GALATI also mentioned the possibility of a local university conducting a study on senior needs if they are not doing so already. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON summarized what MEMBER GALATI was looking to accomplish, and she opined that the Board should dedicate an entire meeting to speak about housing and gather suggestions that can be presented to the City Council.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON added that Board members should be speaking with their respective Councilperson about these issues, but iterated that it is also important to speak to other state officials.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL said housing is a massive topic, and she opined that it may take two meetings to flush out suggestions. She noted that this topic may also attract members of the public.

10. **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.

11. **Adjournment**

Minutes:
CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON announced the next Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting would be held on October 7, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 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