



Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and MEMBERS WEINSTEIN HALL, PERAZZO, PATTARETTU, MOZDEAN, BIENENSTEIN and DRUMM

EXCUSED: MEMBER GALATI

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, JULIE PEACOCK, AmeriCorps VISTA, JEFF DOROCK, Deputy 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 State of Nevada Executive Department Declaration of Emergency Directive 006: 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 6, 2020

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, Kathleen Bienenstein, Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, John Perazzo, Caroline Mozdean, Jennifer Drumm; Excused-Vito Galati;

5. Presentation by Dr. Sondra Cosgrove, President of the League of Women Voters of Nevada, regarding voting integrity for seniors – All Wards

Minutes:

Using questions submitted by Board members ahead of time, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, DR. SONDRA COSGROVE, President of the League of Women Voters of Nevada, explained voting would be different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Every registered voter will get a mail-in ballot, but in-person voting will still be available at 125 vote centers across Clark County. These two election systems will ensure the election still takes place regardless of circumstances. DR. COSGROVE recommended that every recipient of a mail-in ballot log on to the Secretary of State's website to ensure their mailing address is correct and view their signature. Senior homes and facilities should be contacted in advance to make sure their management and staff members are giving seniors the assistance they need. If someone does not have the ability to go online, they may call the Clark County Election Department and a Clerk will assist. Speaking to returning ballots, DR. COSGROVE explained that every mail-in ballot will come with a postage paid envelope that is already pre-addressed to the Election Department. She noted that the voter must sign the back of the

envelope before sending the ballot back. If someone does not feel comfortable placing their ballot in the mail and does not want to leave their house, they can have a trusted family member or friend take the ballot and drop it off on their behalf. The person assuming responsibility of the ballot needs to immediately turn the ballot in at an in-person voting site or the Election Department. If they do not, it is a felony and the person may face jail time. If someone needs assistance filling out their ballot, a statement must be included in the ballot envelope from the person providing the assistance.

There is an option to black out any mistake and note the correct vote. If the ballot comes in and the machine detects an error, that ballot will be put to the side and the voter will be contacted to confirm who they wanted to vote for. To verify or change any election-related information, one may visit www.RegisterToVoteNV.gov and log in to 'Update My Existing Registration'. On that site, the voter can verify their signature, party affiliation and mailing address. DR. COSGROVE noted that 99 different points are verified when ballots are received. If any of those points are not met, three individuals in the Election Department will look over the ballot and reach out to the voter if necessary. If the voter cannot be reached, an affidavit will be sent in the mail for the voter to sign and mail back or upload a copy online.

DR. COSGROVE said she would be contacting senior facilities to make sure their residents have the ability to verify their address online. She said family members and facility employees need to make sure ballots are being filled out individually and no undue influence is being exercised. Speaking to a ballot returned from someone who has passed away, DR. COSGROVE said the signature must still be verified before the ballot is counted. If somebody tries to vote for someone else, it is considered to be fraud and the person will go to jail if they are caught. Everyone involved with seniors needs to make sure the senior is empowered to vote on their own. If the ballot comes in for a senior who has passed away, it will be discarded. According to AB4 (Assembly Bill), counting may start 15 days before Election Day, and all voting must be finished nine days after election day. The results for this year's election will be announced on November 16th, but those interested can visit the Secretary of State website during the election period for updated totals as ballots are counted. Experts are predicting a record turnout for this election, and everyone is being encouraged to vote early. Early Voting starts October 17th, and mail-in ballots should be received during the first week of October.

DR. COSGROVE said Facebook now asks its users if they are registered to vote and allows them to ask their friends to register. She felt this method is effective, especially with millennials. MEMBER PERAZZO wondered if it would be better to automatically register everyone to vote and let them opt-out. DR. COSGROVE said in the United States, every state runs their own election; therefore, this would be merely impossible. Instead, states attempt to facilitate voter registration, and Nevada does a very good job making sure there are plenty of ways for individuals to register to vote. When asked if she believed Election Day should be treated as a holiday, DR. COSGROVE disagreed. She said statistics show that people like the 14-day early voting period. If Election Day were to be a holiday, she would be worried that essential employers may not allow their employees to vote, which leads to voter supersession. In closing, DR. COSGROVE said if a ballot is received for someone who has passed away, it may be sent back to the Election Department to be discarded. She reminded everyone that two ballots in one envelope is not allowed. Each voter should use their own postage paid envelope, sign the back and send it back in.

MEMBER MOZDEAN said many seniors do not have DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) signatures, and asked what alternative was available. DR. COSGROVE said the signature on the voter's registration form will be used. If a person sends in a paper request for an absentee ballot, their signature will be updated to reflect the signature on that request. After January, the Secretary of State's Office is going to make the request for an absentee ballot available online.

MEMBER PERAZZO said the Election Board in Clark County made a permanent absentee ballot. He also clarified that it was Reno, Nevada who published a list of registered voters in the newspaper along with who paid their poll tax.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON asked how someone would know if their vote was counted, and DR. COSGROVE said the Clark County Election Department website has a listing to track your ballot. When the mail-in ballot is received, a machine will scan the envelope's barcode, and that is when the ballot will be verified or pulled aside for additional viewing. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON asked what dialogue is going out to seniors and what outreach is being conducted. DR. COSGROVE said the Election Department and the Secretary of State's Office are performing outreach efforts to different communities to make sure information is received verbally and in writing. Additionally, there are recorded presentations on the Secretary of State's website, but her team is heavily relying

on neighbors, friends and family members to help their loved ones through the election process. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON expressed the importance of informing people that it is a felony to interfere with an election, and DR. COSGROVE said she attempts to make sure everyone she speaks to is aware of this crime and the consequence it carries.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL hoped DR. COSGROVE'S presentation would go through the media and help deter people from committing any crime associated with ballots and elections. She also expressed her concern that people will be afraid to vote. DR. COSGROVE said her blog has a page dedicated to information on why mail-in voting is safe, and she is willing to present anywhere in order to get this information out.

MEMBER PERAZZO requested that the City's Information Technology Department extract this presentation from the meeting audio so it can be posted on the City's senior webpage.

See Item 8 for related discussion.

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 is currently moving forward with their senior project. It includes meeting with community partners to look into capacity building and their ability to collect and analyze data that can better assist seniors in the future. His office has been dealing with seniors that are facing major repair issues in their homes, but Rebuilding Together Southern Nevada is in the process of reaching a new agreement to reallocate funding, and they will be serving Wards 1, 3 and 5.

His office has received calls from seniors who are concerned with scams, and they are asking those seniors to give his office more advanced notice because they are still experiencing a delay in information due to the pandemic. Additionally, MR. GRAY said there have been a number of mental illnesses reported to his office, and they are directing those individuals to the Alzheimer's Association for more information and resources. Many seniors have also called seeking personal care assistance and senior advocates. Lastly, seniors have called inquiring about transportation to their medical appointments, and his office is asking those seniors to check with their health providers to see if they provide that transportation.

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

Minutes:

Ward 1 – MEMBER BIENENSTEIN said COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN has been busy, and recently visited the Mirabelli Community Center for a food giveaway. He has been working to start the Vegas Strong Academy program to offer childcare with distance learning support, and he helped pay tribute to the Beatles' 50th Anniversary in the Fremont East District. The Councilman also attended a virtual neighborhood meeting for the Glen Heather Estates Neighborhood Association, and discussed the road improvements along Rancho Drive and Charleston Boulevard. Lastly, she noted that the Councilman is hosting a clean-up at Bob Baskin Park on September 19th at 7:00 a.m.

Ward 2 – MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL spoke with COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN regarding Social Security and eviction issues, and she was glad the moratorium was extended for another 45 days. She planned to visit senior homes in her area and talk about how safe mail-in voting is.

Ward 3 – MEMBER DRUMM said COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ has been attending virtual meetings and making sure everyone is aware that COVID-19 testing is widely available in her ward.

Ward 4 – CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said she still attends virtual meetings, most of which are speaking about housing and elder abuse. She is continuing to assist in any way she can in her ward, and works closely with GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, to find solutions. She has noticed that housing and transportation are the two topics of concern right now. Most Medicare plans will provide transportation, but she is actively seeking community agencies and companies that will provide transportation to those without insurance. There are a lot of companies in the Valley that provide in-home care, and she offered to share that information with anyone who needs it.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said she was honored to attend a 75th anniversary event for World War 2 Veterans. She is still gathering information from seniors and their families for a report that she will be providing to the

Southern Nevada Health District and the Office of Community Services.

Ward 5 – MEMBER PERAZZO attended the State COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force meeting, and voiced his interest in getting involved with the local Task Force for zip codes 89101 through 89110. He prepared a report for COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, which outlined the COVID-19 cases in Ward 1. He said bars want to reopen, but the State would like to get to a lower positivity rate. Personally, he has had problems with unemployment, and he has been working with seniors on technology education. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said MEMBER PERAZZO is well-versed in facts and data, and anybody who needs research should consult with him

Ward 6 – MEMBER MOZDEAN said COUNCILWOMAN FIORE has been busy, and her Movie in the Park events have started again. She wanted to remind people that those events would be a good time to get seniors out. The Floyd Lamb Park hay barn restoration is moving forward, and she looked forward to welcoming seniors there once it is open. Lastly, she has been working on sending more e-cards to seniors that have provided their e-mail addresses.

Ward 6 – MEMBER PATTARETTU apologized for not being active in the community. She works at a hospital and has been working overtime. She has also been working with social workers on giving seniors support with easing their anxiety. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON thanked MEMBER PATTARETTU for all she is doing.

8. Discussion regarding topics for future agenda items of the Board's Senior Living and Senior Outreach Subcommittees. Comments made during this portion of the agenda by individual members must refer solely to proposals for future Subcommittee agenda items and any discussion must be limited to whether or not such proposed items are within the purview of the Board and its Subcommittees 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 reminded everyone that Subcommittee meetings will not be held until further notice; therefore, any suggestions would be for the next Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON wanted to discuss ways the Board members can get in the community and share information that would be helpful to seniors. Additionally, she still wants to give awards out to people or agencies serving the senior community.

MEMBER PERAZZO wondered if a motion should have been made during Item 5, and inquired about motions for future presentations. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAR said GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, would need to be made aware ahead of time to agendaize the item correctly to allow the Board to take action. MEMBER PERAZZO wanted to provide a three-month summary to the City Council on what the Board has done.

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:

BJ WRIGHT, Director of Community Engagement, DispatchHealth, provided an informational packet of DispatchHealth's services, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup. DispatchHealth is a mobile medical provider, who offers complex care in the comfort and safety of one's home. They opened in November 2017 with one Rover and two teams of providers. They now have 15 Rovers and 34 teams of providers. This year, they have served over 15,000 patients and over 40 percent have been seniors, who are the most vulnerable population and have the greatest need for home-based medical services. They support hospital systems and reduce unnecessary Emergency Room (E.R.) visits by providing acute medical treatment, assisting in the transition after hospital discharge, working closely with primary care providers and serving as an adjunct partner with various agencies.

The mobile provider team includes a Physician Assistant along with an emergency-trained Medical Technician, and a board certified E.R. Physician is always available by phone for a consultation. MS. WRIGHT also noted that seven distinct kits and a mini pharmacy are included in each Rover. When visiting a patient, DispatchHealth

performs a social-determinant assessment, and sends referrals to resources as necessary. Based on their in-home assessments, they have found that the most pressing issues include: access to home-based healthcare services, cost of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, lack of transportation and technology, depression and the increased cost of basic essentials. In-home COVID-19 testing is available for asymptomatic and symptomatic patients, and results are normally returned within 48 hours. Lastly, MS. WRIGHT said DispatchHealth does not have a membership or doctor's referral requirement, and they bill to the patient's insurance as an urgent care.

MEMBER PATTARETTU said 89431 was not on the list of zip codes that are served, and MS. WRIGHT said they serve all 60 zip codes in Southern Nevada. She also advised that it takes 60 to 90 minutes for the team to arrive, and the call cannot be life-threatening or time sensitive.

NINA TEN, Regional Marketing Director, Spotlight Senior Services, said Senior Spotlight Services publishes and distributes one of the leading senior guides in the Valley. Since COVID-19 occurred, people have been desperately looking for resources, mainly for affordable housing. In the next year, Social Security and Medicare could change, which will also affect housing. MS. TEN spoke of the Helping Hands of Vegas Valley food pantry, and said the people who deliver food go through background checks, and the organization takes strict safeguard precautions. She felt there needed to be more outreach for individual senior living communities and how they safely handle the people who enter their buildings because someone infected with COVID-19 can come in and pass it on to senior residents. Many independent communities are only getting safety information through the media, and it has led to confusion in what the best mitigation practices are.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON suggested that the Board reach out to Spotlight Senior Services and find out which wards have independent living communities that need assistance with screening and safety protocols.

10. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON announced the next Senior Citizen Advisory Board meeting would be held on October 1, 2020, and there would be no Subcommittee meetings until further notice.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 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
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE OF NEVADA EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE 006
The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov
and
The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov