



Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON called the meeting to order at 1:02 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, VAL STEED, 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: 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 October 3, 2019, the Senior Outreach Subcommittee of September 12, 2019, and the Senior Living Subcommittee of October 10, 2019

Minutes:

Motion made by Yvette Weinstein Hall to Approve

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

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

5. Report by Lee Quick, Senior Management Analyst, Office of Strategic Services, regarding Seniors Volunteering to Mentor Youth Committee – All Wards

Minutes:

This item was trailed and heard subsequent to Item 9.

LEE QUICK, Senior Management Analyst, reported that she coordinates a program called My Brother's Keeper. They particularly work for youth, and one of the initiatives is to find senior citizens that would like to mentor the youth. When it comes to mentoring, the senior population is the most solid population because they have life experience and loyalty. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada and other community partners have come together and developed a survey to determine mentoring interests. Options include one-on-one mentoring, group mentoring, once-a-month mentoring, day mentoring, and many other options. The first step is reaching out to the senior community to see what kind of interest there is and who wants to participate. MS. QUICK said that she will send an e-mail to this Board with the survey link and additional information. She is also seeking input from the Board.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON asked about the age group for the mentors and MS. QUICK clarified that it is for seniors age 50 and above. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON asked what type of mentoring is available; MS. QUICK said that the survey asks about a person's interest (math, life, instructional, etc.), and their strategy is to match the seniors with the youth once the surveys come back. She also noted that the City is not in the mentoring business, but they will be matching individuals with vetted mentoring programs such as My Brother's Keeper and Big Brothers Big Sisters. CHAIR O'REAR CAMERON stated that in the past, she did life skills mentoring, and her husband is mentoring those wanting to go into the entertainment business. MS. QUICK stated that there is a wide spectrum of interest, and that is why they are trying to gather information.

MEMBER MOZDEAN asked about the possibility of splitting the mentoring up so that a portion would be specifically dedicated to career education and also asked where the mentoring will take place. MS. QUICK stated that the survey asks about specific and general career information, and she thought the mentoring sessions could be held at a senior center or recreation center. The goal is to understand the community's needs and the capacity to help make this happen. MEMBER MOZDEAN asked if this is city-wide, and MS. QUICK replied that it is not just city-wide, but Henderson and North Las Vegas are a part of this as well. MEMBER MOZDEAN inquired about the age groups of the youth; MS. QUICK responded that the survey gives the option of which age groups that senior would like to work with. The youngest group they would work with would be elementary kids, but there would have to be staff assistance.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON encouraged everyone to get the word out. MS. QUICK also wanted to note that the Clark County School District is a major partner, so finding kids is not an issue but finding the seniors is. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said she has already filled out a survey, and she and her husband are very interested. MS. QUICK said her office is compiling more information and she will send out the package soon.

VICE CHAIR WEINSTEIN HALL stated that she has worked with young women that were incarcerated and it does make a difference and leaves a positive impact, so she encouraged everyone to try mentoring.

MEMBER GALATI said he noticed that the local library on Sahara Avenue hosts mentoring activities and asked if that is a part of this. MS. QUICK stated that this is not through them, but they do have a great relationship with the Library District. MEMBER GALATI asked if they would allow the Board members to distribute flyers, and MS. QUICK replied they would, as they working together.

VICE CHAIR WEINSTEIN HALL thought this was is a great idea, as the seniors tend to use the services offered at the library. MS. QUICK noted that there is also reverse mentoring that tends to happen, such as seniors wanting to learn more about computers and technology, so staff is looking at it from a senior perspective. VICE CHAIR WEINSTEIN HALL expressed the importance of publicity, and recommended getting the Las Vegas Review Journal involved. She stated that seniors want something to get them out of the house, and being with younger people is the key. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON encouraged liaisons to make sure that this information goes out to each ward and to post flyers.

MEMBER GALATI asked if anybody has reached out to the senior community yet; MS. QUICK said they do not have many contacts within the senior living community, but will make sure they do that. They do have a planning committee, and she will report to them with this information and they will assist. MEMBER GALATI offered to be a liaison for his ward and explain this information to his contacts. MS. QUICK stated that it helps to have a credible messenger who speaks with existing community contacts. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON stated she will also share the information with the activity directors that she works with. She was also willing to set up meetings to discuss this initiative.

MEMBER MOZDEAN stated she received a list of communities and their management companies. Many communities have newsletters, and she recommended that they use management companies as a distribution center. MS. QUICK liked this idea and confirmed that there is no cut off for this project, as they are always trying to get more people on board.

6. Presentation by Senior Medicare Patrol regarding services and resources for seniors – All Wards

Minutes:

LORI POWERS, Outreach Coordinator, Nevada Senior Medicare Patrol Program (SMP), reported that this program is not a part of Medicare, but they fight Medicare fraud. They operate under the Nevada Aging and Disabilities Services Division and are a federally funded program, but the money is distributed by the state. Their mission is to educate. Medicare is the federal health insurance for seniors, and they educate Medicare beneficiaries, their family members and caregivers about how to prevent, detect and report healthcare fraud and abuse, and they utilize a volunteer workforce for outreach. She recommended that everyone protect their insurance number so it does not fall into the wrong hands. Medicare does not call or visit anyone to conduct business, and everyone should protect their Medicare card as if it were a credit card. Detecting fraud includes being on the lookout for fraudulent or erroneous billings. People who are on Medicare receive a statement in the mail every quarter called a Medicare Summary Notice. Those who are on a private insurance plan receive a document titled Explanation of Benefits. These documents will say “this is not a bill” at the top, and she recommended that the recipients look at the document and check for service charges and double billings. If someone notices a problem, they should call the provider listed on that form. If the individual is uncomfortable calling the provider, SMP can step in and advocate for the beneficiary. MS. POWERS presented a brochure for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which was submitted as backup. They are a free and unbiased Medicare counseling program that also operates under the Nevada Aging and Disabilities Services Division. Medicare enrollment ends on December 7th, and people can call SHIP to get advice or counseling on what Medicare plan is best for them. Another good time for individuals to call SHIP is when they are first becoming eligible for Medicare benefits. She informed the Board members that SHIP does not sell anything or receive commission.

MS. POWERS distributed and submitted as backup another brochure for the Extra Help Program, which is a federal premium assistance program that provides financial assistance for those who cannot afford their Part D prescription drugs. It is based on income and resource requirements. In addition, there is some assistance through the state Senior RX Program, and individuals can call to be screened for that program.

MEMBER GALATI asked if the brochures are distributed to doctor offices and pharmacies; MS. POWERS stated that they are, and their outreach coordinator has a partnership with many pharmacies in the area. Some pharmacists have been trained to recognize eligibility so they can assist an individual if needed. MEMBER GALATI asked if any of the pharmacies have rejected the handouts, and MS. POWERS replied that the outreach coordinator may have experienced some rejection, but there has been good reception overall, as the pharmacies recognize that these services are needed. MEMBER GALATI asked who the representative is, and MS. POWERS said that Sherry Goldstrum is the representative, and she has worked with bigger chains to try and get the information out. MEMBER GALATI said he will lookout for pharmacies that do not have this information and try to help distribute.

A citizen from the audience questioned how this works for someone that is homeless and does not have an address for their prescriptions. MS. POWERS explained that if someone is eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, they do not have an out-of-pocket cost on services. If someone has an issue with billing, they should call the SHIP program and they will assist. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY VAL STEED advised the citizen that he could come forward to speak or speak with MS. POWERS privately, and CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON confirmed that he has MS. POWERS' contact information, and requested that he speak with her since this was not a time for public comment.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON stated that both SHIP and SMP are very active in the community, attending fairs and distributing information. She asked MS. POWERS if SHIP could help with the supplement plans. MS. POWERS stated they can, and they will bring a beneficiary in and go over their medical history and utilize the Medicare plan finder. The counselor inputs the data, and the plan finder reveals what will be the best plan(s) for that individual. The SHIP counselor also helps them go through the Nevada guide on what supplements are available. She also noted that SHIP and SMP are nationwide programs, but they are not always called the same.

MEMBER GALATI stated that when someone cannot afford their prescription, and they are with the pharmacist,

that is where the proper guidance should be given. He then asked if any attempt has been made to educate the pharmacists. MS. POWERS stated that most of the pharmacies know about the SHIP program and they will call themselves. If someone doesn't qualify for the Extra Help Program, SHIP can help that person find alternative avenues such as contacting the manufacturer directly or going back to the physician to see if another prescription can be used. MEMBER GALATI said the pharmacies should be up-to-date on information on how to help individuals.

7. Report by the Senior Living Subcommittee of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board regarding the Neighborhood Assistance Program

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON reported that during the Senior Living Subcommittee meeting, a representative for the Neighborhood Assistance Program made a presentation, and they are forming a committee and looking for volunteers to assist seniors that are facing code violations such yard cleanup and green pools. The City wants to provide help and is looking for volunteers. She encouraged the Board members that when they are out in the community to be mindful of anyone who is going through code violations, and if it is an HOA (Homeowners Association) violation, contact the HOA first. The point of contact for the Board members will be GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, and he will make sure the community offices and the Neighborhood Assistance Program staff are aware.

MR. GRAY reported that the Neighborhood Assistance Program is a joint effort between Community Services and Code Enforcement. He is working with the Code Enforcement liaison to get volunteers for that program and assist seniors and those with disabilities that are faced with code enforcement violations.

MEMBER BIENENSTEIN asked MR. GRAY if the City's Code Enforcement department would get involved with a privately-owned community that refuses to comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). MR. GRAY responded that she should report this to Code Enforcement, and they will investigate.

8. 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 he has been working with AmeriCorps VISTA's JULIE PEACOCK and CELESTE AINSLEY, in researching other municipalities and what services they are offering to their seniors. They are shifting gears to look more into shared housing amongst seniors because of the housing crisis. Transitional and affordable housing isn't available, so they are looking for alternatives to help the seniors at risk of homelessness. He has received many calls from active adults and seniors, so he is looking for solutions. Many community partners and stakeholders are at capacity and their funding has run out or is running out, so they are trying to figure out the best way to help. They are doing research and reaching out to organizations and meeting with them to see what resources they have and what barriers they are facing. Once those meetings take place, those organizations will be added to an internal guide for the City that will be used to help seniors.

KELLEE NASH, Senior Management Analyst, reported that they are trying to do a better job at reaching senior veterans. She asked staff that when they get calls, they ask the caller if they have served. She noted that many people may not identify as a veteran, but they have served. The intake form is being modified to be more inclusive and reach those that do not identify as a veteran. MS. NASH is hoping to gather more information on senior veterans, and it would be good for the Veterans Service Initiative to see what those numbers are in order for her office to determine where to focus their resources. MR. GRAY added that they established regular working groups once a week with AmeriCorps VISTA, and they are currently looking at census data from the Courtyard and other senior related data to support the research they are doing in Las Vegas.

MEMBER PERAZZO noted that one of his customers is from Alaska and they have a good senior support system and housing. Alaska has oil, and he thought that perhaps mineral resources in Nevada could be accessed through a coalition of people.

9. Report by Board Members regarding senior issues within their Council Wards and at large – All Wards

Minutes:

Ward 1 - MEMBER BIENENSTEIN reported that she and COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN will be attending a Community Crusaders meeting on November 22nd to discuss noncompliance with ADA rules at privately-owned

housing complexes for seniors. She has been informed by a resident in the Desert Springs Community that they have many issues, and she is researching which Clark County Commissioner is responsible for that area. She noted that she is in constant contact with the Councilman regarding things that pertain to Ward 1.

Ward 2 - MEMBER GALATI reported that he has been busy with an issue regarding a dispensary in the community, and he has been communicating his concerns to COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN. Many of the people that voiced their opinion were senior citizens.

MEMBER PERAZZO questioned the date of the Community Crusaders meeting, and MEMBER BIENENSTEIN clarified that the correct date is November 23rd.

Ward 2 - VICE CHAIR WEINSTEIN HALL reported that she went to a breakfast with COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN and MEMBER GALATI. They passed out cards and there was good turnout with many seniors present. They also attended a meeting at the Veterans Memorial Center, which was packed with people in protest of the dispensary at Fort Apache Road and Sahara Avenue. She recommended that other Board members try to attend meetings in their wards. She reported that there is going to be a document shredding and disposal event on November 16th at Veterans Memorial Park, and a second breakfast with the Councilwoman on November 23rd at Charlie's Lakeside. Lastly, she noted that COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN is interested in this Board, and she will attend when she can. VICE CHAIR WEINSTEIN HALL asked for continual input from the Councilwoman's office on senior issues.

CHAIR O'REAR CAMERON noted that Ward 3 representation was absent.

Ward 4 - CHAIR O'REAR CAMERON reported that she attended Coffee with a Cop and the National Night Out which was held at the Police Memorial Park. She also took part in the Alzheimer's Walk, and she was shocked to hear that Nevada is the third highest state as far as the rate of growth with Alzheimer's. She also met SENATOR JACKIE ROZEN, who is working on issues that will apply to seniors, and she has another meeting with the Senator scheduled. She is assisting the YMCA with their Fall Festival, and encouraged all to attend. Her contact with the YMCA reached out to other YMCA coordinators to make them aware of this Board. The Spotlight Spectacular turnout was great, and housing remains the number one issue along with isolated seniors; healthcare, abuse and lack of customer service with seniors are also existing issues. She informed the Board members that property managers that manage buildings that are not senior apartments are requiring the same things of senior apartment buildings without realizing that these are two different entities. Lastly, she presented the new flyer for Spotlight Spectacular that has information in it reading the Senior Living and Senior Outreach Subcommittees.

KELLE NASH, Senior Management Analyst, asked CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON about the new senior apartments on Flamingo Road and Durango Drive. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON stated that there are several new properties, but Ovation Properties has a new property in that area which has income restrictions. They have another property just outside of Ward 4 that is fair market value. She believed that MS. NASH was referring to the Flamingo Pines apartments, which just started recently taking residents. It is a Nevada HAND (Housing and Neighborhood Development) property, and she will be there next month. She noted the property is wait-listed.

Ward 5 - MEMBER PERAZZO reported that the Spotlight Spectacular was a major event in his Ward and passed around a document which was submitted as backup with remarks people made when they stopped by the table. There were approximately 2,000 to 3,000 people in attendance. He showed a photo of him at the table and noted that MEMBER MOZDEAN was also present. He announces that another popular event was COUNCILMAN CREAR'S community forum at the Historic West Side School on October 24th. Many were present, and he brought a copy his agenda that included names and phone numbers of City Directors and Chiefs, which he also submitted as backup. COUNCILMAN CREAR informed him that the priorities for Ward 5 are jobs, homelessness and economic development. There was not much talk about seniors, but there was a mention about the future and youth development. He acknowledged NANCEE NALANI AKI, Community Services Administrator, who was also present at the forum and spoke about gardening. He is working on a pamphlet that summarizes the Attorney General Summary of the Law. Lastly, he announced that the next Spotlight Spectacular is in April 2020.

Ward 6 - MEMBER MOZDEAN echoed MEMBER PERAZZO'S comments regarding the Spotlight Spectacular. She thanked CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON for coordinating the event and for her presentation, and she also thanked MEMBER PERAZZO for educating her. She reported that she attended Metro's Home Security event, and gave a copy of the flyer to GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician. There are a lot of good and inexpensive ways to protect your home. She also attended the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)

Seniors on the Go event, and recommended it to all. It was extremely informative, and she presented the 2019 book that was distributed. She was pleasantly surprised to see how much the RTC offers seniors from education to discounted rides, and she encouraged people who need a pass to visit the Bonneville Center. Lastly, she is working with MEMBER PATTARETTU to hold a senior meeting in January or February, as they would like to introduce themselves to the HOAs in their wards. They are coordinating with COUNCILWOMAN FIORE. She also noted that Metro (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department) is hiring dispatchers.

Ward 6 - MEMBER PATTARETTU reported that she spoke to people from Guardianship, and they are willing to hold the meeting at their center as long as they can coordinate the time. She also reported that she received some information from UMC (University Medical Center) and when seniors are getting discharged from the hospital, a dietician will meet with them. There are some requirements, but she will try to get more information for the next meeting.

10. 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:

MEMBER PERAZZO asked if the Senior Living Subcommittee could follow-up on the state mineral businesses that he has mentioned under Item 8. He has heard consistent reports that the Aging and Disability Services Division Hotline is not functional. There is no follow-up and they are unfriendly. He recommended that individuals seeking help call 311 as they are more responsive, and he would like the Senior Outreach Subcommittee to follow-up on that.

GREGORY GRAY, Community Services Technician, reported that there is an upcoming Senior Outreach Subcommittee meeting, and the Nevada Council on Gambling is on the agenda. He also discussed with the Board members their availability for the December Senior Citizens Advisory Board and Senior Living Subcommittee meetings. MR. GRAY stated that he was asking because SHERI VOGEL from the Senior Law Program wanted to come speak in December, but he would send a follow up e-mail to the Board Members to determine availability.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON stated that she would like housing developers, such as Nevada HAND or Ovation, to do presentations at the Senior Living Subcommittee meeting, and she also thought that HOA (Homeowners Association) presentations would be great. For the Outreach Subcommittee, there are quite a few events coming up, so they should see what agencies are willing to help. One thing she would like to see is the Coffee with your Board event that MR. GRAY previously recommended. MR. GRAY stated that the best way to do that would be for Board members to get together with their assigned Community Program Technicians and assist with coordinating those events. MEMBER PERAZZO added that an individual, whose information is on the Spotlight Spectacular sign-in sheet, would be well-suited for something such as a Citizens Rent Advocacy Group for the Senior Living Subcommittee.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON added that for the Senior Living Subcommittee, she would like information on what City department has oversight on the rent situation along with updates regarding the roommate sharing. She also mentioned that Desert Springs Hospital is having their Health Fair in December, and she has already reserved a table.

11. **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.

12. Adjournment

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON announced upcoming meetings as follows: the Senior Citizens Advisory Board on December 7th at 1:00 p.m., the Senior Outreach Subcommittee on November 14th at 1:00 p.m., and the Senior Living Subcommittee on December 12th at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 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:

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