



Senior Living Subcommittee of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and MEMBERS PATTARETTU and GALATI

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, JEFF DOROCAC, Deputy City Attorney, and DEBRA A. OUTLAND, 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. Report by Gregory Gray, Community Program Technician, Office of Community Services, regarding the purpose of the Senior Living Subcommittee of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board

Minutes:

GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, explained as previously discussed by the Senior Citizens' Advisory Board, it was agreed to have two subcommittees to address senior issues such as housing, utilities, transportation, senior outreach, education and awareness.

He stated he reached out to the senior community citywide through the Nextdoor app, and they vocalized concerns related to handicapped parking in downtown Summerlin; transportation, mainly Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) and paratransit; and utility assistance. He noted this was the first he has heard of concerns related to utility assistance and seniors not receiving senior discounts for utilities. He instructed them to reach out to NV Energy's Energy Assistance Program and Project REACH (Relief through Energy Assistance to Prevent Customer Hardships). Senior home repairs also came up as a concern, and he provided Rebuilding Together as a resource. He stated a lot of comments on Nextdoor are similar to what has been discussed at the Senior Citizens' Advisory Board (SCAB) meetings and what staff has been addressing and providing resources for.

Since this is the first time the Subcommittee was meeting, CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON asked staff to address the scope of what they can and cannot do and how the Subcommittee can help. MR. GRAY said the

Subcommittee cannot take any direct action, but they can identify resources and make sure the City and SCAB are aware of those resources for when they come across issues out in the public.

MEMBER PATTARETTU mentioned the opening of an affordable, 70-unit senior living apartment complex, but she has not reached out to anyone yet because she wanted to know what was expected of them as a member of this Subcommittee. In her opinion, she thought a place like this may be safer for seniors because there is supervision, job training and a food pantry, etc. at the location.

MR. GRAY commented some seniors are picky; they want to live in a specific area of town with specific amenities even though they cannot afford it. He stressed the importance of seniors receiving information from someone they trust in which case they will be more open to it.

MEMBER PATTARETTU wondered about the availability of rent assistance and the possibility of integrating Social Services with SCAB. While such a subsidy would be an excellent resource to help seniors live comfortably, MR. GRAY explained he has not found any such program. Social Services offers one-time rental assistance only; that is the extent of the services that they offer. He noted he recently attended a diversion for homelessness work group where discussion included what can be done to provide one-time assistance to keep someone from being at risk of homelessness (i.e., a ticket home, a grocery voucher, etc.), but the discussion stopped beyond that. When he spoke up that people need more than one-time assistance, he was told that was considered long-term case management and is not something that they do; so that is a barrier at this point.

He said resources and services that are available need to be identified. There may be a program that provides rental assistance on a subsidy basis that is long-term, but he is not aware of any. He explained when he becomes aware of a senior with an issue, he reaches out to CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and sends an email to the SCAB members and various individuals within the City to see if there are any resources available, and any information he receives is passed along to that senior. Additionally, he pointed out funding for some programs is limited, so they can help some, but not everyone. This Subcommittee supplements staff's efforts to provide senior services.

MEMBER GALATI commented sometimes there are resources available, but the people that need the help do not apply because they are unaware of them. He asked about the hierarchy of federal, state and local funding. He thought one of the issues was trying to reach people, especially those that live by themselves or are handicapped. He asked his doctor what major issues he saw with seniors, and he told him they do not know where to go, so there is a lack of communication.

MR. GRAY stated there was an opportunity to apply for a grant through the Office of Community Services for their senior services program, but staff turned it down as they are still in their infancy as a board, as subcommittees and even senior services. He stated he does not have a defined enough program to meet the requirements of the grant which is why his Director suggested the formation of the subcommittees; to help structure their efforts in such a way that they can apply for grant money. They have made leaps and bounds from where they started from SCAB barely meeting for months at a time to meeting almost every month. It is going to take baby steps, and at this point, applying for the grant would have been rushed and a disservice to the seniors.

MEMBER GALATI thought as members of the Board, they should set a goal to reach some key areas, such as churches and other religious organizations, and to provide a number for seniors to call to get information; they need a place to start. Nursing homes already have the information; the problem is people who are living by themselves. He wondered if the communication framework could be set up and from there, they could identify where funding was needed. He stressed the importance of communication and reaching out to those areas where they can benefit; i.e., hospitals.

See Item 5 for related discussion.

5. Discussion for possible action regarding specific senior issues the Subcommittee would like to address and possible resources/solutions

Minutes:

Based on the discussion under Item 4, CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON commented on the crossover between the Senior Living Subcommittee and the Senior Outreach Subcommittee and how they have to be refined but still be able to help each other on the different subcommittees. She noted she is in and out of communities all day, every day, and one problem is that independent living is more hands-off due to the Nevada Revised Statutes which prevents involvement, and she wondered at what point privacy became harmful. These types of places

need to be more proactive, but she did not know how to address this. The employees see a lot of things, but they cannot do anything other than report it, and sometimes there is no follow through. This becomes a problem with seniors who are isolated and who rely on people to come in to provide services and whether that person is being given patient choice and the best possible solutions becomes a concern.

The Chair stated there are a lot of great group homes in the city, but most seniors do not want to share a room. With there not being a lot of resources available, they need to realize they may not get exactly what they want. She commented how things currently are reactionary and not proactive. With regard to independent living, leaving leaflets is not working. It is a matter of reaching seniors and working with them so they understand their living options. MR. GRAY agreed and thought by establishing the Subcommittee's structure within the confines of the law, they will be in a better place to address those types of issues.

Touching on Item 4, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAK explained the SCAB members know more about senior issues than most and can advise and give recommendations on senior issues to the City Council. The Subcommittee members need to figure out what issues they want to address (i.e., senior housing), determine which organizations they should bring in to talk about resources and possible solutions, and then discuss those in depth and decide what needs to be done. The Subcommittee will provide those recommendations to SCAB, which can then determine if they should be brought to the Council. If so, MR. GRAY can prepare a report to be passed along to Council, and they can see what happens from there. Over time, a written quarterly or biannual report can be done summarizing their recommendations; this is a think-tank type of committee. Another option would be to give a live report in front of the Council. He restated their role was to make recommendations on how to solve the issues they are seeing, and the Council will then decide whether or not to engage them or direct staff to do so. He stated he was there to answer questions and help them however he can.

He spoke of comments made by MEMBER GALATI regarding compiling the various resources on one website so people can be easily directed to it. While the Subcommittee cannot create the website, they can make suggestions as to what should be on a website, and that recommendation can be passed from this Subcommittee to SCAB and then to the City Council.

MR. DOROCAK said he did not want anyone feeling like they were just complaining and no one was coming up with any solutions. Senior citizens matter everywhere and they vote, and they want to make sure that is expressed. He and staff want to help the members come up with a list of issues and a list of solutions.

With regard to Item 5, MR. DOROCAK suggested the members identify senior living issues and which organizations to invite to the meeting to share their ideas.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON appreciated having a guideline of what they need to do. She suggested having organizations come in to speak about housing so the Subcommittee can learn about what they are dealing with, the resources each provides and other resources they may be aware of. She has been going to the Ovation properties for years, which offer low income and income-restricted property, and was surprised to learn they have a nonprofit fund for those people in jeopardy of not being able to pay their rent. MEMBER GALATI agreed, adding the members can become a resource out in the community if they know how to guide people; otherwise it becomes a vicious cycle. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON commented these communities become close to the residents, and it will make them feel better if they know the City is working on these issues. She likes to hear directly from the organizations providing the resources and expressed the importance of patient choice coming back to the forefront.

With regard to senior housing, MR. DOROCAK restated staff could invite people to the meeting to speak on this topic, and the members could ask questions about the problems they are facing and what solutions they are looking for. The next step would be a discussion amongst the members to determine what the City could do to improve senior housing and then pass along that recommendation to SCAB. They can work on more than one issue at a time, but this provides the framework. They need to be able to get the information to people but added the creation of a website may be a topic more for the Senior Outreach Subcommittee to discuss.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON commented on the growth of the city and there not being enough senior living options. She mentioned the need to attract companies and investors to do more regarding senior housing and emphasized the need to address the future as well as now. MR. GRAY agreed, stating they need to make sure they are focusing their efforts and bringing those items to the forefront. Housing is a great start; they can bring

in Elder HelpLv and people they have worked with before who are established and willing to come in and speak to the board.

He noted transportation is another prevalent issue and announced the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) is scheduled to meet August 12th at 9:00 a.m. at the Clark County Government Center. This would be a good opportunity for the members to go and speak to the Commission as well as ask if someone from the RTC was willing to speak to the board. He stated they could also reach out to NV Energy to see if they are willing to come and talk more about their Energy Assistance Program, which is run through the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, and Project REACH, which is administered through United Way of Southern Nevada, as far as what they offer, the qualifications and the process one has to go through to qualify.

MR. DOROCK summarized it seemed the two issues the Senior Living Subcommittee wished to focus on first were senior housing and senior transportation; these can include various other topics such as utility assistance and handicapped parking. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON agreed these two topics have always been discussed the most and that they will be a lot to tackle. They should focus on these unless they start hearing from seniors that there is something else that has become a top problem. She appreciated the information MR. GRAY shared regarding the RTC meeting; change does not happen without a voice, and they are the voice for the seniors.

MEMBER GALATI stated seniors do not attend some events because they do not have transportation and mentioned seniors utilizing transportation services such as Lyft via their phone. Some seniors cannot afford phones, but he thought many companies supply free phones. MR. GRAY thought this was an excellent point. He stated NALANI AKI, Community Services Administrator, was talking about a rideshare program for seniors by seniors she wanted to see come to life in Honolulu where she is from. She was not able to see that come to fruition, but was hoping something similar could be done in Las Vegas. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON agreed transportation is a big issue and added isolation is also a problem, making it difficult to reach some seniors.

She thanked MR. DOROCK, MR. GRAY and everyone for their input. She also commented on the value of having a nurse on the Subcommittee, MEMBER PATTARETTU, who sees different things in her profession.

See Item 4 for related discussion.

6. **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:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON commented they already touched on this throughout the meeting. She reiterated the importance of education; bringing in representatives from different agencies to learn what they are seeing and what they can and cannot do.

MEMBER GALATI asked about the timeframe the Subcommittee had to come up with resolutions as he would like to hear as many presentations as possible in order to get as much information as possible. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCK responded the Subcommittee is just getting started, but he thought of it as more of a rolling recommendation. If they develop an idea after listening to a presentation or report, it can be passed along to the City Council. The Chair liked the ability to do so via written recommendations.

7. **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:

JOCELYN ACEVEDO, Care Connection Resource Center, Nevada Senior Services, a nonprofit organization, stated the Care Connection Resource Center program serves seniors, individuals with disabilities and their caregivers, and housing and transportation are major issues that they see. By bringing in people, i.e., Nevada Hand, they can learn more about those resources and help communicate that information to the seniors and citizens in the community. The information cannot be communicated if they do not know about it.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON thanked MS. ACEVEDO for her participation and comments. For those not familiar with Nevada Senior Services, the Chair pointed out they have a lot of resources, and she is looking forward to their conference on aging in October. She asked MS. ACEVEDO to keep in touch so they could reciprocate information about new programs, etc.

8. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON announced this Subcommittee would meet again on October 10th at 1:00 p.m., and the regular Senior Citizens' Advisory Board would meet on September 5, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. where a brief update on what was done at this Subcommittee meeting can be given.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 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