



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 WEINSTEIN HALL (via teleconference, excused at 2:02 p.m.), GALATI, MOZDEAN, PATTARETTU, DRUMM (via teleconference) and WILLIAMS

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, JEFF DOROCAK, Assistant City Attorney, and CHEYENNE LARANCE, Senior 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 Special Meeting of February 16, 2023

Motion made by Tim Williams to Approve

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

For-Yvette Weinstein Hall, Elizabeth Pattarettu, Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, Vito Galati, Jennifer Drumm, Tim Williams, Caroline Mozdean;

5. Presentation by Marcia Blake, Director of Helping Hands Vegas Valley, regarding information, services, and resources available to senior citizens

Minutes:

Using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, MARCIA BLAKE, Director of Helping Hands of Vegas Valley (HHOVV), said they were established in 2000 and their mission is to assist senior citizens and their families in order to maintain their dignity and independence. The organization was formed to deliver supportive services to help seniors stay living independently in their homes for as long as possible, and they focus their work around four areas: nutrition, access to transportation, assistance with small,

minor home repairs, and respite care voucher assistance. She said seniors face multiple difficult realities, including: poverty, health risks, food insecurity, increasing cost of living, social isolation/loneliness, mental health/suicide, lack of transportation, and the need for other specialized support. Nevada has the fourth highest rate of food insecurity amongst senior citizens and the second highest rate of very low food insecurity amongst seniors in the nation. This means they skip meals to cut costs, which is very problematic. As of April 1st, the additional SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits seniors were receiving due to the pandemic will go back down to \$24. The average income of seniors is \$900 per month, and if that individual does not own their home, they have very little money left over for food.

Speaking to their programs, MS. BLAKE said each food pantry order costs \$37.50 per senior, and they serve over 2,500 seniors each month. They also provide \$1,000 respite care vouchers to provide 40 hours of in-home care. To provide ADA transportation, it costs them \$660 per senior, per year. Their average cost to make repairs is \$298 compared to \$3,400 for one month in an assisted living facility. Congregate and home meals each cost \$10, and \$3.35 of that is reimbursed from funders. She said 44 percent of their client demographic consists of seniors in the 70 to 79 age range, and 60 percent of their clientele are minorities. Fifty three percent of clients live alone, and 38 percent of those clients are female. Sixty three percent of clients are in poverty, 53 percent are disabled, 17 percent are homebound, 10 percent are veterans, and 68 percent of their overall clientele is female.

Their walk-in pantry program is open Monday through Wednesday, and they also deliver groceries to seniors on the first and third Saturday. If needed, HHOVV also provides emergency groceries once per month. They use a program called Golden Groceries, which allows the senior to pick which foods they want using a point system. Speaking to their transportation program, MS. BLAKE said they have eight staff-driven vehicles that are provided for medical appointments, grocery shopping and other errands. Volunteers also provide transportation for ambulatory clients in their own vehicles. To qualify for the program, new clients meet with an intake coordinator for an assessment and: must be 60 years of age or older, live in Las Vegas or North Las Vegas, and be capable of managing their own appointments. MS. BLAKE explained that their minor home repair program consists of things such as clogged drains, changing of light bulbs, broken doors, etc. They do not perform work on: roofs, ramps, windows, water heaters, garage doors or galvanized pipes. The program also does not include any outside repairs, cosmetic work or HVAC replacement.

The Respite Voucher Assistance program provides \$1,000 grants to individuals who are full-time caregivers. These grants are given once per year to allow the caregiver to take a break, enabling them to provide care for their loved one for a longer period of time. During the pandemic, HHOVV stood up a home-delivered meals program and a rural home-delivered meals program. The rural program has been extremely popular, as many seniors cannot get to the congregate meals or do not qualify for Meal on Wheels. The home-delivered meals program was closed down before the congregate meals began resuming. Congregate meals are now being served three days per week, but they are seeking more locations to add two more days. This past year, HHOVV helped 3,910 unduplicated clients. They also started a grandparents program, as they have 206 children living with their grandparents, to help them navigate the system. They also work very closely with Foster Kinship to make sure the grandparents get everything they are entitled to.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON asked what areas they serve, to which MS. BLAKE said all of their services are available in North Las Vegas and Las Vegas. Their sister agency, Helping Hands of Henderson, offer transportation and meal programs. Their home repair program is for most Las Vegas ZIP codes, all North Las Vegas ZIP codes, and select Henderson ZIP codes. The congregate meal is for any senior in the Valley, and the respite care program and the rural home-delivered meals program are for the four southern counties. The Chair requested a copy of the presentation, to which MS. BLAKE said GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, has a copy to distribute. The Chair then asked how the Board can help HHOVV, and MS. BLAKE said they could always use more volunteers to pack food bags, drive clients or deliver food. They are also in need of funding, and the Board could inform them of any opportunities. She added that HHOVV needs to do a better job at making sure the Board has all of the information they need when they come into contact with seniors in the community.

MEMBER GALATI commended MS. BLAKE for the presentation. He inquired about any coordination between agencies for referrals, and MS. BLAKE said they meet once a month with all agencies that provide food

insecurity related services to seniors. Further, they have been working with the Just One Project and Catholic Charities for more than 10 years. This coordination helps to stretch their limited dollars and give every senior an opportunity to receive the services they need.

MR. GRAY interjected and said the Board needed to continue with the agenda due to time constraints. He said the Board could reach out to MS. BLAKE via phone or e-mail with any further questions.

6. Discussion for possible action regarding the purpose and expectations of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board and its individual Board Members based upon the February 16, 2023 presentation to the Board – All Wards

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said she listened to the February 16th meeting a few times to ensure she understood everyone's comments. She advised that each Member would have five minutes to verbalize their expectations for the Board and any other comments.

MEMBER WILLIAMS said he would like to look at the Board as being a platform for initiatives. He wants the Board to act in continuity with each other and to expose themselves to the City Council to demonstrate that they are an actionable advisory board. The Member also suggested that each meeting be issue based, and he recommended the following topics: end-of-life options, hearing-impaired entertainment choices, and a dedicated transportation system for scheduled activities. He concluded by saying the Board should focus on one or two issues that they can actually act on then present those to the Council.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL agreed with MEMBER WILLIAMS, in that each meeting should be dedicated to a specific topic and the Board should present the most important issues to the City Council. She would like to discuss suicide and isolation prevention and learn how they can assist those experiencing food insecurity. Additionally, she said individual members used to have meetings with GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, and perhaps those should resume.

MEMBER MOZDEAN supported the comments made by MEMBERS WILLIAMS and WEINSTEIN HALL. In addition to their requests, she would like to find ways to involve seniors with the younger population.

MEMBER GALATI said his vision for the Board is to continue to promote and safeguard the rights of seniors, and help them maintain their health, wellbeing and independence. As such, he will continue to find out what the community needs, but this can be difficult because seniors can be hard to reach. He mentioned the following topics: housing, transportation, mobility, health and wellness, recreational opportunities, and safety and security. Within those boundaries, the Board should focus on the issues that need immediate attention and present one or two of them to the City Council. They need to work in unity and be practical.

MEMBER PATTARETTU agreed with all of the comments. Speaking to her concern of isolated seniors, she would like to provide an opportunity for seniors to visit a common place where they can mingle with others.

MEMBER DRUMM would like the Board to put together a list of resources for caretakers and family members.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said the first step of success is to have a quorum for every meeting. Discussions need to be on the record, as they need to remain in compliance with Open Meeting Law. The priorities in her mind will always be the basic needs: housing, food and healthcare. She did, however, note that housing and healthcare are not in the City's purview but they are well aware of the needs. Many of the calls received by the Council offices go to MR. GRAY because he is the contact for Senior Services, and the Chair noted that this division did not exist when she first joined the Board. If there is a situation where MR. GRAY does not have a resource, he confers with her because she is always in the community. She recently sent an e-mail to the Members regarding Royal Pages, which is a resource sent by Clark County Social Services every two years, but it would behoove the Board to make up their own list because things are always changing. She suggested that Board members are copied on senior-related e-mails that are coming through from the Council offices or MR. GRAY'S office, and she reminded everyone to pay attention to what is under the County or State purview. The needs in this city are vast because of the demographic, and this makes it important for the Board to establish priorities. From there, the Board needs to ensure they research and have data before having MR. GRAY send it to his director for consideration. However, she can often e-mail MR. GRAY and have an issue

addressed without it needing to be in front of the Council, and she suggested that the other Members do the same.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL interjected and said the City needs to have their own database that provides centralization on resources because she does not know where to refer people when she is out in the community. The Chair responded that the City does use County resources, and MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL reiterated the need for centralization because she is very frustrated.

The Chair continued, and said everyone agrees on transportation, reaching homebound seniors, and the idea of prioritizing their recommendations. Ideas may not have momentum at first, but it can be built through relationships with your Councilperson. She asked for staff's input on the conversation, and ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAC said the purview of the Board is to provide advice and recommendations, and each members' involvement is up to them. He also reiterated the Chair's sentiments about how some issues may be routed to MR. GRAY for immediate resolution, and others will be discussed amongst the entire Board. He said the bigger question is how does the Board want to approach the things they want to do. MR. DOROCAC said the meetings can be programmed to surround a certain topic, and he opined that meetings need to be kept to an hour and a half. Subsequent to each meeting, staff and/or the Board should relay what was discussed to the Department of Neighborhood Services for immediate results. Second, he recommended putting a report together on a quarterly basis for the City Council that shows what the Board took away from their last few meetings along with a few recommendations. This route may not yield immediate results, but it is a start. Individual members or a group of four or less can get together in the community, and the meetings will be used as a venue to develop ideas, hear information, and relaying that information as necessary.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL thanked MR. DOROCAC for his comments, and she suggested that the Board follow his recommendations.

MR. DOROCAC clarified for MEMBER WILLIAMS that a quorum consists of five members; therefore, four or fewer may be at any venue. If there is a purely social event, the entire Board may attend.

MEMBER GALATI asked if there would be a channel for feedback after communicating their concerns and recommendations to the City Council. MR. DOROCAC believed there will be results from the monthly reports to the Department of Neighborhood Services. The Board should not expect to hear anything back from the City Council, but at least the Board will be doing what they are supposed to do. MEMBER WILLIAMS recalled that COUNCILMAN BRAIN KNUDSEN offered to advocate for and mentor the Board.

Subsequent to MEMBER WILLIAMS' motion to approve topic-based meetings, MR. GRAY asked the Board to come to a consensus before bringing topics to the City Council so they are well-informed. The Chair agreed, and she said it is important to have all the facts when presenting to the Council. She also stressed that many issues are valley-wide, and she recalled COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN'S suggestion of identifying three priorities. MEMBER WILLIAMS asked the Board to vote on the motion at hand, and he offered to work directly with MR. GRAY to find speakers for the next meeting. He also clarified for the Chair that his motion was to make the meetings topic-based, and MR. DOROCAC advised that no further detail should be added to the motion.

Subsequent to the vote, MR. DOROCAC said another motion was not needed to solidify their plans to start relaying meeting summations to the Department of Neighborhood Services and, eventually, report to the City Council. He felt they should start slow with a report.

MEMBER GALATI said this Board used to have subcommittees, and he wondered if they would be useful again. MR. GRAY advised he would address that in his report.

Motion made by Tim Williams to Approve topic-based meetings going forward

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

For-Yvette Weinstein Hall, Elizabeth Pattarettu, Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, Vito Galati, Jennifer Drumm, Tim Williams, Caroline Mozdean;

7. Report by Gregory Gray, Management Analyst I, Department of Neighborhood Services, regarding senior issues received by the Department of Neighborhood Services – All Wards

Minutes:

GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, said he would e-mail the Board to lend clarity on what was discussed at this meeting. The Board is in a unique position to be tied to a department that can actually address some of their issues that have been discussed (food insecurity, transportation, housing, etc.). Senior Services has been tasked by JOCELYN BLUITT, Community Resources Manager, to craft three recommendations that can be implemented in a strategic outreach plan. She also suggested reaching out to the City's organizational development team about a closed-session retreat to assist the Board in understanding how to formulate and strategize their ideas.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL felt the retreat was a wonderful idea.

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

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON announced that Members would be forgoing their reports due to time constraints. She encouraged Members to send event information via e-mail.

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:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said the Board has a good list of topics to move forward with, and GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, confirmed that the ideas from previous discussions have been noted.

MEMBER WILLIAMS reiterated his recommendation to invite Compassion & Choices to speak at a meeting, along with seeking assistance for the hearing impaired at events. MR. GRAY said he would facilitate those speakers if that is the Board's consensus. The Chair advised that the Board should not be discussing the substance of any topic, and ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCÁK confirmed they will not discuss the items here or take any action. MEMBER WILLIAMS' recommendations were noted by MR. GRAY, and any other recommendations will be added to a list and agenda'd accordingly.

MEMBER MOZDEAN would like to know about the topics more in advance so that the Members have a chance to speak to their constituents about them prior to a meeting. She also mentioned that her Councilwoman is distributing a senior survey to gauge their needs. The Chair agreed, and she loved the collaboration between MEMBER MOZDEAN and the Councilwoman. MR. DOROCÁK said as soon as MR. GRAY knows what the agenda topics are, he can share them with the Board. He appreciated the Member's suggestion, noting that the comments from constituents will generate more meaningful ideas and topics. MR. GRAY reiterated that the Board is in a unique position because they have resources at their disposal that will allow them to execute ideas and connect with their community. He advised that he would elaborate in his e-mail to the Board. MEMBER MOZDEAN said the primary reason she made this suggestion is because it is important to get everyone to agree on one topic.

MEMBER WILLIAMS thought the Board would be working on issues that are actionable. He said generic issues, such as the status of food insecurity in Las Vegas, are not actionable items. They are in a perfect position to take action on issues that have very little or no platform, and it is time for the Board to present to the Council. MR. GRAY said the City, through the Health and Wellness Initiative, is in a position to address food insecurity amongst seniors. He said the Board may call the City's Crisis Response Team at 702-229-1200 any time they do not have a resource. A case manager will return their message within two to three business days.

The Chair said before Senior Services, it was more difficult to navigate the system. She has been absolutely

amazed and impressed with the quality of service from City staff. The Board has always had access to MR. GRAY, but it is up to each member to take advantage. His office hears of many issues, and they are very aware of everything. She also stressed the importance of communication amongst the Board, and she suggested reviewing the prior meetings to gain more knowledge.

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:

MARCIA BLAKE, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley, said she would like to be more involved in what the Board is doing. She said the Royal Pages is always outdated, and she would love to assist the Board in creating a resource guide. MEMBER WILLIAMS wanted to ask MS. BLAKE a question, but GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, asked him to speak with her via phone or e-mail.

ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAK read comments submitted by JOHN PERAZZO, a copy of which is attached as backup.

MR. GRAY said staff will be providing the Board with homeless population and density data for their respective wards.

11. **Adjournment**

Minutes:


CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON advised the next Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting would be held on April 6, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Cheyenne LaRance, Senior Deputy City Clerk



Gregory Gray, Management Analyst I

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN NRS 241.020:

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