



Special Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and MEMBERS WEINSTEIN HALL (via teleconference and excused at 2:09 p.m.), GALATI, MOZDEAN, PATTARETTU (excused until 1:13 p.m.), DRUMM (via teleconference) and WILLIAMS

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, JEFF DOROCAK, Assistant City Attorney, and JACQUIE MILLER, Assistant 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 October 6, 2022

Motion made by Caroline Mozdean to Approve

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

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

5. Discussion for possible action regarding the purpose and expectations of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board – All Wards

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN BRIAN KNUDSEN displayed an agenda on the overhead to assist the Board in defining their roles and responsibilities, for which he would be serving as a facilitator. He said everyone, including staff, would need to say their name, explain why they are here, define the Board in their own terms, and lay out their expectations for the Board. Speaking to his own self-interest, the Councilman said he does this because he has

a specific skill set. He is a system thinker, and holding an elected position allows him to use the very best of his skill set. This is also a great job to have when raising children because it allows him to make his own schedule. He then expressed the importance of reciprocity to a Board like this, which includes understanding other peoples' self-interests and helping them achieve those interests. Doing so will allow for more productive meetings and it will be a natural human instinct for people to return the favor. He reiterated the questions that needed to be answered and noted it is okay to be selfish and for the Members to have differing expectations.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL introduced herself as the Vice Chair, and stated she has been an attorney for 45 years and a bankruptcy trustee in Las Vegas for nearly 30 years. She understands financial predicaments, especially those of seniors. She has a big ego, likes gets things done, and is impatient. The Member is semi-retired, but she is involved in a big case that will be settled soon. Before doing bankruptcy trustee work, she worked for Los Angeles County as a dependency court attorney where she represented children who had been abused, parents who were offenders, and/or non-offending parents. Through that job, she saw how this country neglects families and the suffering families experience. She is 76 years old and although her mind is sharp, she is slowing down physically. MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL said she takes adult education classes and is always learning. She would like to see the Board find a cohesive way to present issues to the City Council relating to housing, finances, and how to educate seniors about technology. Lastly, she said her parents moved to Las Vegas in 1956 and she has seen the city's growth. Although many issues have been constant, the population growth has put a gap in the services being provided. COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN asked why she sits on the Board, to which she replied to help seniors get housing and the services they need.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON recalled her reasoning for getting involved with the Board, which came having coffee with her Councilman and the Mayor was there. They spoke about the Board, who at the time had not met for almost a year. As an advocate working in the community, she saw so many resources that were not available to seniors, and that is when the Mayor encouraged her to join the Board. The Chair said she is now an entry-level senior and needs to be proactive with the very things she is talking to other people about. Further, she wanted to know how the Board could get out in the community more and talk to people and be their voice. Although issues vary from ward to ward, the Board should be working together and communicating with the City Council.

MEMBER MOZDEAN said she represents Ward 6 and described herself as a generally upbeat person who is helpful and often bites off more than she can chew and needs a push to get something done on time. As a senior, she has found that being part of the Board has allowed her to help others while also helping herself. Being retired allows her more time than other Board members, and she likes to hear from the Ward 6 senior population. She takes their concerns to heart and she wants to be a conduit to finding a resolution. Her definition of the Board was a gathering of volunteer representatives from the different wards, and she has now realized how diverse the wards are. The Board should be the conduit between City Council and the population, and help seniors identify their problems and find resolutions. Because they cannot make their own decisions, it is important to raise concerns to the City Council. Speaking to her expectations, MEMBER MOZDEAN would like to see the Board be more cohesive, summarize services and communicate those to the population. They have attempted to do this in numerous ways, but they never seem to be able to get that far. She likes things to be very focused, and she finds it uncomfortable when information is duplicated or conflicting. Lastly, she hopes the Board becomes tighter and can summarize the needs and resolutions of the senior population.

MEMBER WILLIAMS loved that the Board was talking about mutual efforts to do their job. He came on the Board because he is a senior and hears people asking why they cannot accomplish certain things. There is a silent majority that is unable to get out of their house, and he sees opportunities to draw people out of their homes with a mutual effort by the Board to change things in the city of Las Vegas. There are three issues that he would like to focus on this year, some of which require assistance from the City Council. The Member appreciated that the group was committing to do what they need to do. If someone needs help with an event, he will go because there is more he needs to know. Speaking to his personal expectations, he would like to work on an initiative in conjunction with entertainment facilities to improve the ability for those with hearing loss to hear what is going on. There may be some grants out there, and he thought The Smith Center would be a perfect venue for these efforts. Additionally, he would like to join forces with Compassion & Choices on their initiative to develop new legislation that details end of life possibilities. They have passed legislation in 13 states, and he felt the Board should be advising the City Council on this. Finally, he would like to develop a

program with the RTC (Regional Transportation Commission) for seniors who are intended to go to group events. Specifically, he would like to work with the OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) program at UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) which has 1,800 students that are driving to campus. He said that PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN recently announced \$27 billion in greenhouse funding, and that would be more than enough to develop a transportation program for seniors. In talking with seniors, he learned they do not want to get on the bus unless they have to because it is dangerous, too big, or there are too many people.

MEMBER GALATI introduced himself as the representative for Ward 2. Prior to his time here, he was an educator for 35 years. When looking at society, many lessons are not learned and you must pick and choose what you want to address. He described how he came to be on the Board, which happened after networking with residents to protest a dispensary that was proposed nearby. After relaying his feelings to former Councilman STEVE SEROKA, his staff called and told him they wished for MEMBER GALATI to sit on the Board. Through his time here, he has realized that people are interested in things but need guidance. He said it is difficult to disseminate information to seniors, and he doubted that people know how many programs are out there. His goal for this year is regarding elections because he wants seniors to vote, but he does not know how many are informed about the elections or are registered. Voting is essential and having a voice makes people feel worthwhile, but he was not aware of any organizations that can help with educating seniors on this. Other than that, his overall concerns relate to participation and involvement.

MEMBER PATTARETTU said she represents Ward 6 and was a nurse for over 40 years. Through her work, seniors were a concern all the time as they waited for social services, food, transportation, etc. Further, guardianship complicated things and left many seniors with no place to go. She said seniors often forget that they are starting a new stage of their life after retirement and they could use their knowledge to teach the next generation. People need to push and pull others to reach their full potential. Socially, people are becoming more isolated because they do not have someone to accompany them or they do not know where to go. Loneliness is hurting people, and she would like to be checking in on seniors. Further, she said the diversity of the Board is very meaningful and many people appreciate that she is a minority. This has given her an opportunity to meet people, encourage them, and offer them the best services.

MEMBER DRUMM said she will not be 50 until August, and she came to be on the Board after nobody else responded to COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ'S request for volunteers at a neighborhood meeting. She is here because she wants to bring issues to the City Council so they can make changes to benefit the seniors. Further, she would love to have a list of resources that are available to seniors and their families, and she noted the difficulties she experienced navigating through systems after her mother passed away.

ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAK said although he gets paid to be here, he would be here anyway because he would rather volunteer his time with youth, special needs, or senior groups. To him, the Board is about being citizen advisors to the senior population. His greatest expectation is that the Board feels valued and hopes they can accomplish what they want to get done.

GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, Neighborhood Services, stated he is the Board liaison because he felt there was a need for seniors in the community. Seniors want to be heard, and he noticed an influx of calls coming from seniors that were not being answered when he first joined the City five years ago. He said the Board serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Council, Health and Wellness Initiative, and the Senior Services program, which was born from this Board. Speaking to his expectations, MR. GRAY would like to see more consistency, unity and collaboration between the members, and he would like them to identify low-hanging obtainable fruit that can be executed with excellence. Lastly, he wants the Board to present their successes to the City Council and not just issues.

JACQUIE MILLER, Assistant Deputy City Clerk, stated that her role for this Board is to create a record of the meeting and to keep the City in compliance with Nevada Open Meeting Law.

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN said it is important to leverage the strengths in each person in order to bring positive change. The Board should also remember what keeps people engaged, and it would be helpful to identify small things they can accomplish as a group. He observed that four members want a cohesive message to go to Council. As a Councilmember, he did not think it was his job to tell them what to do because he did not want to

influence the Board; rather, it is more helpful if the Board influences him and the rest of the Council. He recognizes that the Board wants to disseminate information to the rest of the senior community, and he felt a good way to do this is through the City and the City Council because they can reach a broader audience. He understood that the Board wants to identify challenges and their respective resolutions. If there is no resolution available, it is important to communicate that to the City Council. There are very diverse populations throughout the wards, and the Board should collect and share as much information as possible with the Council.

The Councilman also identified six different large-scale goals from the discussion: develop programs/resources around hearing loss; Compassionate Choices and end of life options; RTC grants and providing greater transit options to seniors in the community; how to make sure seniors understand what is happening in government; transitioning/how to age better; and addressing seniors who are isolated. He also learned that each Member has unique experiences that can be shared with others but also recognized that these meetings may be awkward. He opined that being out in the community is the best place to share their passions and information with the community. COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN said it will take great energy to gain cohesion around their ideas, but it is often done behind the scenes and making friendships. He asked staff to assist the Board in crafting a plan to present to the City Council to share information about where the Board would like to go and what they need to accomplish their goals.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON thanked COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN for coming and thought this was exactly what the Board needed. She felt it would be in the best interest to further review their observations and ideas at the next meeting.

MEMBER GALATI appreciated the Councilman, stating he has been on this Board for three years and felt this would energize the members. He commended COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN for coming to the meeting to listen to them.

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN said sometimes the City Council needs a push, and he is more than willing to be an advocate for the Board.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON noted that COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN is the only Councilperson to come to the meetings, and that lets the Members know they are appreciated and valued.

MR. DOROCAK stated that staff will craft an agenda item for the next meeting that will allow the Board to discuss their observations so they can digest everything from this meeting. COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN encouraged the Members to speak outside of these meetings without violating Open Meeting Law. MR. GRAY suggested that the Members exchange phone numbers or e-mail addresses, but reiterated the importance of complying with Open Meeting Law. He is always available if anybody has questions, and he recommended that the other Members invite their respective Councilperson to these meetings.

6. 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, Department of Neighborhood Services, had nothing new to report.

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

Minutes:

Ward 1 – MEMBER WILLIAMS reported that OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) at UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) has about 62 classes available for anyone who is retired or semi-retired, and scholarships may be available.

Ward 2 – MEMBER GALATI reported that he attends COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN'S monthly Breakfast Buzz event, which is a good opportunity to hear seniors' concerns. He wondered how to reach more seniors and suggested having some type of publication as many do not read electronic media. MEMBER GALATI said he conversed with the Councilwoman at the event regarding his concern about seniors and voting participation,

and he is awaiting data from one of her liaisons. He also attended the Councilwoman's special event where she announced her plans to run for Mayor. MEMBER GALATI looked forward to continuing to pursue senior participation because he knows how vital it is.

Ward 2 – MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL had nothing new to report. She mentioned that she has invited her Ward 2 Councilperson to the Senior Citizens' Advisory Board meetings. She thought the Members should each come up with two ideas for the Board to recommend to the Council.

Ward 3 – MEMBER DRUMM announced activities that have recently taken place in Ward 3 including that COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ attended a karaoke event with the McKnight Senior Community and she delivered cookies over the holidays. There will be a meeting on February 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the East Las Vegas Community Center with first responders and Metro (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department) who will share information about how to prevent heart attacks and stroke and fall prevention, along with other safety tips. She reported that there is a new DTAC (Downtown Area Command) Captain.

Ward 4 – CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON reported that she attended a Ward 6 event with MEMBERS MOZDEAN and PATTARETTU. She also attended First Tuesday at the Summerlin Command with COUNCILWOMAN FRANCIS ALLEN-PALENSKE and her staff member BRENDA. It was very well attended and a lot of great information was shared. She is still receiving calls on housing, healthcare and transportation, which are widespread across Southern Nevada. The Chair held an Aging in Place event at the Durango Hills YMCA for her new book that she co-wrote with a few others. She would like to invite Board members as she continues to hold these events throughout the city, and she asked that staff clarify what the boundaries are to avoid any Open Meeting Law violations. Additionally, she was named Chair of the National Aging in Place Council Board of Directors, and this has spurred a lot of creative thinking. She would like to share information with her fellow Board members once staff clarifies what they can speak about outside of a meeting. Former Governor STEVE SISOLAK appointed her to the Commission on Aging, and many of the people she has met have offered to present to the Board when they are in town. Further, she has been doing many presentations on the mindset of seniors for families. Lastly, she will be at Durango Hills YMCA for a meet-and-greet with COUNCILWOMAN ALLEN-PALENSKE on February 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. A flyer was submitted for the record and attached as backup.

ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAK advised the Chair that she may get together with four or fewer members, as five make a quorum. If it is purely social and purely informational, the entire Board can get together, but he will provide more detail next month.

Ward 6 – MEMBER MOZDEAN reported that COUNCILWOMAN NANCY BRUNE has been very active, she has engaged with many constituents, and she has included her and MEMBER PATTARETTU in her events. The Councilwoman plans to be available every second Thursday of the month at the Durango Hills YMCA to address any senior concerns. At the first two meetings, primary concerns such as affordable senior housing were discussed. Several people expressed disappointment in a new development called The View at Centennial, and they wondered if some of the apartments could be dedicated to seniors. Food insecurity and assistance were also discussed, especially amongst those who no longer qualify for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) due to an increase in their social security. Transportation is another big issue, and many had an interest in getting transportation from some active adult centers and events. COUNCILWOMAN BRUNE said she would actively pursue solutions through coordination with Clark County. MEMBER MOZDEAN said she attended a meeting with Three Square which included presentations from Las Vegas Fire and Rescue and Metro (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department). They discussed the Vial of Life program whereby people have the opportunity to request a form that lists out a number of things that would help an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) if they had to come into your home. She forwarded information on these presentations to the Chair in case there is interest to bring these agencies to a Board meeting. A synopsis of MEMBER MOZDEAN'S report was submitted for the record and attached as backup.

Ward 6 – MEMBER PATTARETTU is looking forward to partnering with MEMBER MOZDEAN and COUNCILWOMAN BRUNE to help the community.

8. 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 agreed with MEMBER MOZDEAN that the presentations given in Ward 6 would be good presentations for this Board to hear.

MEMBER WILLIAMS recommended inviting the legislative lobbyists for Compassion & Choices to do a presentation as they are currently working on legislation with the State legislature. He hoped that this Board would come up with their own presentation to the City Council and establish their presence. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON noted that the Board would be looking to ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAC and GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, for guidance on types of issues to present/recommend to the City Council as some of the items they discuss are not under the City's purview. MEMBER WILLIAMS thought the City Council may not be aware of this legislation and could establish its own position, and the legislators may then act on the same behalf at the State level for seniors in general, not just in Las Vegas.

MEMBER MOZDEAN would like to discuss the Las Vegas Senior Citizen Recognition Awards with focus on a company or a person who is assisting seniors in ways that public assistance doesn't garner.

MR. DOROCAC reiterated that future agenda items included follow-up of the discussion under Item 5, the Ward 6 presentations, a report, a presentation that was rescheduled to next month, and an Open Meeting Law item. He noted that they will try to keep the meetings to an hour-and-a-half and communicate with the Chair to prioritize agenda items.

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:

None.

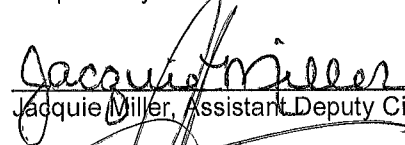
10. **Adjournment**

Minutes:


CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON advised the next Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting would be held on March 2, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Jacquie Miller, Assistant Deputy City Clerk



Gregory Gray, Management Analyst I

Minutes Prepared by:

Cheyenne LaRance, Senior Deputy City Clerk

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