



Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and MEMBERS WEINSTEIN HALL (via teleconference), GALATI, MOZDEAN, PATTARETTU, DRUMM (via teleconference, excused at 2:03 p.m.), LEE and GRAHAM

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, JEFF DOROCAK, Assistant City Attorney, VAL STEED, Chief Deputy 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 June 1, 2023

Motion made by Caroline Mozdean to Approve

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

For-Yvette Weinstein Hall, Elizabeth Pattarettu, Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, Vito Galati, Caroline Mozdean, Jennifer Drumm, Charles Lee, Nicole Graham;

5. Presentation by Jocelyn Bluit-Fisher, Community Resource Manager, and Lindy Cooksey, Senior Outreach Specialist, Department of Neighborhood Services, regarding the Health & Wellness Initiative

Minutes:

JOCELYN BLUITT-FISHER, Community Resource Manager, explained that the Health and Wellness Initiative aims to create programs that address physical health, mental health and the social determinants of health, and a strategic plan is currently under development. To assist with this, the City has contracted with Consilience to develop a system of care that will address the needs of our underserved communities and homeless population. Staff is also looking to increase access to healthcare by creating 10 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC). One currently operates at the corner of Wardelle Street and Bonanza Road, and

another is opening on August 14th at the corner of Main Street and Foremaster Lane. Two more centers are under development on Jackson Street in the Historic Westside at the corner of Bonanza Road and Lamb Boulevard. She said the goal is to create spaces that make people feel more comfortable visiting before they get sick and to provide patients with educational opportunities to learn about their health. The Jackson Street clinic is slated to include amenities such as a chronic disease institute, maternal child health support center, cancer support center, and a learning kitchen. Further, the clinic will include warm colors and green spaces to give the feel that the space is for overall wellness rather than clinical health care. Speaking to mental health, MS. BLUITT-FISHER advised that staff is looking to partner with the State to support the 988 system, which is the number one should call if they are experiencing a mental health crisis instead of calling 911. The two systems should be linked together, but 988 will offer an outreach team to come out and possibly de-escalate the situation. She added that not everyone experiencing a mental health crisis needs to visit the emergency room (ER), be placed on a 72-hour hold, or put under chemical restraints.

MEMBER GALATI asked if Metro (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department) will call 988 if they respond to a call first, and MS. BLUITT-FISHER said the goal is to keep law enforcement away from calls they do not need to be engaged in, but all systems should work together.

MEMBER PATTARETTU asked if staff would consider a system that would reroute patients with non-urgent situations away from the ER and how the public will be educated on services that are available. MS. BLUITT-FISHER said staff is conversing with the local hospitals regarding potential solutions, noting that they do not want individuals using the ER as their primary care provider. She added that the wellness centers are expected to provide educational classes, workshops, and engagement activities, and staff understands there needs to be a robust engagement strategy attached to these efforts. Speaking to the clinic opening at Main Street and Foremaster Lane, MS. BLUITT-FISHER explained that their outreach team will not only work with those at the Courtyard, but also Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, and others. The team will either treat the individual, call 911, or refer them to the Recuperative Care Center if they are a good candidate. The clinic will also serve the low-income households in the surrounding area.

MS. BLUITT-FISHER confirmed for MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL that hospital groups will be a part of these conversations to get their input and ensure their staff is trained.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON thanked MS. BLUITT-FISHER for the presentation, noting she loved hearing about how all community partners will be involved in this effort. She was excited to hear that the City is being proactive with education, wellness and workshops, and she asked how the Board could help with spreading this information. MS. BLUITT-FISHER said the most important role is to listen. Staff needs the Members to be out in the community and report back on the needs of their constituents. She recommended setting up a large board for the Members to keep track of the feedback they are receiving from the community. Staff would then gather that information once per quarter and form a potential solution.

MEMBER LEE asked if the Jackson Avenue clinic would include a pharmacy, to which MS. BLUITT-FISHER confirmed.

MEMBER GALATI wondered if the local libraries would be a good venue to seek feedback from seniors, and MS. BLUITT-FISHER said outreach will look different in each ward. Staff is looking for any and all opportunities to engage with seniors, and she reiterated the importance of the Members being in the community.

MEMBER GRAHAM pointed out that people often confuse the early signs of dementia and Alzheimer's with a mental illness, and she wondered how these situations would be handled. MS. BLUITT-FISHER said Alzheimer's and mental health conditions are treated differently. If there are additional services or education that staff needs to provide, they are happy to do so. The Chair added that educating individuals on early signs of cognitive conditions would be beneficial, and MS. BLUITT-FISHER said that could definitely be pursued, but she would like those efforts to be backed by constituents agreeing with the initiative. MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL advised that the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health offers clinics and other educational programs, but many seniors lack transportation. MS. BLUITT-FISHER said perhaps the Board could have a conversation surrounding mobile workshops and classes.

The Chair said there are a lot of resources for cognitive health, but mental health remains a huge concern. Many people automatically think someone is in cognitive decline, but it is actually a mental health issue. MS.

BLUITT-FISHER said it could be a nutrition deficiency as well, noting that is why it is important to know when someone should go to the doctor. If there are issues or concerns, staff wants to know about it so the public is aware of what resources are available in their community.

6. ABEYANCE ITEM – Discussion for possible action regarding priorities for the Senior Services Strategic Outreach Plan – All Wards

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said she was not in a place to take action at this meeting because she is still digesting a lot of information, but housing, food, prescriptions, and healthcare are still top priorities in her mind.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL said the presentation made by JOCELYN BLUITT-FISHER, Community Resource Manager, is what they need to focus on.

MS. BLUITT-FISHER said housing is a large topic, and she wanted to know what aspects of housing specifically impact seniors along with potential solutions (housing subsidies, home healthcare, etc.). The Chair said for her, it is hard to narrow it down but one of the first things she would like to see changed are the constant rent increases. Many seniors are on a fixed income and they are unable to afford this basic need. MS. BLUITT-FISHER expressed that the Board should be granular in deciding on a topic so it is easier to strategize.

MEMBER MOZDEAN thanked MS. BLUITT-FISHER for her remarks and mentioned that transportation is a priority for her. There are many great programs in the city but seniors are not able to get there. She also mentioned that several people in her community are looking for a roommate to supplement their income, and she wondered how the Board could help spread information about those opportunities. MS. BLUITT-FISHER said she will continue to attend meetings and engage with the Board. She noted that although the Board may not be able to fix a particular issue, they can still advise the City Council on what they are hearing and seeing, which could potentially influence the Council's decisions.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON reiterated the importance of the Members gathering data and information in addition to referring individuals to the Customer Care Center. MS. BLUITT-FISHER said staff needs anecdotal information as well.

Motion made by NOTE: A motion was not made and no action was taken on this item.

For: 0; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 8; Excused: 0

Did Not Vote-Yvette Weinstein Hall, Elizabeth Pattarettu, Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, Vito Galati, Caroline Mozdean, Jennifer Drumm, Charles Lee, Nicole Graham;

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, reminded the public of the Customer Care Line, 702-229-1220. Staff has received a number of calls from the senior community regarding elder abuse, and they have been educating callers that abuse is not always physical. It can also be experienced through isolation or financial exploitation. If they or someone they know is experiencing elder abuse, staff is encouraging them to call Adult Protective Services. He also reminded everyone that the City can only help if the individual consents to services and advocates for themselves. MR. GRAY further reported that staff has been working with seniors that are experiencing mental decline and their families who are trying to support them, but there is a misconception of what care looks like. He reiterated the importance of consent, and staff is making sure families are aware of the resources to help them make an informed decision. Seniors have also called regarding utility bill increases and home repair costs, and those individuals have been referred to Rebuilding Together, although their funds are limited and services may change. Additionally, people from outside cities are calling and expressing concern for their family and friends that live in Las Vegas. Housing has been another topic of concern for many, and staff is doing their best to take care of everyone but staffing, funding and services are limited. MR. GRAY said there are several opportunities available to the Board to help them educate the community at large on topics such as equal pay programs, energy assessments, etc. Clark County is working on a pilot program for shared housing, and he offered to coordinate a presentation on that topic. In closing, he informed the Board about a senior who

wanted to continue living somewhere that she could not afford. Many seniors are set in their ways and unable to accept what they need to do, and the Board should keep this in mind when they are out in the community.

MEMBER GALATI asked if the City has any shared housing programs, to which MR. GRAY said no; however, staff is working with Clark County in support of their pilot program.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL said isolation is all encompassing and can be intertwined with elder abuse. She has been to numerous seminars regarding isolation and fraud, but the attendance is low, which circles back to the issue with transportation.

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

Minutes:

Ward 1 – MEMBER GRAHAM said she had nothing specific to Ward 1 to report on. She spoke of a community action group involved with the Alzheimer's Association and the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center that meets once per month.

Ward 2 – MEMBER GALATI attended an event at the Veterans Memorial Center, which is a good venue to share information and meet other seniors from the community. The Summerlin Area Command was also present to address concerns surrounding traffic, homelessness and home invasions. He encountered a senior that was quoted \$15,000 to get her air conditioning repaired, and he suggested that she get a second opinion. This reminded of him how vulnerable seniors are, and he plans on reaching out to local libraries to get a presentation together on avoiding scams.

Ward 2 – MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL opined that many seniors are embarrassed to talk about being scammed. Isolation and fraud are major issues in every ward, and she is trying to address them. GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, encouraged the Board to put together a monthly gathering for seniors, as this would create a comfortable, safe space for them to talk about their concerns and direct them to the appropriate resource.

Ward 3 – MEMBER DRUMM reported that the Golden Rule Apartments recently opened 60 affordable housing units and a food pantry for seniors in Ward 3. They will be constructing a second phase to add an additional 60 units.

Ward 4 – CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON attended a Commission on Aging meeting earlier, and she said many issues are being discussed at the State level. She will continue to report back on progress and share any flyers with the Board. She noted that there is a waitlist for nearly every service and there is a 64 percent vacancy for social workers. The Chair has seen a lot of shared housing in Ward 4, and she would like to engage with those individuals more and hear how they are successful at connecting with one another. Isolation and mental health issues among seniors are also being discussed at the State level, and she noted that extreme weather conditions can cause more seniors to isolate. She offered to share a survey the other Members can use when they are out in the community, and she asked staff to provide the Board with ward maps along with a list of City departments and what areas they can assist in. Lastly, she submitted a flyer for the National Senior Citizens Day Rockin' Sock Hop that is being held on August 21st, a copy of which is attached as backup. She encouraged all Members to attend.

Ward 5 – MEMBER LEE said the Doolittle Senior Center is currently under renovation, but nothing is planned for the entryway. Individuals have asked if double doors can be installed to accommodate those with mobility issues.

Ward 6 – MEMBER MOZDEAN thanked MR. GRAY for sending the Neighborhood Services newsletter, noting it was nice to see a breakdown of the City departments, and she encouraged everyone to sign up for their ward newsletters. COUNCILWOMAN NANCY BRUNE held a 150-day update, and she brought representatives from various City departments to provide information on what they do and how they can help. Pop-up recreation events have been held throughout Ward 6, and the Member said this is an excellent opportunity for seniors to get out even if they do not participate in the activities. A legislative town hall is being held in partnership with Ward 4 on August 17th at the Technical Academy on Centennial Hills Parkway. MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL

opined that the pop-up recreation events could serve as a great mentorship opportunity. MEMBER MOZDEAN also shared FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) flyers with the Board, copies of which were not submitted for the record, regarding emergency preparedness.

Ward 6 – MEMBER PATTARETTU reported that she met with an individual with American Heroes for Hire, and he told her they will be offering services to low-income seniors.

9. Discussion for possible action regarding next steps and future meeting topics of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board – All Wards

Minutes:

GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, recalled that the Board was still attempting to prioritize the topics they would like to discuss, which included shared housing and emergency kits. He noted that the City's emergency team could present on the kits. The Board was in agreement with the two topics, but MEMBER MOZDEAN added that these are broad issues and wondered if they could focus on something more specific. MR. GRAY explained that as the Members engage with their communities, they will become more well informed about what is important. The Chair reminded the Board that it is important that they listen, and she offered to assist wherever she can. She plans to organize more events in the fall and felt that a presentation by Clark County on shared housing would be a great start.

MEMBER GALATI felt the Board should have been included in crafting the master plan as it relates to transportation and accessibility, and he wants to make local and state officials aware of how seniors are impacted. MR. GRAY said if one feels they were not informed on the master plan, there may be others. Rather than keeping this isolated to the Board, he suggested that they collaborate with the City's Planning division and engage with the senior community.

MEMBER MOZDEAN wondered if staff could craft a questionnaire to help guide the Board on their outreach efforts. MR. GRAY said staff is here to support the Board and he does not expect them to handle everything on their own. A questionnaire could be crafted, but he said nobody responds to those in a direct fashion. He believed that once the Members start engaging with the community, they will see that seniors can speak for themselves and voice their concerns.

The Chair thanked MR. GRAY for all of the support he gives to the Board. She also announced that ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAK has been promoted to City Attorney. He has been supporting the Board for five years, and she also thanked CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY VAL STEED for the support he provided in the beginning. MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL congratulated MR. DOROCAK and thanked him for his service.

Motion made by NOTE: A motion was not made and no action was taken on this item.

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

Did Not Vote-Yvette Weinstein Hall, Elizabeth Pattarettu, Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, Vito Galati, Caroline Mozdean, Charles Lee, Nicole Graham; Excused-Jennifer Drumm;

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:
None.

11. **Adjournment**

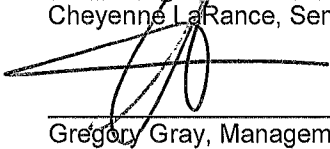
Minutes:
CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON advised the next Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting would be held on September 7, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 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