



Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and MEMBERS PATTARETTU, GALATI, MOZDEAN, DRUMM (via teleconference), LEE, and GRAHAM

EXCUSED: MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I; OLGA FLOWERS, Community Program Technician; VAL STEED, Chief Deputy City Attorney; BRIAN CARROLL, Senior Deputy City Clerk; and SAMANTHA DINICOLA, Deputy City Clerk

2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Minutes:

ANNONCEMENT 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 April 4, 2024

Motion made by Caroline Mozdean to Approve

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

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

5. Presentation by Jessica Gibson, Director of Business Development, with Comfort Home Health and Hospice, regarding services and benefits for seniors – All Wards

Minutes:

JESSICA GIBSON, Director of Business Development with Comfort Home Health and Hospice, reported on services and benefits for seniors provided by her company. She stated that they advocate for seniors within the

community by working with hospitals, case managers and physicians, noting the nationwide business is owned by Pennant. They offer personal care assistants (PCA), durable medical equipment (DME), assisted living, skilled nursing facilities (SNF), and group home care. She explained that she works in Southern Nevada and helps the under-served communities in rural areas. She said she is from Las Vegas and is invested in ensuring seniors are taken care of.

MS. GIBSON advised that home health is intended for people who have been discharged from the hospital or overcome an illness and need someone at home. They require a skilled nurse to assist with medication, wound care, feeding tubes, or other tasks, including physical or occupational therapy. Home health is dictated by health insurance and the doctor will write a prescription for the agency they are partnered with, unless the patient has a preference and is allowed to see someone else. Home health is meant to be short term for all ages to bring someone back up to a level of function after a hospitalization.

MS. GIBSON explained that they offer home hospice, which is meant for a terminal diagnosis of six to 12 months and can be extended after one year. She noted she has personal experience with home hospice, and she opined that it shifts your focus from finding a cure to finding the best care and support while staying comfortable at home. She stated that patients are able to switch between home hospice, home health, or no care at all. Home hospice does not need to come from a doctor, and patients are able to choose the agency they receive care from. Five ancillary services that all hospice cares provide are a registered nurse (RN), certified nursing assistant (CNA), social worker, chaplain, and volunteer. Hospice is covered by insurance and covers all equipment needed at a patient's home. MS. GIBSON explained her job helps put all of the pieces together from different doctors and specialists to assist in deciding which level of care to choose.

MEMBER MOZDEAN thanked MS. GIBSON for the report and thought it was a great addition to senior needs. She wondered if hospitals make specific recommendations for hospice or home health companies, noting that she received a call from a home healthcare service after having surgery and was unsure if that was a standard practice. MS. GIBSON stated that hospitals have partnerships with certain companies, and they are required by law to provide every family with three different home health options. MEMBER MOZDEAN asked if a person's agency preference would be recorded in Nevada Lockbox, which she explained is a program that records all medical requests and needs for a trusted person to be given access. MS. GIBSON believed the best way to advocate for an agency is to have it written down and given to the case manager as soon as possible. She recommended using the booklet called Five Wishes to outline medical wishes for family members and said it could be ordered on the Aging with Dignity website. MEMBER MOZDEAN opined that many people have wills or trusts and the Five Wishes booklet would help make decisions when family members do not have access to them. She confirmed with MS. GIBSON that patients consult with doctors to decide which medications they take. MS. GIBSON noted that hospice care allows patients to make decisions they feel are best.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON noted she receives numerous calls regarding this topic and asked MS. GIBSON to provide her contact information. MS. GIBSON stated her phone number is 702-449-7299. She left a handout for the Members, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to compare the differences between home health and hospice. The Chair thanked MS. GIBSON for the presentation.

MEMBER GALATI questioned how a patient would reach out to her company. MS. GIBSON responded that a case manager would reach out to them once they decide which company to use. She noted patients are able to call hospices directly. She explained the case manager gives patient information to multiple agencies, and once they reach out to the patient they accept the case. She recommended researching different companies to find the best one to match the needs of the patient. GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, recommended calling the Care Coordination Line at 702-229-1200 if someone has concerns about services available and for assistance getting connected to the appropriate company. He had worked with MS. GIBSON and had seen the help she provides. MEMBER GALATI wondered about a flyer recommending Five Wishes from University Medical Center (UMC) and asked if it was a general presentation and MS. GIBSON clarified it was.

6. Discussion for possible action regarding eligibility parameters for the Senior Recognition Award – All Wards

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said they had previous discussions to determine parameters for this award but

nothing was finalized. She wanted to discuss any limitations the Board wanted, opining that too many would make nominations difficult. She noted the award is to thank someone for assisting an older adult and encourage others to help in the future. GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, asked if a Member would bring an individual or business to his team to research or if the Member would do their own research and present their nomination to the Board.

MEMBER GALATI wondered if there were any guidelines for nominations, such as the reason for the nomination and biographical synopsis in order to remain harmonious. MR. GRAY thought that was a great idea and asked the Board what guidelines they would like to set. MEMBER PATTARETTU suggested categorizing them by profit and non-profit, person or organization, and their locality. MR. GRAY opined a guideline should be for the nominee to live within city limits and operate or reside within the Member's ward they represent. He did not believe categorizing the awards was necessary due to the amount they will be handing out and suggested six awards for the six wards throughout the year. MEMBER MOZDEAN proposed to broaden the nomination from their respective ward to the whole city. She agreed with MEMBER GALATI about creating a form with questions and MEMBER PATTARETTU to specify if the organization was for profit. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON explained this would all be information presented to the Board when proposing their nominee. She believed a Member could coordinate with the ward representative when nominating someone from outside their ward. MEMBER MOZDEAN opined that a bulleted list would keep things in order and make for a smooth presentation. MR. GRAY noted his team would create a form for the Board to use. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON recommended the form contain the person or company, reason for nomination, and who benefited from the act of kindness.

MR. GRAY listed the combined recommendations as the name of the person or company, address of nominee, reason for nomination, bio/background, and the person that was helped.

MEMBER LEE clarified with Mr. Gray that the background section of the form would provide an explanation for the nomination and not a personal background of the nominee. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON suggested bringing the form to MR. GRAY'S team for review and to follow up with nominee, and they would bring the completed nomination to the Board. MEMBER MOZDEAN suggested adding the name of who the nominee helped and where the Member heard of the act of kindness. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON added they should bring it to the corresponding City Councilmember and invite them to the ceremony. MEMBER GALATI asked if they need to include a statement advising it is not an endorsement in order to deter businesses from abusing the award. MR. GRAY noted they are representatives of their ward, and everyone involved would do their due diligence to ensure the nominations are valid. He said businesses could use it as leverage within the community to encourage others to help seniors. MEMBER MOZDEAN asked when the Councilmember would be notified, and CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON stated after the Board votes on the nomination.

MR. GRAY summarized that the Members would fill out the form and turn it into his team for verification, and his team will review it and bring the nomination before the Board for approval. If the nominee is approved, the next meeting would include the recognition ceremony. He listed the final form as containing the name of the person or business, their address, the reason for the nomination, a brief bio/background, who was helped with a possible testimony, and how the nomination was referred to them.

Motion made by Vito Galati to Approve eligibility parameters as referenced by Gregory Gray, Management Analyst I, to include the name and address of the individual or business being nominated, the reason for the nomination with a brief bio or background, who was helped by the nominee, including possible testimony from who the nominee helped, and how the nomination was referred to the Board member

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

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

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, introduced the Neighborhood Revitalization and Community Engagement Team. He explained they are coordinating with their outreach team to get senior socials and events on the calendar to engage with the community. He noted that JOCELYN BLUITT, Community Resources Manager, wanted the team to bring what they hear within the community to the Board to better define the work of care coordination. MEMBER MOZDEAN thanked the team for everything they do and said she looked forward to working with them. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON expressed gratitude for how far the Department had grown over six years and thanked them for their work.

MR. GRAY reported that Ward 5 received approval for a new entrance at the Doolittle Senior Center. He thanked ARCELIA BARAJAS, Director of Neighborhood Services, and DARCELL CAMPBELL, Neighborhood Services Financial Grant Administrator, who found guidelines within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to approve the new entryway. He and OLGA FLOWERS, Community Program Technician, had been working with their team regarding calls for in-home and respite care. They advised seniors to contact their insurance and then follow up with JESSICA GIBSON, Director of Business Development with Comfort Home Health and Hospice, to verify options available.

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

Minutes:

Ward 1 – MEMBER GRAHAM reported that she attended an event with great turnout at Red Rock Harley Davidson, in March, and she was able to make contact with attendees. She listed the following upcoming events: Rainbow Family Park Cleanup on May 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Art in the Park at Rainbow Family Park on May 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and a banquet that honors seniors 90 years of age and older called Vintage Vegas on May 9th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the East Las Vegas Community Center.

Ward 2 – MEMBER GALATI reported that there was a Guardianship Seminar on April 21st and Art in the Park at Bruce Trent Park on April 20th. He noted Sahara West Library offers numerous events and have a Fine Art Exhibit. He explained the library serves as a senior center to the community and he urged seniors to participate. He said he received a University Medical Center (UMC) pamphlet in the mail and was impressed by the free courses and senior celebration events they offer. He stated he would attend the Ward 2 Breakfast Buzz for the month of May.

Ward 3 – MEMBER DRUMM explained that COUNCILWOMAN OLIVIA DIAZ held senior pop-up events to hear concerns within the ward. She noted CAPTAIN ADAM SEELY is the new Captain for the Downtown Area Command.

Ward 4 – CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON attended a senior community celebration event at Desert View Senior Living where they received the FLAG Award for maintaining 95 percent efficiency in all graded areas. She explained there will be a night out for residents of Providence with a special presentation from a UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) professor, a fossil dig with geodes, and a movie starting at dusk on May 3rd. She encouraged people to sign up for ward newsletters. The Chair wished everyone a happy Older Americans Month. She advised that the State Ombudsman's Office for Minority Affairs added more staff members and will be able to visit adult day care centers. She noted that Commission on Aging plans to create a website on business transparency. They will list all businesses that own multiple senior based entities to assist with unbiased referrals. She also explained there had been a shortage of caseworkers to help seniors fill out medical applications, but Commission on Aging were able to fill those vacant positions.

Ward 5 – MEMBER LEE expressed excitement about the Doolittle Senior Center receiving a new entrance. He wondered if there was an update on the free meal program mentioned at the last Board meeting. GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, explained he would meet with Three Square and have an update at the next meeting. MEMBER LEE stated there is a Farmers Market every third Thursday in the parking lot of the Doolittle Senior Center.

Ward 6 – MEMBER MOZDEAN opined that the Bluegrass Festival held on April 13th was extremely successful. She mentioned there will be a volunteer at the Centennial Hills YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) Senior Center on Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to assist seniors with electronic devices and give one-

on-one training with electronics. She noted seniors are also able to receive assistance with electronic devices at the Centennial Hills Library. She said Bocaditos with Brune will be held on May 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Centennial Hills YMCA.

Ward 6 – MEMBER PATTARETTU said she attended an informational meeting by Nevada Lockbox at COUNCILWOMAN VICTORIA SEAMAN'S Summerlin office, and they provided guidance with nominating a guardian for future care and getting estates in order. She suggested having similar informational meetings in the future to allow Members to share with their wards. She noted she will help serve the lunch hosted at the Centennial Hills YMCA Senior Center on May 8th.

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

Minutes:
None.

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 that the next Board meeting would be held on June 6, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Samantha DiNicola, 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