



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, February 18, 2020

TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

LOCATION: United Way of Santa Cruz County
4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola, CA 95010

PRESENT: Michael Lewis (*1st District*), Lynne Simpson (*1st District*), Antonio Rivas (*Vice Chair - 2nd District*), Mark Johannessen (*2nd District*), Lois Sones (*3rd District*), Patricia Fohrman (*4th District*), Carol Childers (*Chair - 5th District*), Lynn McKibbin (*5th District*)

EXCUSED: Enda Brennan (*3rd District*), Charles Molnar (*CSL Ex Officio Member*)

ABSENT: Louis J. Tuosto (*4th District*)

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Coordinator*), Mitsuno Baurmeister (*EEO Officer*)

GUESTS: Jean Brocklebank (*Mobile and Manufactured Home Commission*), John Daugherty (*Commission on Disabilities and Santa Cruz Metro*), Clay Kempf (*Seniors Council*)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:30 PM.

2. Approve December 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion/Second: Lewis/Rivas

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment:

Brocklebank reported on an upcoming HCD workshop to provide assistance registering mobile homes. Daugherty reported on a Metro fee waiver for residents who are legally blind, a free mobility training for persons using wheelchairs, and the upcoming thirtieth anniversary of the ADA.

4. Senior Legislature

McKibbin has been attending the State's Master Plan on Aging webinars on Wednesdays. Kempf reports that the Master Plan prioritizes "No wrong door" systems in aging and disability resource connections as well as Age-Friendly designation. Additional information at www.engageca.org.

5. New Business/Action Items: None

6. Strategic Action Plan Reports

6.1. Focus #1: Elected Officials Outreach & Advocacy: Commissioners updated their Supervisors. Rivas attended Watsonville City Council meetings.

6.2. Focus #2: Community Outreach, Advocacy & Resources:

Lewis continues media outreach. McKibbin reported on an outreach program for Boulder Creek veterans. McKibbin shared information on distribution of senior care packages in Scotts Valley. A neighborhood book club is installing shade structures at a local park to encourage local seniors to use the park.

6.3. Focus #3: Local Services, Programs and Agencies

Safety Net Services: No Report

Age-in-Place, Affordable Housing and Housing Unsheltered Seniors: No Report

Transportation: Lewis and Tuosto continue to monitor Measure D.

AARP Age-Friendly Designation:

Rivas reported on the Watsonville City Council approval of pursuing designation, Kempf presented to the Board of Supervisors and the City of Watsonville on the Age-Friendly project, who both approved it. Kempf encouraged Commissioners to advocate with County Supervisors representing the cities of Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Capitola, who have not yet approved Age-Friendly designation. Letter to the Board of Supervisors has been pended until Johannessen is appointed to the Committee.

6.4. Focus #4: Issues that Impact Seniors:

Sidewalk Safety:

Lewis reported that the Board of Supervisors deferred approval of the Jump Bikes contract until regulations and penalties can be developed and included. A *Pedestrians of Santa Cruz County* organization has been formed.

Senior Demographic Data:

Kempf reports that since 2011 the under 60 population has grown by 1.4% and the 60+ population has grown by 29% statewide, while in Santa Cruz County, the under 60 population has decreased by 3% and the 60+ population has increased by 48%, so there is a great disparity between County and State statistics. Commission will promote census participation and pend data collection until census data becomes available. Commission discussed the Rail to Trail project and the safety and/or convenience of seniors using shared mobility devices.

Senior Solutions Follow-Up:

Santa Cruz City has an outreach program for seniors living alone. The Area Agency on Aging developed an outreach model to be used by churches. Rivas will bring the topic to the County *Mental Health Commission* community meeting. Kempf reported on the AAA foster grandparent companion program.

Emergency Preparedness:

Lewis reported that there are no cooling centers available currently. Simpson was appointed to the Commission on Disabilities *Ad Hoc Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee*. They are consulting on the development of a personal emergency and evacuation plan process for people with disabilities. Sones suggested that the Commission monitor community partner and County pandemic preparedness planning.

7. District Announcements:

Sones reported that Mike McConnell is retiring. A new Director has implemented positive changes at the Watsonville Senior Center. Community Bridges eviction date has been extended to December 31, 2020. The Felton Library Grand opening is in February. The Ben Lomond Senior Center is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

8. Staff Report

The Commission Biennial report was approved by the Board of Supervisors.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Coordinator*