



# Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711  
commissions@santacruzcounty.us  
www.sccseniors.org

## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, June 15, 2021

TIME: 12:30 PM

LOCATION: Remote Meeting

PRESENT: Tom Haid (*1<sup>st</sup> District*), Mark Johannessen (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Antonio Rivas (*Vice Chair - 2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Lois Sones (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*), Patricia Fohrman (*4<sup>th</sup> District*), Lynn McKibbin (*5<sup>th</sup> District*)

EXCUSED: Carol Childers (*Chair - 5<sup>th</sup> District*), Charles Molnar (*CSL Ex Officio Member*)

ABSENT: Enda Brennan (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*)

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Coordinator*)

GUESTS: Sven Stafford (*Administrative Analyst*), George Malachowski (*Business Analytics Manager*)  
Katie Nunez (*Watsonville Senior Center Older Adult Services Supervisor*), Patty Talbot (*AAA/Seniors Council Administrator*), Vicky Maxon (*Santa Cruz County Diversity Center 60+ Program Director*)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:36 PM.

2. Motion to Approve April 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion/Second: Sones/Johannessen

**Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Public Comment:

Patty Talbot reported that many Seniors Network/Area Agency on Aging programs, including the senior nutrition program, will delay reopening for health and safety reasons. All meals are still being delivered at seniors homes.

4. Senior Legislature Report: No Report

5. New Business/Action Items:

5.1. FY 2021-23 Operational Plan Development Update

Stafford and Malachowski updated the Commission on the status of the County's Operational Plan development including specific information on equity principles and the County's commitment to embedding equity into objectives and strategic goals. The Commission encouraged the County to review proposed objectives and resource allocation to ensure that senior needs are not underrepresented, particularly those of isolated seniors and low-income seniors. Staff will share proposed objectives when they become available.

5.2. Watsonville Senior Center Update

Nunez reported that the Watsonville City Parks and Community Services Department now manages the Watsonville Senior Center with the goal of reinvesting in resources for seniors to make programs more accessible, including making the facility more wheelchair accessible and hiring a bilingual team. The pandemic impacted programs and services and required adjustments for remote access, including making wellness calls to quarantining seniors, hosting drive-thru events and connecting

seniors with community resources. The main senior center phone number became a vaccine call center and facilitated scheduling appointments for more than 30K residents. The *Senior Center Without Limits* program is ongoing, providing 250 seniors free tablets to access online activities, and setting seniors up with low-cost internet access. The Center also hosted a virtual vigil to honor residents of a post-acute care facility who passed in a COVID-19 outbreak. Official re-opening date is scheduled for June 23, 2022 and will include tiered membership plans. Free membership will be available, but Gold Membership plans will include access to extra services and benefits including access to a technology center. A resident survey will be conducted to identify senior needs and inform development of a strategic plan.

6. District Reports:

6.1. District 1:

Haid advocated with Supervisor Koenig for the appointment of a second District 1 Commissioner.

6.2. District 2:

Rivas reported that the Live Oak School District plans for the property housing the Senior Network Services Education Center and meal preparation kitchen for Meals on Wheels are still being debated and advocacy on the issue will be considered during the August meeting. Johannessen (serving as an at-large member of the Seniors Council Board) reported on the Master Plan for Aging. More than 100 objectives were identified in five key areas: housing, health, equity, caregiving, and affording aging. A two-hour webinar with additional detail is posted on the Seniors Council website. Johannessen reported that he is now serving as an at-large member of the Senior Council reporting on the Master Plan on Aging implementation and serving on a related subcommittee. Talbot reported that there are additional related resources on the Seniors Council website.

6.3. District 3:

Sones reported that Elderday has begun to provide services on-site for participants and continues to provide some remote services.

6.4. District 4:

Fohrman reported that vaccinations are progressing well.

6.5. District 5:

McKibbin reported Scotts Valley Senior Center has been active reaching out to seniors, but the San Lorenzo Valley Senior Center has not been as active. Site cleaning/maintenance has been ongoing, but communications have not been happening. Advocacy for more consistent internet access for seniors in the SLV area is needed. Boulder Creek Sheriff's office has not reopened as most volunteers are seniors.

7. Staff Report:

Staff reported that County staff continue to work remotely though most Departments are reopening gradually. State legislation may require remote access for the public during future in-person meetings.

8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Coordinator*