



# Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

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## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, October 15, 2019

TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

LOCATION: United Way of Santa Cruz County

4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola, CA 95010

PRESENT: Antonio Rivas (*Vice Chair - 2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Mark Johannessen (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Lois Sones (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*), Enda Brennan (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*), Patricia Fohrman (*4<sup>th</sup> District*), Carol Childers (*Chair - 5<sup>th</sup> District*), Lynn McKibbin (*5<sup>th</sup> District*)

EXCUSED: Michael Lewis (*1<sup>st</sup> District*), Lynne Simpson (*1<sup>st</sup> District*), Louis J. Tuosto (*4<sup>th</sup> District*), Charles Molnar (*CSL Ex Officio Member*)

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Coordinator*)

GUESTS: Tory Del Favero (*US Census Bureau*), Clay Kempf (*AAA/Seniors Council*), Patty Talbot (*AAA/Seniors Council*), Patty Small (*Volunteer Center Program Manager*), John Daugherty (*SCMTD/Commission on Disabilities*) and one community member

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:31 PM.

2. Public Comment:

Daugherty reported on SCMTD's new Headways master bus schedule, the public hearing for the proposed fare waiver, new driver hiring and training, and the PG&E planned outage's impact on Metro.

3. 2020 Census

Tory Del Favero (*US Census Bureau Specialist*) gave an overview of outreach efforts for the 2020 Census including census confidentiality and the importance of a complete and accurate count. Commission discussed seniors' perceived safety with door-to-door enumerators, and the impact of accurate reporting on funding, representation and districting.

**Authorize Commission leadership to send letter to the Board of Supervisors supporting 2020 Census participation efforts.**

Motion/Second: Brennan/Rivas

**Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Association of Watsonville Area Seniors (AWAS) Watsonville Senior Center Report

Clay Kempf, AWAS Board member, reported on AWAS and the Watsonville Senior Center. The City will manage the Senior Center as of November 1, 2019 and has hired additional staff and allocated funds to support the transition and ongoing management. Commission discussed imminent changes to the Live Oak Meals on Wheels facility in 2020.

5. California for All Emergency Preparedness Campaign

Patty Small (*Volunteer Center Program Manager*) gave an overview of a new State-funded Volunteer Center project, *Get Ready/Esten Listo Santa Cruz County – California for All*, an emergency preparedness information campaign targeting 5K seniors, 5K low-income families, and 1500 individuals in mental health community. They will be working with a State-developed curriculum that has been customized for each of the three target audiences. The information will be delivered in group settings, via trusted members of these communities or one-on-one online.

6. **Approve August 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Motion/Second: McKibbin/Fohrman

**Motion passed unanimously.**

7. **Senior Legislature Report:**

Kempf reported on the *Master Plan on Aging Committee* process and progress. Commission discussed the anticipated increase in funding required to serve an aging population.

8. **New Business/Action Items:** None

9. **Strategic Action Plan Reports**

9.1. **Focus #1: Elected Officials Outreach & Advocacy:** Commissioners updated their Supervisors.

9.2. **Focus #2: Community Outreach, Advocacy & Resources:**

McKibbin facilitated two anti-scamming presentations (SLV Senior Center and the Association of Retired Public Employees) and assisted an SLV senior with reporting a scam. Rivas reported on the AARP website Scam Map Tool and invited the Commission to the new County Mental Health Facility open house in Watsonville. Fohrman reported on the County's *Community Traffic Safety Coalition* efforts to increase street safety and safe wheelchair charging stations.

9.3. **Focus #3: Local Services, Programs and Agencies**

Sones invited Commissioners to attend the IHSS Advisory Commission for a presentation by HomeBridge, a San Francisco agency that provides IHSS caregiver management services to people unable to manage their caregivers. Kempf reported that the AAA priorities and plans for Age-Friendly designation are expected to be in place for the entire County by 2020.

9.4. **Focus #4: Issues that Impact Seniors:** The Sidewalk Safety recommendation letter was reviewed by the Board of Supervisors on 9/24/2019, who also reviewed and approved the proposed Shared Mobility RFP at the same meeting. Public Works will return to the Board with a recommendation for award of contracts. **Chair appointed Brennan to the Sidewalk Safety Subcommittee.** The Solutions Summit Loneliness and Isolation workgroup is ongoing. All other Summit workgroups have fulfilled their functions and been dissolved.

10. **District Reports and Announcements:**

10.1. Fohrman reported that International Code Commission (ICC) will be considering whether or not there is a need for international building regulation for sustainable "cobb" housing, including seismic and fire safety standards. This may expand local ADU affordable construction options.

10.2. Childers reported on an impressive new accessible housing development at 708 Water Street.

10.3. McKibbin reported that the State Property Tax Postponement program has been reactivated allowing eligible homeowners to postpone payment of property taxes on a primary residence, if they meet certain criteria. There may also be a similar County program in place to defer property taxes.

11. **Staff Report**

The Commission on Disabilities invited the Seniors Commission and the IHSS Advisory Commission to a series of guest speaker presentations on local emergency preparedness services for people with disabilities. Mitsuno Baurmeister joined the County as the new County EEO Officer.

12. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Coordinator*