



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, February 15, 2022
TIME: 12:30 PM
LOCATION: Remote Meeting
PRESENT: Dena Taylor (1st District), Antonio Rivas (*Vice Chair - 2nd District*), Mark Johannessen (*2nd District*), Lois Sones (*3rd District*), Enda Brennan (*3rd District*), Patricia Fohrman (*4th District*), Carol Childers (*Chair - 5th District*), Lynn McKibbin (*5th District*)
EXCUSED: None
ABSENT: Tom Haid (*1st District*)
STAFF: Kaitie McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)
GUESTS: Patty Talbott (AAA/Seniors Council) and 1 member of the public were present

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:32 PM.

2. **Motion to Approve December 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Motion/Second: McKibbin/Taylor

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

4. Senior Legislature Report:

Staff reported that Charles Molnar has resigned from the California Senior Legislature (CSL). CSL will be electing a Senior Assembly person and a Senior Senator to represent Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. Post-election, CSL will advise the Commission who was selected to serve on the Commission as an ex officio non-voting member.

5. New Business/Action Items:

5.1 Assembly Bill 361 Statement of Findings

Commission considered whether to authorize meeting remotely under the provisions of AB 361 at the next meeting.

Motion to approve statement of findings authorizing the Commission to hold their next meeting remotely under the provisions of AB 361.

Motion/Second: Johannessen/McKibbin

Motion passed unanimously.

6. District Reports:

6.2. District 1:

Taylor attended the Commission on Disabilities meeting and Supervisor Koenig's town hall meeting regarding the Live Oak Senior Center location. An affordable housing development may coexist with the senior center on the property, but the project is currently on hold. Taylor also

attended the AAA advisory council meeting where the topic was also discussed. The State budget has funding available for senior programs and the AAA is considering proposals for both Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. The Master Plan for Aging had its one-year anniversary. Commission will discuss skilled nursing home over-utilization at a future meeting in response to a CalMatters article shared by Taylor.

6.3. District 2:

Rivas reported that Meals on Wheels has received substantial funding from Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). The status of the Live Oak Senior Center remains a concern. Rivas expressed his personal support for a rail transportation option for Watsonville. Johannessen reported that the AAA has discussed funding related to the Master Plan for Aging goals. The Governor's May budget revise may offer additional funding details. Older Americans Act funding determinations should be finalized by May. The County's Master Plan for Aging governance group will incorporate the Age-Friendly concepts into master plan implementation over the next two years.

6.4. District 3:

Sones reported that Elderday has paused in-center services because of the high levels of COVID-19 with a projected reopening by February 28th. Brennan encouraged Commissioners to focus on encouraging education on issues and voter participation rather than expressing personal voting viewpoints.

6.5. District 4:

Fohrman reported issues with the LiftLine taxi scrip program, establishing conservatorships, and farmers markets food distribution.

6.6. District 5:

McKibbin commended panelists on the State's Master Plan for Aging implementation webinar. She communicated with Supervisor McPherson to better understand local implementation efforts and encourages the Commission to continue monitoring the financial impact and the Commission's potential role in the process. A new Santa Cruz Community Clinic opened in Ben Lomond. Childers attended a planning meeting for the veterans housing project on Hwy 9 continues and advocated for them to prioritize homeless veterans. Meals on Wheels stopped serving meals onsite but is scheduled to reopen on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

7. Staff Report:

Staff spoke with Alicia Morales (*County Human Services Department's Director for the Adult and Long-Term Care Division*) regarding the County's Master Plan for Aging Governance Group which consists primarily of elected officials. While it is too early to report on any implementation activities, a needs assessment will be conducted (potentially incorporating the *AAA Senior Needs Assessment*) and there may be an opportunity for the Commission to participate in subsequent subcommittees. After the May revise, Morales will update the Commission on State funding determinations that impact programs and services in her division which encompasses programs related to long-term care, veterans' services, public guardian services, IHSS, and Adult Protective Services, to name a few.

8. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*