



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, December 19, 2023

TIME: 12:30 PM

LOCATION: United Way, 4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola CA 95010

PRESENT: Dena Taylor (1st District), Suzanne Doty (Vice Chair - 1st District), Mark Johannessen (2nd District), Lois Sones (3rd District), Patricia Fohrman (4th District), Katie Limas (4th District), Carol Childers (Chair - 5th District), Lynn McKibbin (5th District)

EXCUSED: Antonio Rivas (2nd District)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Manager)

GUESTS: No members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:34 PM.

2. **Motion to Approve August 15 Meeting Minutes**

Minutes were amended to correct a typographical error.

Motion to approve minutes as amended.

Motion/Second: Doty/Taylor

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment: None

4. New Business/Action Items:

4.5. Consider 2022-2023 Biennial Report

Commission reviewed the 2022-2023 Biennial Report and amended to add affiliations and revised goals to include language related to CORE funding, Solutions Summit, State DEI efforts, and Enhanced Care Management.

Motion to approve the 2022-2023 Biennial Report as amended.

Motion/second: Taylor/Doty

Motion passed unanimously.

4.6. Consider Advocating for the Seniors Commission as a Distinct Advisory Body

Commission discussed recent Board of Supervisors' direction to the *A Santa Cruz County Like Me* (ASCCLM) task force to return in January with recommendations on streamlining the County's advisory body system to bring current and increase efficiency. The Commission does not yet know whether they will be included in recommendations but expressed concern that they may not be given an opportunity to advocate for their continued existence before recommendations are published.

Motion authorizing Commission Chairs to draft and submit a letter to the Board of Supervisors advocating for their continued existence as a distinct advisory body.

Motion/Second: McKibbin/Taylor

Motion passed unanimously.

4.7. Senior Center Assessment/Survey Report

McKibbin summarized findings from her research into programs and services provided by the six senior centers in Santa Cruz County. Four centers either have support from their cities (Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, Watsonville) or are funded by their members (Capitola), but the Highlands Center which had previously relied upon support from CORE funding, are struggling financially. Former Live Oak Senior Center was closed voluntarily, unrelated to any financial concerns. The findings reinforced the importance of senior center services. Potential projects included a virtual forum/town hall for center directors, fostering connection between centers, promoting center utilization, developing funding recommendations, and promoting educational opportunities for senior center directors. Johannessen will research whether the Solutions Summit includes a breakout specific to senior center directors.

Motion to Establish an Ad Hoc Senior Center Advocacy Subcommittee to develop a recommendation of the purpose and scope of the special project for consideration by the Commission.

Motion/Second: Taylor/Doty

Motion passed unanimously.

Childers appointed Doty, McKibbin, Taylor, and Childers to the subcommittee.

5. District Reports:

5.1. District 1:

Taylor reported that the LOSD may consider selling the Capitola Road property, aren't evicting senior program tenants yet and may extend the lease by two years if tenants make \$100K in site repairs. However, they won't allow senior lunch service on site. Doty encouraged Commissioners to attend the upcoming Mid-County Democratic Club candidate endorsement event.

Lois Sones left

5.2. District 2:

Johannessen reported on the AAA Advisory Council/Seniors Council annual joint meeting which featured a presentation from Gary Burn (executive director for the Community Foundation for San Benito County) on fundraising and funding allocation, review of the Master Plan for Aging, an update on Solutions Summit planning, and a panel discussion on the challenges of aging which was moderated by Clay Kempf.

5.3. District 3: No Report

5.4. District 4:

Fohrmann provided an update on the creek debris clearing issue.

5.5. District 5: No Report

6. Senior Legislature Report: No Report

7. Staff Report: No Report

8. Correspondence: None

9. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements: None

10. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*