



Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, February 20, 2024

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), Antonio Rivas (2nd District) Lois Sones (3rd District), Patricia Fohrman (4th District), Katie Limas (4th District), Carol Childers (Chair -5th District), Lynn McKibbin (5th District)

EXCUSED: None

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Manager)

GUESTS: Elizabeth Byrd (Sr. HSA Analyst), Teri Mantz, (Mid-County Senior Center Board Vice President), and Clay Kempf (AAA/Seniors Council Executive Director) were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:31 PM.

2. Motion to Approve December 19 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as written.

Motion/Second: Doty/Fohrman

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment:

Kempf provided an update on Virtual Candidate Forums, AB-1249, Ombudsman Program defunding crisis, and an update on the LOSD Capitola property negotiation including information on an upcoming bond act.

4. New Business/Action Items:

4.1. Age Well Community Needs Assessment Report

Byrd provided an update on the senior needs assessment survey being conducted as part of the County's *Master Plan for Aging* efforts. A 10-person steering committee of deeply connected community members designed the outreach campaign. Hundreds of local community partners are delivering and collecting paper surveys in addition to the traditional media (newspaper, newsletter, radio, and magazine) advertisements. A dedicated email and phone number are available to request paper surveys. Responses are being analyzed responses for targeted outreach opportunities resulting in greater engagement with unhoused seniors, veterans, and those living in facilities. So far, the response has been very good.

4.2. Mid-County Senior Center Report

Mantz provided detailed information about the Mid-County Senior Center's programs and services including social, educational, recreational, and healthy lifestyle events for seniors and non-seniors alike. 515 members support the center paying \$45/year in dues. The center is self-supporting except for some grant funding and member donations for special projects. Fundraisers and venue rentals provide additional income. Activities include games, dances, book signings, organic gardening, workshops, yoga, dances, and barbeques, to name a few. The

building needs repairs and increased membership would help to provide the resources to make the necessary repairs. Commissioners are encouraged to share information about the great senior programming available at the Mid-County Senior Center.

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

Motion/Second: Taylor/Doty

Motion passed unanimously.

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

4.3. Commission Restructure Update

Staff reported that the Commission was not mentioned in the County's advisory body streamlining recommendations that were presented to the Board in January. A second round of recommendations are due in August, so the Commission will postpone their advocacy letter.

5. District Reports:

5.1. District 1:

Taylor reported attending two informative webinars, focused on diversity and one focused on housing needs for people with disabilities and seniors.

5.2. District 2:

Johannessen provided an update on *2024 Solutions Summit* planning and reported that seniors were well represented at the polls. Rivas reported on a Watsonville Senior Center meeting regarding capital repairs and potential expansion they will propose to the City Council. Rivas also attended a Meals on Wheels event at the Chaminade.

5.3. District 3:

Sones met with state legislators to advocate for senior needs.

5.4. District 4:

Fohrmann reported attending an Interlaken flood control event and heard a report on the impact of fentanyl on the community. Fohrman also advised contacting the Justice Department to report any unusable parking spaces for people with disabilities.

5.5. District 5:

McKibbin reported that the Valley Community Center received a grant funding from the State for capital improvements which are scheduled to begin. Childers recommended the Patty Maxine documentary "Being Eighty" on PBS.

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*