



Recreation Department

Staff Liaison

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**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON AGING**

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 3 p.m.

VIA TELECONFERENCE

<https://elcerrito.webex.com/elcerrito/onstage/g.php?MTID=e5133e642e6791ca471c42dc1e44a990f>

Event Number: 146 150 1836
Event Password: COA121620

Join by Phone: 1-408-418-9388
Access code: 146 150 1836

3:20 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Jennifer Haller, Vice-Chair Steve Lipson, Members Buddy Akacic, Katherine Cesa, Shirley Cressey, Kenneth Epley, Janet James, Carol Kehoe, Joanna Kim-Selby, Dr. Pansy Kwong, Kim Marlia, David Van Etten, Pamela Wagner, Bruce Yow

Absent: Nola Veganes Chavez

Also Present: Bridget Cooney, Staff Liaison, Christopher Jones, Staff Liaison, Janet Abelson, Council Representative

2. COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

AARP Tax-Aide will be done virtually in 2021. Seniors interested in the service will need to email AARP to request an appointment. More information about the service will be available in March.

Kehoe reported that she received an email from the Superintendent of WCCUSD and anticipates that everyone will be back in school in the fall except those enrolled in distance learning or hybrid programs.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No comment.

4. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Council member Abelson reported that the City has approved moving committee and council meetings to the Zoom platform in a few months. The City's WebEx account is paid for through June 2021.

Council member Abelson reported that the state auditor gave a report on the City's audit at the February 16, 2021 city council meeting. Recreation Director, Christopher Jones recommended that any Committee on Aging members interested in the results of the state audit should review the recording from the February 16, 2021 council meeting.

Recreation Director Jones reported that Public Works and the Police Department identified homeless encampments and items that posed a potential threat to public health near Del Norte BART station and they notified and worked with the County to clean up the encampment and provide services to individuals affected.

Council member Abelson reported that the COVID-19 vaccination is available to seniors ages 65+ in Contra Costa County.

Member Wagner raised concern about the lack of trash receptacles at the AC Transit Bus stops on Key Blvd at Cutting. Recreation Director, Jones will speak with Public Works about this matter and report back to the committee.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved/Second: Member Kehoe/Member Epley

Action: Adopted the minutes with corrections from the Committee meeting on **December 16, 2020**

Ayes: 14 **Nos:** None **Abstention:** None

6. COMMITTEE ON AGING STANDING-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sub-Committee Reports are limited to three minutes per sub-committee.

- a. Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council (ACOA) (Lipson & Selby): Vice Chair Lipson stated that the purpose of this standing committee is to serve as liaison between the ACOA and the Committee on Aging and to report on what is happening in the county.

Vice Chair Lipson reported that a Contra Costa County Public Health Nurse presented at the ACOA meeting on the COVID-19 Vaccination roll out in Contra Costa County. Lipson reported that the digital divide had an impact on older adults and their ability to make appointments. To address this, the county sent health care professionals to identified sites to give vaccinations.

- b. Transportation (Cressey & Epley): Member Epley stated that the purpose of this standing committee is to look at how seniors travel using public transportation in El Cerrito.

Member Epley expressed frustration with the City regarding putting in bus benches on San Pablo Ave at Potrero. Chair Haller recommended the Bus Bench project become the focus of an ad hoc committee.

- c. Communication (Haller & Veganes Chavez): Chair Haller stated that the purpose of this standing committee is to increase the exchange of information between committee on aging members and seniors in the community. The focus will be in three areas, 1) the Communication standing committee will share relevant information from the committee to seniors via the 60+ newsletter; 2) the Communication standing committee will increase committee member awareness of resources available to seniors in our community; 3) the Communication standing committee will provide outreach to seniors in El Cerrito by making wellness calls to isolated seniors through the Senior Buddy outreach program.

Chair Haller reported that one person has signed up for the Senior Buddy program to date and she expressed how much she misses the senior center which remains closed due to COVID-19.

- d. Disabilities (Cressey & Kehoe): Member Kehoe stated that the purpose of this standing committee is to identify ways to help those with disabilities living in El Cerrito access the resources they need to improve quality of life.

Member Kehoe reported that she had been helping seniors make appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations.

- e. Health Care (Kwong): Member Dr. Kwong stated that the purpose of this standing committee is to share health care information that is relevant to aging and disabled residents.

Member Dr. Kwong reported the 1 dose COVID-19 vaccine by Johnson & Johnson has been approved and will be released later this month. Dr. Kwong reported that Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines require 2 doses and are very effective.

- f. Housing (Akacic & James): Member James stated that the purpose of this standing committee is to keep track of senior housing inventory and advocate for senior housing in El Cerrito. Additionally, this standing committee will keep informed and report on what is happening with senior housing in the City and Bay Area.

Member James reported that Eskaton Hazel Shirley Manor held a COVID-19 vaccine clinic and were able to fully vaccinate 59 residents.

Member Akacic reported that Housing Analyst, Aissia Ashoori is a good resource if seeking information on housing in the City of El Cerrito.

- g. Legislation (Kwong): Member Dr. Kwong stated that the purpose of this standing committee is to share information on local, state, and federal legislation that is of interest to seniors and disabled residents.

Member Dr. Kwong reported that cities and states tax revenues plummeted creating economic consequences related to COVID-19. Currently there is a COVID relief bill awaiting approval by the President.

- h. Membership (Cressey & Marlia): Member Marlia stated that the purpose of this standing committee is to serve as point of contact for those interested in potentially joining the committee. This standing committee keeps track of vacancies and assists in filling vacancies on the committee.

Member Marlia reported that there are currently no vacancies on the committee.

- i. Technology (Lipson & Van Etten): Vice Chair Lipson stated that the purpose of this standing committee is to identify technology resources in the county and ways to help older adults access and use technology as well as to inform the committee on new and existing technology available to seniors.

Vice Chair Lipson reported that the Digital Divide affects more than just seniors and the technology standing committee is working on ways to expand internet access and technology training.

Member Van Etten reported on practical ways that cell phones and computers can make seniors' lives easier. Van Etten focused on food resources and different options that can be accessed by seniors using technology. Food resources mentioned included Amazon Prime which requires an annual subscription fee that includes free shipping on most orders and free grocery/drug store deliveries with purchases of \$35 or more; Walmart grocery delivery which also offers free shipping on orders over \$35 and has a lower price range than Amazon; Meal subscriptions such as Freshly which provide either pre-cooked meals or meal kits for varying price points dependent on how many meals per week are ordered and door dash for restaurant delivery which can be relatively expensive.

- j. West County Senior Coalition (Cesa, Kehoe, Lipson): Member Kehoe stated that the purpose of this standing committee is to serve as liaison to the West County Senior Coalition.

Member Kehoe reported that there were presentations at the January WCSC meeting on the topics of the COVID-19 vaccination roll out in Contra Costa County as well as Senior Scams related to COVID-19.

7. DISCUSS AND PASS A MOTION TO REORGANIZE THE COMMITTEE ON AGING STANDING COMMITTEES

Chair Haller postponed this item to the March 17, 2021 meeting.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 3pm
- Presentation on COVID-19 Rollout by Contra Costa County Health Department
- Standing Committees discussion and re-organization– March 17, 2021

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jennifer Haller adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular Committee on Aging meeting of February 17, 2021 as approved by the Committee on Aging.

Jennifer Haller, Chair

Bridget Cooney, Staff Liaison