



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Committee on Aging

Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 3p.m.

VIA TELECONFERENCE

Staff Liaison

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<https://elcerrito.webex.com/elcerrito/onstage/g.php?MTID=e6be70e70e167c0fb2a8cd0964bb130a1>

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3 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Dr. Pansy Kwong called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Dr. Pansy Kwong; Vice-Chair Jennifer Haller; Members Buddy Akacic, Katherine Cesa, Kenneth Epley, Janet James, Carol Kehoe, Steve Lipson, Kim Marlia, David Van Etten
Absent: Shirley Cressey, Joanna Kim Selby, Nola Veganes Chavez
Also, Present: Bridget Cooney, Staff Liaison, Janet Abelson, Council Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
Bruce Yow introduced himself hoping to be considered for potential membership to the Committee.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Council Liaison Abelson reported that City Council focused on the budget in three segments. The first two segments are completed (Budget to the end of fiscal year 2019-2020 ending June 30, 2020 and preliminary budget July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). The third segment is currently being reviewed and numbers updated to account for being in a pandemic. Liaison Abelson reported that Council set a goal to get reserves to a healthy level and have identified \$4 million in savings by staff agreeing to forgo raises and all non-public safety personnel taking a furlough that is the equivalent of one non-paid day per pay period. An additional \$1.5 million in savings has been identified and will be discussed at the special City Council meeting on September 1, 2020 at 4:30pm. Council Liaison Abelson reported that sales tax for the city is projected to be significantly lower with the pandemic and it is unclear what will happen with property taxes.

Staff Liaison Cooney reported that since the COVID shut down, Midtown staff have worked with the Contra Costa County Senior Nutrition program to transition from a congregate meal program to a to-go meal program for seniors ages 60 and older. Once a week, five frozen meals are delivered to the homes of El Cerrito seniors by Easy Ride Paratransit drivers and Midtown staff. Curbside pick-up of meals is available to non-El Cerrito resident seniors. Over 7,000 meals were delivered between March-June 2020 with an average of 80 seniors receiving meals each week. Midtown staff provide support to the local Meals on Wheels program. Paratransit drivers are working reduced hours and are providing essential transportation services for El Cerrito residents ages 65 years or older through our Easy Ride Paratransit program. Essential transportation includes trips to the grocery store, pharmacy or medical appointments within El Cerrito city limits. Two part-time staff at Midtown Activity Center have been furloughed and full-time staff have one furlough day each pay period. The Midtown Activity Center remains closed to the public. Midtown staff have taken on a support role for summer camp and are transitioning to support roles for fall childcare and distance learning.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Moved/Second: Member Epley/Vice Chair Haller

Action: Adopted the minutes of the Committee meeting on **February 19, 2020.**

Ayes: 9 **Nos:** None **Abstention:** 1

5. **Consider a Recommendation to Appoint Pamela Wagner to the Committee on Aging.**

Committee on Aging members voted to recommend to Council the appointment of Pamela Wagner to the Committee on Aging. **Ayes:** 10 **Nos:** None

6. **SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Reports:

- A. Housing subcommittee (Akacic & James): Member James reported that Eskaton has seen no cases of COVID-19. Protocols are in place including wearing masks, temperature and health checks of residents and visitors, limiting activities to small groups offered in a safe manner, following HUD guidelines and doing all they can to make sure that residents remain safe and healthy.
- B. Transportation subcommittee (Cressey & Epley): Member Epley reported that AC transit is offering free rides, however bus capacity is limited due to COVID restrictions and will pass up riders if full. Epley reported that BART has opened two stations in San Jose allowing riders to go to as far as the Great mall or the Berryessa station in San Jose. Epley reported that California legislative actions may result in both Uber and Lyft suspending operations in California which has the potential to impact seniors using the service.
- C. Legislation subcommittee (Dr. Kwong): No Report
- D. Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council (Lipson & Selby): Member Lipson reported that the AAOA met on August 19, 2020 and looked at the Master Plan on Aging progress report.
- E. West County Senior Coalition (Cesa, Kehoe, Lipson): Members Kehoe and Cesa reported that the West County Senior Coalition met in July and a presenter spoke about the Master Plan on Aging.
- F. Health Care subcommittee: Chair Dr. Pansy reported that flu season in the southern hemisphere has been mild and that everyone is encouraged to get their flu shots.
- G. Membership subcommittee (Cressey & Marlia): Member Marlia welcomed David Van Etten to the Committee and stated that there are two remaining applicants, Pamela Wagner and Bruce Yow. Currently there are two vacancies on the Committee.
- H. Communication subcommittee (Haller & Veganez-Chavez): Vice Chair Haller reported that Storytime for the Ages is suspended and there are currently no Senior Snippets.
- I. Technology subcommittee: Member Lipson reported that the Elder Tech program is suspended.
- J. Disabilities subcommittee (Cressey & Kehoe): Member Kehoe reported concerns that with more people out walking for exercise on certain streets, people park on the sidewalk which obstructs the sidewalk for walkers using strollers, wheelchairs, or walkers. Identified streets with this problem are Seaview and Leviston. Chair Dr. Kwong encouraged Member Kehoe to contact the police department as a concerned citizen regarding parking laws and enforcement. Chair Dr. Kwong also requested that staff liaison

Cooney invite the police department to speak about this issue at a future meeting.

7. DIGITAL DIVIDE PRESENTATION

Presenter: Steve Lipson, Founder of Elder Tech Academy and Member of the Contra Costa Advisory Council on Aging and the City of El Cerrito Committee on Aging presented on the topic of the Digital Divide and the importance of and challenges with older adults and technology. Lipson invited committee members interested in learning more to contact him after the meeting.

8. Reorganization of the Committee on Aging

Per City ordinance, select Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee on Aging for 2020-21. Chair Dr. Kwong called for the reorganization of the Committee on Aging. Member Epley nominated Jennifer Haller as Chair. Ayes: 9 Nos: 1 Abstention: None Member Kehoe nominated Steve Lipson as Vice Chair. Ayes: 10 Nos: 0 Abstention: None

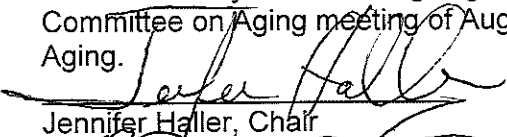
9. Future Agenda Items

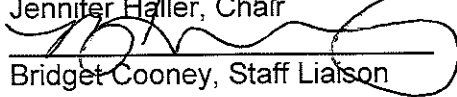
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 3pm.
- Budget Update for Fiscal Year 2020-21
- Consider a recommendation to appoint Bruce Yow to the COA
- Invite Police Department representative to speak about sidewalk parking laws and enforcement.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dr. Kwong adjourned the meeting at 4:30 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 August 19, 2020 as approved by the Committee on Aging.


Jennifer Haller, Chair


Bridget Cooney, Staff Liaison