MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON AGING

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 3 p.m.

VIA TELECONFERENCE

https://zoom.us/j/92290781732?pwd=ci90REVoRUpablRMTk1FVllvNlpYUT09
Meeting ID: 922 9078 1732
Password: 077735
Dial In: 1-408-638-0968

3:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

1. ROLL CALL
Present: Chair Jennifer Haller, Vice-Chair Steve Lipson, Members Buddy Akacic* (*Member Akacic left meeting at 4:30pm), Katherine Cesa, Shirley Cresssey, 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: Janet Abelson, Council Liaison, Bridget Cooney, Staff Liaison
Members from the Public: Linda Cain

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
No comment.

3. COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS
Member Kehoe reported that there are at least eight known residents of El Cerrito who are one hundred years old or older. Member Kehoe requested that the committee put on a future agenda for discussion, a proposal to have residents turning 100 years old recognized by City Council on an ongoing basis.

Member Akacic reported that the East Bay Senior Strollers have instituted a “Senior of the Year” award with the primary criteria for the award being an age requirement of over one hundred years old. The 2021 Senior of the year is Clara Ray Gesner who is a resident of El Cerrito that is one hundred two years old. Member Akacic invited committee members to join his East Bay Senior Strollers weekly email list. Member Akacic encouraged committee members to meet with others outdoors and invited them to participate in weekly East Bay Senior Strollers outings on Tuesdays and Fridays at 1pm.

Member Akacic reported that former City employee, Mariya Limon contacted him when the Financial Auditor’s report was published and is concerned by the report that the City is “…on the verge of opening a fragmented senior center”.

4. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS
Council Liaison Abelson reported the City successfully transitioned all council meetings and advisory body meetings to Zoom instead of WebEx.
Council Liaison Abelson reported that the state auditor's report is published and available for review on the City's website. She stated that the State Auditors have put the City of El Cerrito on the list of cities of concern. She encouraged interested committee members to listen to the recordings of past council meetings.

Council Liaison Abelson stated that the City is working to take corrective action to have a balanced budget and build up reserves. She encouraged committee members to review the agenda documents from April 20th committee meeting. Council Liaison Abelson also stated that the City had received a large grant in affordable housing and encouraged the committee to have City staff present on the Mayfair project at a future committee on aging meeting.

Staff Liaison Cooney reported that two outdoor fitness programs started in the City. The two programs are Zumba at the Korematsu basketball courts and Water Aerobics at the Swim Center. Staff Liaison Cooney reported that Midtown Activity Center staff have consolidated offices and are working out of the Community Center. She reported that City staff are discussing a phased reopening of City Buildings this summer.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
Moved/Second: Member Kehoe/Member Cressey
Action: Adopted the minutes with corrections from the Committee meeting on March 17, 2021
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 & Kim-Selby): Vice Chair Lipson reported that the Master Plan on Aging and the Dashboard were discussed at the last meeting and that they contain a lot of good information for seniors. He reported that he is working on the ACOA website content. Vice Chair Lipson announced that a Senior Rally Day is planned on May 4th. He stated that he would share the informational flyer with interested committee members.

   b. Communication (Haller & Veganes-Chavez): Chair Haller reported that the 60+ Bulletin will be included in the quarterly East Bay Sanitary mailing. She stated that the City had hoped it would be printed as a service, which is not the case. The City will be paying for the service. Chair Haller is grateful we can do something to get information out to more seniors living in El Cerrito.

   Chair Haller reported that the City is offering a new program called Senior Outreach Program. This program provides weekly wellness phone calls to interested seniors living in El Cerrito who enroll in the program to help inform seniors of programs and services available to them. Chair Haller reported that one senior in the program is now attending guided meditation programs weekly and another senior has attended an East Bay Senior Strollers hike. Information on this program is distributed through the 60+ Bulletin.

   c. Disabilities (Kehoe): Member Kehoe reported that lack of technology can create challenges accessing services for seniors and disabled. Member Dr. Kwong stated that libraries are starting to reopen and offer free public use of computers.
d. Health Care (Dr. Kwong): Member Dr. Kwong reported that experts with the CDC now agree that COVID spread is low through touching contaminated surfaces and that deep cleaning is not necessary. Regular hand washing and mask wearing are still strongly encouraged.

Dr. Kwong reported that Monoclonal antibodies which are laboratory-produced molecules that act as substitute antibodies that can mimic the immune system's attack on cells have been proven to be effective in the treatment of COVID 19 in people ages 12 and older. The treatment however is underutilized as it needs to be infused and there are limited infusion sites.

e. Housing (Akacic & James): Member James reported that congress is considering HUD funding for 2022 and she encouraged committee members to contact their congress representatives to make certain that they keep HUD funding on their agendas.

Member Akacic reported that he was meeting with City staff member, Aissia Ashoori and that he would invite her to provide an update on the Mayfair Project to the Committee on Aging at the May 19, 2021 meeting.

f. Legislation (Dr. Kwong): Member Dr. Kwong reported that California currently has the highest tax rate in the country and that some legislators are discussing adding more taxes. Governor Newsome has stated that he will veto any additional income tax or wealth tax.

Dr. Kwong reported that California spent over $9 billion fighting forest fires last year and this year, state legislators approved only $536 million to fight fires. She stated that we are in a drought and anticipate a bad fire season and the money approved to fight fires is not enough.

g. Membership (Cressey & Marlia): No report

h. Senior Food Programs & Resources (Yow): Member Yow reported that he volunteers with the Contra Costa/Solano Food Bank Community Produce Program at the Alvarado Adult School site on Carlson Blvd in Richmond. This program distributes basic dry goods and produce items rather than prepared food. Eligibility for the program is based on age and income. Many volunteers in the program are residents of El Cerrito.

Member Yow reported that there are currently two food pantry programs in El Cerrito. Both programs are run by St. Vincent De Paul. The programs are located at St. Jerome’s Church on Carmel Ave and St. John the Baptist on San Pablo Ave.

Member Yow requested that the Committee on Aging discuss at a future meeting, the feasibility and interest of the committee in establishing a Contra Costa/Solano Food Bank site in El Cerrito, Kensington and Richmond Annex.

i. Tech (Lipson & Van Etten): Member Van Etten spoke on the topic of social media and its effect on seniors. Chair Haller requested that Member Van Etten be provided the opportunity to speak in more detail on the topic at a future Committee on Aging meeting.
Member Van Etten invited interested committee members to reach out if they were interested in participating in social media more as he is happy to work with them.

j. Transportation (Cressey & Epley): Member Epley reported that the City’s maintenance department had been notified and repaired a significant pothole at San Pablo Ave and Moeser Lane. He reported that the maintenance department had also been contacted regarding inadequate striping and cross walk markings and was informed that city staff will contact Caltrans to correct the striping to improve the safety of the cross walk at San Pablo Ave and Moeser Lane.

Member Cressey reported that iPhone can now be used as a Clipper Card using the apple wallet once you download the ap on your iPhone. Developers are working on an ap for android phones and hope to have that out soon.

Member Epley reported that the Ohlone Greenway is increasingly unsafe with homeless encampments and that the Chief of Police is aware of the situation.

k. West County Senior Coalition (Cesa, Kehoe, Lipson): Members Kehoe and Cesa reported that travel training for seniors is hoping to return sometime in July 2021.

Member Lipson reported that Mobility Matters currently has a surplus of drivers and they are working to expand into west county. Information on the program can be found online at https://www.mobilitymatterscc.com/.

Member Cesa reported that there is outreach regarding COVID19 vaccinations and that the county health department is working with an adult ambassador program to go into marginalized communities to educate them about the COVID vaccine. Member Cesa also reported that walk-up vaccination clinics are starting up in the county.

7. REORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGING
Per City ordinance, select Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee on Aging for 2021-22. Chair Haller called for the reorganization of the Committee on Aging. Chair Haller nominated member Epley as Chair. Member James seconded the nomination. Ayes: 13 Nos: None Abstention: None
Chair Haller nominated member Wagner as Vice Chair. Member Kehoe seconded the nomination. Ayes: 13 Nos: None Abstention: None

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
   • Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 3pm
   • Mayfair Project & Affordable Housing Grant Presentation by Housing Analyst Aissia Ashoori – May 19, 2021
   • Discussion regarding ongoing plan for recognition of El Cerrito residents turning 100 years old or older – May 19, 2021.
   • Committee on Aging Workplan Goals and Accomplishments 2020, 2021 – June 16, 2021
   • Discussion regarding community need and committee interest in making a recommendation to City Council regarding committee establishing a Contra Costa/Solano County Food Bank site in El Cerrito – TBD
   • Social Media and Seniors Presentation by David Van Etten – TBD
   • Ad Hoc Bench committee recommendations - TBD
9. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Kenneth Epley adjourned the meeting at 4:42 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 April 21 2021 as approved by the Committee on Aging.

Kenneth Epley, Chair 6/9/2021

Bridget Cooney, Staff Liaison 6/9/21