



Recreation Department

Staff Liaison

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

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

VIA TELECONFERENCE

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Vice Chair Cesa called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Kenneth Epley, Vice Chair Katherine Cesa; Members: Buddy Akacic, Carol Kehoe, Dr. Pansy Kwong, Janet James, Steve Lipson, Kim Marlia, Pamela Wagner **joined at 3:15pm**, Bruce Yow

Absent: None

Also Present: Bridget Cooney, Staff Liaison

Members from the Public: Al Miller

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Public comment not on the agenda received from Cordell Hindler included in the supplemental materials.

Al Miller introduced himself to the Committee on Aging.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF COUNCILMEMBER JANET ABELSON

Committee members took a moment of silence in memory of Councilmember Janet Abelson.

4. COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Akacic stated that he toured St. John's Hall on Portola Drive and the building needs work but could be a potential location for the city to explore for a future senior center. Member Akacic reported that the proposed El Cerrito Library at the Plaza BART project is to have an extra room which could potentially be used for senior activities. Member Akacic requested that he be permitted to share his thoughts on the need for a dedicated senior center in El Cerrito at a future meeting.

Member Wagner requested that COA members submit articles for the next COA Outreach Newsletter. Member Wagner reported attendance at the sold out El Cerrito Recreation Department Line Dance on January 28, 2023. Member Wagner encouraged COA members to attend future events and activities put on by the City Adult Programs Division.

5. COMMITTEE ON AGING LIAISON REPORTS

Member Kehoe reported attendance at the Advisory Council on Aging meeting on February 15, 2023. Kehoe reported a presentation by Elaine Welch with Mobility Matters. Member Kehoe reported that Way to Go Contra Costa is a resource for senior transportation in the County and a new one should be coming out in the near future. Member Kehoe reported that The Order of Malta operates out of Oakland and offers free medical services to those without medical insurance.

Member Lipson reported attendance at the Advisory Council on Aging meeting on February 15, 2023. Member Lipson reported that the Chief Operating Officer for the Contra Costa Health Department provided an update on access to technology grant

funds. Member Lipson reported that with the end of the pandemic, the county does not have the capability to offer hybrid meetings so public meetings will be held in person which will impact the ACOA meetings.

Vice Chair Cesa and Member Kehoe reported there was no meeting.

Member James reported that the Eskaton Foundation did a sock drive and delivered them to seniors at the Eskaton for Valentine's Day. Member James reported that the Mayfair building affordable units are not set to begin construction for another 6-12 months. Member James reported that there is an open house for the market rate housing on Saturday, February 18, 2023, at 12pm.

6. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Staff Liaison Cooney reported that Member Lipson gave a free senior presentation on technology at the Community Center on February 1, 2023 with 15 people in attendance. There will be a presentation about Recycling and Waste Management on March 8, 2023, and COA members are encouraged to attend. Liaison Cooney reported that the Adult Line Dance special event on Saturday, January 28, 2023, at the El Cerrito Community Center was a sold-out event with over 60 seniors attending. The response to the event was positive and the city is planning to offer similar events quarterly.

Staff Liaison Cooney reported that AARP Tax-Aid volunteers have provided over tax aid for over 100 seniors so far. Tax-Aid services in El Cerrito will continue through April 11th, 2023.

Staff Liaison Cooney announced that there is an El Cerrito Plaza Bart Library Project Study Session on the City Council Agenda for the meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2023 at 6pm.

Staff Liaison Cooney announced that there is a Celebration of Life for Councilmember Janet Abelson on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at 1pm at the El Cerrito Community Center and COA members are invited to attend.

7. UPDATED LEGISLATION FOR ADVISORY BODY MEETINGS

Staff Liaison Cooney reviewed updates to AB361 legislation and changes that affect how Advisory Bodies meet. Effective March 1, 2023, city Advisory Bodies will meet in person in the City Council Chambers. Liaison Cooney reported that City Clerk Charley gave a presentation regarding these updates at the February 20, 2023 City Council meeting and COA members are encouraged to watch the recording which can be found on the city website.

8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved/Second: Member Wagner Moved/Member Kehoe Second

Action: Adopted the minutes with edits from the Committee on Aging meeting held on **January 18, 2023.**

Ayes: Chair Epley, Vice Chair Cesa, Member Akacic, Member Kehoe, Member Dr. Kwong, Member James, Member Lipson, Member Marlia, Member Wagner, Member Yow

Nos: None

Abstention: None

9. CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE ON AGING MEMBER RE-APPOINTMENT

Proposed a motion to recommend the re-appointment of Janet James and Kim Marlia as

members of the Committee on Aging to City Council.

Moved/Second: Member Kehoe Moved/Member Lipson Second

Action: Recommended the re-appointment of Janet James and Kim Marlia as members of the Committee on Aging to City Council on March 21, 2023.

Ayes: Chair Epley, Vice Chair Cesa, Member Akacic, Member Kehoe, Member Dr. Kwong, Member James, Member Lipson, Member Marlia, Member Wagner, Member Yow

Nos: None

Abstention: None

10. WORK PLAN REPORTS

Discussed next steps for the Committee on Aging Informational Survey which closes on February 28, 2023. Janet James will enter information from paper surveys that were submitted and Staff Liaison will prepare a report from all surveys submitted once the data has been entered digitally. Results from the survey will be presented at the April 19, 2023, COA meeting.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers
- Buddy Akacic will share his thoughts on the need for a dedicated senior center (March 2023)
- Reorganization of the Committee on Aging (April 2023)
- Discussion and Possible action regarding canceling the Committee on Aging meeting in August 2023 (May 2023)
- Work Plan 2022-23 Accomplishments (May 2023)
- Work Plan 2023-23 Goal Setting (June/July 2023)

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Epley adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Committee on Aging meeting of February 15, 2023, as approved by the Committee on Aging.



Katherine Cesa, Vice Chair



Bridget Cooney, Staff Liaison