



MINUTES OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

September 6, 2017
Washoe County Senior Center, 1155 E. 9th Street, Reno, Nevada 89512
Game Room

- 1. Call To Order** - Meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Chair-Dr. Larry Weiss.
- 2. Roll Call** – Dr. Larry Weiss asked for the roll call; Sandra Vasquez took the roll. There was a quorum present.

WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT:

PRESENT

Dr. Larry Weiss
Wayne Alexander
Garth Elliot

Donna Clontz, Alternate
Stan Dowdy, Alternate
Sandra Dexter

ABSENT (EXCUSED*)

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Ken Retterath
Sandra Vasquez
Crissy Lessard

Leslie Admirand (DA)
Abby Badolato

ADVISOR (ABSENT)

Victoria Edmondson

3. *Public Comment –

Garth stated that Commissioner Berkbiegler lost her husband recently and to pass on our condolences. Also, Friday around 1:30pm is the Sun Valley GID's 50th Anniversary. Ken asked the location and Garth believes it would be at the Senior Center. Donna stated she had written an article in the Senior Spectrum regarding the Remote Area Medical (RAM) coming to town September 29th through October 1, 2017. They need volunteers to work the program. They serve people with no insurance and require no ID for dental, optical or general medical checkups. It's going to be at the Boys and Girls Club on 9th Street and staging in the County parking lot starting at midnight. To donate time or expertise refer to the article in the Senior Spectrum or go to the website to sign up to volunteer. Larry stated there is a benefit this Friday, 4-8PM at 515 Court St. for the Center for Healthy Aging, fundraising for Elder Gap Services who work closely with Washoe County Social Services to pay for items that aren't covered by any other resource. They are also raising money for the Senior Health Advocate Volunteer program and Senior Healthy Walking Program, it is \$50 per person.

4. *Member Announcements – No member announcements.

5. Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on September 6, 2017.

Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Donna Clontz and seconded by Stan Dowdy.
Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on August 14, 2017.

Donna Clontz requested clarification on a couple items. Item #12, confirmation on the number of clients receiving meals. Ken will check if that number is correct. Spelling on Item #14. EDAWN correction stands for Economic Development Agency of Western Nevada. Item #15 – change the wording from AmeriCorp “events” to “programs.” Motion to approve minutes with those two changes was made by Garth Elliot and seconded by Donna Clontz. Motion passed unanimously.

7. *Presentation in regards to Home Energy Retrofit Opportunities for Seniors (H.E.R.O.S.), program for low income seniors to weatherize their home – Kelly Thomas, Governor’s Office of Energy.

Kelly Thomas stated that his role at the Office of Energy is to oversee all the energy efficiency programs, H.E.R.O.S. is one of them. Program is funded by renewable energy funds. Mr. Thomas handed out flyers and did a PowerPoint presentation (see attachment). He pointed out that last year they had \$600K for the program, this year they are approved for \$750K. If a senior is going through this weatherization program, they can enroll and Nevada Housing Division has all the equipment necessary. Kelly stated the difference between conservation and efficiency is behavior and technology.

Four basic requirements: Age 60 and older, NV Energy customer, income level less than \$23,700/year, own and reside in home.

Garth stated that he utilized a similar program that made a significant impact on his energy bill. Donna asked Sandra to send a PDF of the presentation to the Board.

8. *Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee – Donald Abbott

Donald stated as of an hour prior to this meeting, there was a new update. Donald is suggesting to City Manager to put a senior group together. He and the City Manager will review it and bring it to discussion with Council.

9. Report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding appointments to the Board of County Commissioners and recommendations regarding the recruiting of the new board members. (For Possible Action)

a. Application from Wayne Alexander

Ken gave a quick update regarding whether County Manager could appoint new members or if it had to go to the Board of County Commissioner. Legal determined it has to go to the Board of County Commissioners. Ken stated they have written the board item and have been told it’s going to go on September 26th, which still needs to be confirmed. Also, the application was reopened on the website so that more people can apply. Wayne still hasn’t been able to access the online application. Ken stated that he has not received any additional applications. Garth asked how many positions and what district. Donna stated we need to fill district 4 and 3, Ken said we have a couple that we have to fill.

Donna asked in regards to Wayne, if he is able to give the group a verbal application as she would like to be able to recommend him to remain on the Board since his term expires on September 30th.

Leslie Admirand stated that this agenda item would allow the Board to make a recommendation as long as Mr. Alexander does get in what is necessary to apply.

Ken stated that Mr. Alexander has applied in the past and he believes he has the application from the last time. Ken suggested that Wayne discuss his past history. Donna asked Wayne to talk about some of his background including educational and professional as well as volunteer history. Wayne stated he has an Associate's Degree, graduated in 1971. He's worked with several of the members on the Committee over the past four years. He's also the treasurer for the Sarah Group in town. He's also involved in the Caregiver Coalition for the November luncheon to honor the caregivers in the area. Stan asked him about his caregiver business and Wayne stated years ago he did run his own caregiving business. Donna added that that shows hands-on experience of running a business and being a caregiver. Wayne stated that he was involved with Sierra Home Healthcare for many years where he learned a lot about seniors and their needs. That's why he wants to apply again and continue the work they've done in the past. He believes he's better qualified now than he was four years ago. He stated that he doesn't say a lot but he does a lot in the background. Wayne opened it up to questions for him.

Donna Clontz made a recommendation for Wayne Alexander's appointment to continue on the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board in District 4, since he lives in Sparks. Stan Dowdy seconded the motion. Motion on hold because Garth stepped out of the room.

Ken asked if they are recommending that this go on the 26th Agenda. Ken stated that that process is pretty tight so we will check after the meeting to see if they can get his name added to the proper district as long as they all approve.

Ken stated he had the following: Board item currently includes Larry and Stan for District 1, Marsy for District 4, Sarah for District 5, Barbara and Rick as alternates, Donna as an at-large. Garth returned and Donna restated the motion that they recommend Wayne Alexander for the reappointment to the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board for District 4. Seconded by Stan. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding age friendly communities sponsored by AARP throughout the county and city (For Possible Action)

Donna's update stated that state AARP were in town for the Senior Fest and they spoke to Barry Gold, who is the point person with the State of Nevada on age friendly cities. Donna, Barry Gold and Bill Armbruster, who is the lead person at their national office on this project, had a conference call that morning. Mr. Armbruster updated them on the initial steps any community would need to go through to become part of this project. He suggested that they create something that would be a joint effort with the County and the City and that other jurisdictions are doing that around the country. He told them that there are 185 different projects like this that are going on and that are in different stages. Larry added that there are two in Nevada. Mr. Armbruster encouraged them to begin the process by setting up meetings with some of our elected officials to let Barry Gold be able to present to them the benefits of the program and how it would work. Currently there is an appointment with Commissioner Kitty Jung set up for later in September with Barry Gold and Larry and Donna. Barry is also pursuing the City of Reno and trying to get an appointment with Mayor Schieve to talk with her. The very first step that makes this official is to have an elected official sign a letter that their jurisdiction wants to participate in the process. A simple application also gets filled out stating what your community needs to work on to make your community age friendly. Donna stated that this process is just getting started and will probably move slowly. The next step is to involve more of the Commissioners and their jurisdictions to get it on their agendas. Donna stated there was a short

survey from the age friendly website they passed out at Senior Fest. They received about 300 surveys back with zip code, age, sex, and their responses to what they think it would take to make their community age friendly. Still need to be tabulated and there would need to be a planning group from all the agencies. It is a five year process and the first year is all about talking to the community. The community will determine what they think it takes to make it an age-friendly community, then the community will determine what the priority is. Larry stated they can find the full survey on the AARP website.

Garth asked if we have an historical survey to do a comparison and also if the Board will be getting the data in a timely fashion. Ken suggested this gets put on to Survey Monkey to be able to look at the data different ways. Larry suggested that they all look at the full survey listed on the website.

11. *Report and updates on the Advisory Board member's Shared Issues and Goals for Housing, Advocacy, Communications, Data Planning, Transportation

Stan reported that the owner of the old Sclaris on Lakeside and Moana will be changing the building into smaller retail shops and restaurants. They are also going to build a casino/tourist area across from the Convention Center.

Donna wants to make sure the topics and issues get on each agenda. Garth agreed that it should remain on each agenda, but to also allow in the agenda a chance to address the past topics and report any new developments as well as anything new. Larry suggested that they keep all the topics on future agendas and to update it if there is something to report.

12. Update, discussion, and possible direction to staff from the board on the Senior Nutrition Program (For Possible Action)

Ken gave an update on the nutrition program and the Meals on Wheels conference in Denver. He stated that he learned that most senior programs are struggling across the country. Common themes such as updating the kitchen, frozen vs. prepared meals and funding were discussed. They toured a homeless drop-in center for seniors which utilized a small footprint but were able to serve nearly as many as the Reno center. Sarah Deardorf also attended the conference and gave her insight on the conference. Donna introduced Sarah Deardorf and had her discuss her qualifications to the Board.

Garth referred to a prior meeting where Ken had stated the need for more kitchen space and asked for an update. Ken stated that they have been touring different centers to see how they flow. Ken stated the hope is to build a new center and new kitchen and are looking for ideas. They are in the process buying two 10x30 freezers, which will allow to put 2-3 weeks in the freezer and rotate. They are also looking into getting a storage unit so they can store all the items in one place.

Garth stated that with all the high-profile companies coming into the area they are making a ton of money, he is looking to collaborate with them.

Ken handed out information that Angela put together on numbers of how many people/meals are served at the sites and the home delivered meals.

Donna stated that the more we know the numbers that we are serving, the more it will help to get community support for the big new facilities we need.

13. Update, discussion, and possible recommendations for senior center being planned for Incline Village (For Possible Action)

Ken stated that we will be doing events in Incline Village. The next event is about listening to the seniors that are there and try to figure out what they would like to start with. They are looking at the construction that has to happen and the time frames. Abby stated that we will be up there on the 16th of September at the Sheriff's Picnic to get more information out to the seniors. The Pet Clinic and Immunization Clinic will be up there at the new library.

14. *Agenda items for the next Board meeting

Donna stated that the next regular Board meeting is in November. The joint meeting is October 4th at 3:00 p.m. at Evelyn Mount. The Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency is planning on attending and do a presentation about their recent housing study. Donna also asked them to update the census maps and to present that information at the meeting and they said they could do that as well.

Larry stated that he was looking at the Master Plan done in 2014 and he would like to see an update to see where we stand. Ken said he would look at that for the November meeting.

15. *Public comment -

No public comment.

16. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Motion to adjourn was made by Stan Dowdy and seconded by Garth Elliot. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm.