



Meeting Minutes

COMMITTEE ON AGING

Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 3:00 P.M.

Council Chambers, City Hall

10890 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito, CA 94530

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Katherine Cesa, Shirley Cressey, Kenneth Epley, Matean Everson, Jennifer Haller, Carol Kehoe, Dr. Pansy Kwong, Steve Lipson, Kim Marlia and Nola Veganas Chavez

Members Absent: Karen Christian, Janet James, Joanna Kim Selby

Councilmember Present: Janet Abelson

Staff Member Present: Bridget Cooney, Mark Deleon

Guests:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 17, 2018 meeting were approved. Kenneth Epley moved and Carol Kehoe seconded a motion to approve the minutes.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Peter Galoro suggested that the City consider a group exercise class at Canyon Trail clubhouse specific to people with Parkinson's disease. Jennifer Haller recommended trying an exercise class at Midtown Activity Center. Carol Kehoe mentioned that a seated exercise program run by someone with Parkinson's disease is currently offered at Christ Lutheran Senior Center on Mondays at 1:30pm and invited him to attend.

Members of the Midtown Activity Center (MAC) Current Events Discussion Group raised their concerns with the limited parking at the MAC. They are concerned that on a busy day, patrons can park up to 3 blocks away and it can be difficult for more disabled seniors to participate in programs. One concern is the number of city staff parking in the lot and limited street parking in the neighborhood. Another concern is with the possibility of police threatening to ticket or tow vehicles. They stated that the City is not serving the senior population adequately by having a center with no parking. The Committee on Aging requested that this matter be taken on by the Disability Subcommittee and that a City Management staff member with decision making power in regards to parking be invited to attend a Committee on Aging meeting to talk with the committee about the parking concerns.

3. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISON ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

Janet Abelson reported:

Senior housing at Hana Gardens has opened. There are 62 units and people have moved in and there is a long waiting list for income based housing. There is a small parking lot for Hana Gardens residents only. Parking is available for approximately 1/3 of the residents. The City has additional classroom space for activity programming at Hana Gardens. The portables at the Midtown Activity Center replace the square footage of the

old senior center and the classroom space at Hana Gardens provides additional program space. There is only street parking available for participants of programs at Hana Gardens. However, there is a yellow drop off zone in front of the building. Janet Abelson is working on arranging a tour of Hana Gardens for the Committee on Aging before the next committee meeting on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 1:30pm.

Election updates: Gabe Quinto and Janet Abelson were re-elected. Proposition V passed. Dr. Pansy Kwong inquired if the City would have money for a new Senior Center with Measure V. Janet Abelson responded that the City Council hasn't had the conversation about what that money will be used for and will need to accumulate funds and then have discussions and community input before making any decisions about what that money will be used for. City Council has received feedback from the community during the public comment portion of their council meetings expressing the desire to use those funds for fire prevention and abatement especially in the hills with the hillside natural area.

Affordable Housing: City council has focused the last several meetings discussing affordable housing. The council is working on developing policies and a resolution. This is a follow-up to the topic brought to the Committee on Aging in October 2018 by Mr. Nick Veloro. The overall concept is to address the housing shortage of affordable units. As a City, we are lacking in housing for "the forgotten middle" (middle income families). The area the city seems to be doing the best with is with low-income units. City Council is not finished reviewing the issue. The Specific Plan for San Pablo Ave calls for a lot of new housing. The units that opened at the El Cerrito Plaza were from plans approved during the redevelopment era and they are primarily market rate housing with approximately 15% affordable.

Staffing Changes:

Retired: City Manager Scott Hanin, City Clerk Cheryl Morse, Fire Chief, Lance Maples.

Appointment:

City Manager: Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager: Alexandra Orogas, City Clerk: Holly Charley, Fire Chief: Mike Figoni.

The staffing changes were emailed in the City Managers update. Committee members mentioned that they received the City Managers update in their email and saw it posted on Nextdoor and that the City Managers update is very informative.

The Crab Feed fundraiser for the David Hunter Scholarship Fund is on Saturday, January 26, 2019. This event raises funds to help families who aren't able to afford recreation programs. It is a terrific event and a great way to have fun and support senior programs. Tickets are \$50 and are available from Janet Abelson, online or at the Recreation Center.

Bridget Cooney reported that:

50+ newsletter for February is available and includes information about upcoming trips, classes and presentations. Updated flyers for the Eldertech program are now available. Registration for Eldertech and other adult and senior programs are now available online. Recreation staff is working to improve outreach and ease of registration for programs and classes by including more activities in the City Recreation Guide that is mailed out to every household in El Cerrito as well as allowing online registration for classes and trips. We have seen an increase in inquiries and registrations from new members of the community.

The Volunteer Dinner is coming up in April (date TBD). Mark Deleon encouraged Committee members to help plan that event and to volunteer at the Midtown Activity Center.

Bridget also reported on the following upcoming events/presentations:

Reverse Mortgages on 1/16/19

Travel Fair presentation on 1/22/19

Technology meets the Performing Arts presentation by Steve Lipson 3/15/19.

Birding Trips on 1/25/19 (Lake Merritt), 2/8/19 (Richardson Bay), 2/22/19 (Crown Beach)

Hiking/Walking Trips on 2/1/19 (Miller Knox Regional Shoreline), 2/15/19 (Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park)

Day Trips on 1/24/19 (Treasure Island Institute of Fine Dining), 1/31/19 (Bay Model Visitor Center), 2/20 (Old Spaghetti Factory), 2/27/19 (Semifreddi's Bakery Tour)

4. NEW BUSINESS

Carol Kehoe reported that the crosswalk at Donal and Richmond St is in the plans and will be done in March. Plans are for a yield crosswalk sign and not a crosswalk with flashing lights.

El Cerrito Plaza BART station is supposed to be getting another crosswalk with blinking lights.

Crosswalk at Del Norte BART and Safeway is a complicated area and there are concerns for pedestrian safety. Carol Kehoe continues to try and follow up with City staff and BART.

5. REPORTS

(Reports by Members of the Committee. The Committee may discuss individual report topics and refer or schedule issues for future action. Each report is limited to a maximum of 5 minutes.)

A. Housing Subcommittee: No report

B. Transportation Subcommittee: Ken Epley reported new information regarding clipper card holders and new BART schedules. No BART fare increases in 2019 but there will be major changes to their services. Changes will primarily affect early morning parking and BART schedules. Weeknight services will be reduced after 9:30pm. Clipper card is the easiest way to pay for services. BART is working with transit services for early bird bus service. BART will now open at 5am, previously they were open earlier. Beginning 2/11/19, Sunday BART service will require transferring. More information is available at www.bart.gov.

C. Legislation Subcommittee: Dr. Pansy Kwong stated that the automatic garage door opener bill passed. Automatic garage door openers have to come with back-up batteries beginning in January 2019. Gavin Newsome is our new Governor. She summarized an article from the Sacramento Bee. Gavin Newsome has pledged to build up the largest reserve of any City in California history. Current reserves are predicted at \$16 billion. He is planning on saving for a recession. He hopes to put \$4.8 billion optional payments to CALPERS/CALSTRS, increase tax credits for working families, increase value of Calworks grants for low income families, set aside \$1.3 billion for projects that spur housing projects; and nearly \$2 billion towards early learning programs and \$40 million to fund a second year free for Community College students for first time students who are enrolled full-time. He also proposed to fund health insurance policies for middle income families and an individual mandate requiring people to have medical insurance or pay a penalty. He is also asking for \$105 million increase in planned wildfire safety funding.

- D. Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council: Steve Lipson reported that every county has a committee on aging. The Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council is looking for increased advocacy. They are hoping to send out representatives to speak with supervisors and senior centers. They are developing a presentation to provide greater communication. They are working with the area council on aging right now.
- E. West County Senior Coalition: No report. Carol Kehoe spoke with John Gioia and he said he would look into this as meetings haven't been happening.
- F. Health Care Subcommittee: Dr. Pansy Kwong discussed an article from the British Medical Journal of Public Health and Policy, Coca-Cola funded a study International Life Sciences Institute in China. Looks into obesity policy in China. The study evaluated the causes of obesity in China. It proposed to physicians in China that obesity is due to lack of activity. Most physicians outside of China believe that obesity is due to over eating. Physicians in China were convinced and believe that obesity is due to lack of activity. They were manipulated by Coca-Cola. Be careful of what you hear in the press. You have to pay attention to who is doing the primary research.
- G. Membership Subcommittee: Kimi Honda resigned from the committee. We are currently down two members on the committee.
- H. Communication Subcommittee: Reminded Committee members to submit "Snippets" for the 50+ newsletter.
- I. Technology Subcommittee: Eldertech program went pretty well last semester. The kids will have a break for a couple of weeks and will resume February.
- J. Disabilities Subcommittee: Parking is an issue at the Midtown Activity Center. Dr. Pansy Kwong recommended that we leave the topic of parking with the Disabilities Subcommittee. The Older Adult Program with the WCCUSD is funded through June 2019. They are hoping to get people to write letters and make phone calls in support of Older Adult funding. Carol distributed a list of phone numbers and emails for people interested in participating in a letter writing campaign.

6. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Review protocol and formalize rules for visiting people/comments from the public and how to run Committee Meetings according to protocol.

Concerns for intersection of Richmond St and Central. This is currently a 4-way stop. There is a lot of foot traffic with high school students and BART users. People often pull up in tandem with people turning right and it can be difficult to see and/or there are blindspots. It was suggested that a traffic light might be put at the intersection. Katherine Cesa was hit by a car in this intersection. Carol Kehoe will follow up with City Staff and see if there is anything else that can be done to improve safety.

7. ADJOURN REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING

Carol Kehoe moved, and Shirley Cressey seconded to adjourn meeting.
The meeting adjourned at 4:30p.m.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please call Bridget Cooney, Staff Liaison at 510-559-7677. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

To request a meeting agenda in large print, Braille, or on cassette, or to request a sign language interpreter for the meeting, call Bridget Cooney, Staff Liaison at (510) 559-7678 at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability: 10940 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530 E-mail: bcooney@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us