



**Recreation Department**

**Staff Liaison**

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

**Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 3 p.m.**

VIA TELECONFERENCE

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

**1. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Chair Kenneth Epley, Members Buddy Akacic, Katherine Cesa, Janet James, Carol Kehoe, Joanna Kim-Selby, Dr. Pansy Kwong, Steve Lipson, Kim Marlia, David Van Etten, Bruce Yow

**Absent:** Vice Chair Pamela Wagner, Shirley Cressey

**Also Present:** Janet Abelson, Council Liaison, Christopher Jones, Recreation Director, Bridget Cooney, Staff Liaison

**Members from the Public:** None

**2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

*No comment.*

**3. COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*None*

**4. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Council Liaison Abelson reported that a preliminary budget presentation by staff was given to Council on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The city continues looking for ways to reduce expenses per state auditor recommendation.

Recreation Director, Jones, reported that there have been lay-offs in the Recreation Department. The state auditor's report recommended finding ways to reduce expenses in Adult and Senior Services Division. In response, Adult and Senior Services has moved their offices to the Community Center to consolidate offices. Moving forward, Senior Services will limit its focus to core support services for seniors such as C.C. Café lunch program, Easy Ride Paratransit Senior and Disabled Transportation, Trips (when available), Alzheimer's Respite and other support services and groups offered by outside providers. Staff oversight of core Senior Services will be limited to one quarter of a full-time employee. All other classes and programs that serve many people and show good cost recovery will move into the Community Services Division. All senior programs and services will be evaluated on both cost recovery and staff capacity. Moving forward the city will need to rely more on volunteers to run senior services such as the lunch program.

Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA) Liaison Report (City Representative: Kim-Selby & Member at Large: Lipson): Lipson reported that James Middleberger MD for the new Center for Elder Independence in Concord spoke about the shortage of Geriatricians in the county at a time when the number of older adults is increasing.

West County Senior Coalition Liaison Report (Cesa & Kehoe): No Report, May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting canceled.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Moved/Second:** Member Kehoe/Member Cesa

**Action:** Adopted the minutes with corrections from the Committee meeting on **April 21, 2021**

**Ayes:** 11 **Nos:** None **Abstention:** None

**6. RECOGNITION OF SERVICE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESIGNATION**

*Chair Epley recognized and thanked Jennifer Haller and Nola Veganas-Chavez for their service on the Committee on Aging and acknowledged their resignation.*

**7. MAYFAIR PROJECT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING GRANT PRESENTATION**

*Aissia Ashoori, Housing Analyst for the City of El Cerrito Community Development Department shared an update on the Mayfair site project adjacent to the Del Norte Bart station. When complete, the project will include 223 housing units, 67 of which will be affordable. The project meets the city's housing goals and meets the requirements of the San Pablo Specific Plan.*

*Additionally, the city applied for and was one of three cities nationally that received a HUD Hope Six Main Street Grant. The grant aims to revitalize traditional commercial areas by growing the economic development activity in those areas while creating much needed affordable housing. The city is applying for additional affordable housing community grants to help with affordable housing and transportation improvements. Updates on the Mayfair project and other projects in the city can be found at [www.el-cerrito.org/majorprojects](http://www.el-cerrito.org/majorprojects).*

**8. RECOMMENDATION TO RECOGNIZE EL CERRITO RESIDENTS 100 YEARS OLD OR OLDER**

*Member Kehoe made a motion to recognize residents turning 100 years old or older with a Mayoral Certificate of Recognition. Members of the community will be able to nominate residents for said recognition. Committee on Aging members additionally recommend that City Council acknowledge recipients of Mayoral Certificates of Recognition by reading names during a city council meeting, pending the residents' permission to be publicly recognized.*

**Motion:** Kehoe/**Second:** Dr. Kwong

**Ayes:** 11 **No:** none **Abstention:** None

**9. COMMITTEE ON AGING WORK ASSIGNMENT REPORTS**

*Committee Workgroup assignment reports are limited to three minutes per workgroup.*

- a. Memorial Bench Research (Kehoe, Wagner): Member Kehoe reported that the city has a form and a process for people interested in putting in memorial benches. The person interested in installing a Memorial Bench, must apply and pay for both the bench and the installation. Member Kehoe encourages Committee on Aging members to share this information and encourage people to put more benches in El Cerrito through the current Memorial Bench program.
- b. Communication (unassigned): No Report
- c. Disabilities (Kehoe): No Report
- d. Health Care (Dr. Kwong): Member Dr. Kwong reported that CDC says it is safe for vaccinated people to be inside or outside with no mask except for specific

activities. It is unclear how this will be implemented as of June 15, 2021. Each state is implementing the mask guidance in their own manner. Currently approximately 50% of the population is vaccinated in California.

- e. Legislation (Dr. Kwong): No Report
- f. Membership (Marlia & Cressey): Member Marlia reported that he posted on Nextdoor about current vacancies on the Committee on Aging and directed interested applicants to the City Website.
- g. Senior Food Programs & Resources (Yow): Member Yow reported that approximately 140 recipients received produce and dry goods at the Alvarado site on May 3rd and May 17th. Food distribution takes place on the first and third Monday of each month between 10am-11am. To qualify for the senior food program, recipients must meet age and income requirements. Member Yow encouraged Committee on Aging members to come down and volunteer with the Contra Costa/Solano Food Bank Community Produce Program.
- h. Senior Housing (James & Akacic): Member James reported that Eskaton is a recipient of a grant through the University of California called the Lighthouse Project focused on bringing technology to low-income seniors. Residents of Eskaton will be interviewed regarding technology and ultimately will be provided Wi-Fi and devices for all residents that can be used to help them connect with medical services and family.

Member Akacic reported that Eden Housing holds an internal food distribution program for Hana Gardens residents twice each month.

Member Akacic inquired about the possibility of including Senior Stroll announcements in future 60+ Bulletins.

- i. Tech (Lipson & Van Etten): No Report
- j. Transportation (Cressey, Wagner & Epley): No Report

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 3pm
- Workplan Accomplishments, Goals and Work Assignments – June 16, 2021
- Social Media and Seniors Presentation by David Van Etten – TBD
- Discussion regarding need and interest in making a recommendation to City Council regarding establishing a Contra Costa/Solano Food Bank Produce and Dry Good distribution site in El Cerrito – TBD

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kenneth Epley adjourned the meeting at 5:11 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.

  
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Kenneth Epley, Chair

  
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Bridget Cooney, Staff Liaison