



JOINT MEETING
WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
AND
CITY OF RENO SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes

Tuesday – July 25, 2017
3:00 P.M. - Washoe County Senior Center
1155 E. 9th Street, Reno NV 89512

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Meeting called to order at 3:05 pm by Dr. Larry Weiss. City of Reno and County of Washoe met a quorum.

Present: **Washoe County Senior Services Advisory Board:** Dr. Larry Weiss, Gary Whitfield, Wayne Alexander, Garth Elliott, Stan Dowdy, Donna Clontz
City of Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee: Wendy Boszak (late), Barbara Deavers, Donna Clontz, Stan Dowdy, CJ Bawden, Vanessa Dixon, Robert Mulvana, Mac Rossi

Absent: **Washoe County Senior Services Advisory Board:** Ken Romeo

Excused: **Washoe County Senior Services Advisory Board:** Sandra Dexter, Barbara Korosa
City of Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee: Linda Musselman

Staff Present: **Washoe County Senior Services Advisory Board:** Ken Retterath, Abby Badolato, Sandra Vasquez, Crissy Lessard, Leslie Admirand-Deputy District Attorney
City of Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee: Leslie Smith, Darryl Feemster

Guests: Bill Thomas, Elaine Wiseman, Susana Trinidad

2. **Public Comment** – No public comment.
3. **Member Announcements** – Dr. Larry Weiss announced Donna Clontz has been awarded a Governor Points of Light Volunteer Award as a finalist. Garth Elliott announced the Washoe County Commissioners voted a change on the sign ordinance that stems from the Sun Valley battle for electronic signs. Victoria Edmondson reminds everyone that Cold Springs lost their transportation with the recession. Donna announced the bean bag baseball team “Misfits” are attending different senior centers and actively teaching other seniors how to play. Donna also has Senior Games applications for seniors that are interested.
4. **Approval of Agenda for July 25, 2017 Meeting** (For Possible Action): Garth Elliott motioned for the approval of the agenda for July 25, 2017 for WCSSAB and Stan Dowdy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously for the WCSSAB. Mac Rossi motioned for the approval of the agenda for July 25, 2017 for SCAC and CJ Bawden seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously for the SCAC.

5. **Approval of Minutes from April 6, 2017 Meeting** (For Possible Action): Stan Dowdy motioned for the approval of the minutes for April 6, 2017 for WCSSAB and Wayne Alexander seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously for the WCSSAB. Mac Rossi motioned for the approval of the minutes for April 6, 2017 for SCAC and Vanessa Dixon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously for the SCAC.

6. **Presentation regarding affordable housing policy and planning affecting seniors** – Speaker Elaine Wiseman, City of Reno Community Development
Bill Thomas presented on housing and affordable housing and how it relates to seniors. They created a masterplan survey named Re-Imagine Reno. They found that Reno has a higher proportion of renter occupied households of 55%. The existing housing stock in Reno is predominately single family homes. The senior population over 65 years old is estimated to increase by 66% over the next 20 years. The households earning less than 50% Adjusted Medium Income (AMI) has the greatest need for affordable housing. Lower income residents and seniors are a priority. There was a TMRPA Housing Study that showed 33% of households in the region are cost-burdened and cannot afford the median rent of \$875. It also shows that renters are most likely to choose multifamily housing. Bill reported that use of weekly motels are going up, the most recent survey they did showed it's up by around 4,000 people and the most recent count shows about 1,300 seniors are living in motels. Senior Social Security income per month was about \$674 in 2009 and \$735 in 2017; the average month rent in 2009 was \$523 and \$669 in 2017, this showed the impact of affordable housing. One of the problems is also that the growing senior population may be unable to compete for housing and there also needs to be improved safe and sanitary housing in places like motels. There are about 2,000 housing units going up, but their target price is between \$900-\$1,400 per month, this would not help the senior population. Bill stated the council is suggesting partnering with Washoe County, City of Sparks, and Reno Housing Authority to create a board of elected officials whose responsibility is finding strategies to help housing issues. Near term strategies they are also looking into are: Ordinance Amendments, Accessory Dwelling Units, Motel Inspection Program, Rehousing Program, Good Landlord Program, Bridge Housing, and use of city property to stimulate multi-family housing construction. The long term strategies are the following: Construct Permanent Overflow (addressing youth as well), Complete a Housing Demands Analysis, Encourage Use of Vacant Land for Housing, Develop On-going Funding Source for Rehousing Program (rental assistance), explore expedited Inspection or Plan Review for Affordable Housing Projects, and Research Inclusionary Housing Policies. Bill stated the council would like to hear what people have to say about the strategies and ideas because they want to focus on the 1300 seniors living in motels. Stan Dowdy stated many people are being pushed out of their home because units are being bought out and the new owners are pushing old tenants out. She asked if anything is being done for them, Bill stated that is one of the challenges they have because they don't have a legal right to do something about that type of situation. Mac Rossi stated some rents are going up between \$175-\$225 a month and meanwhile the housing situation is being worked on, more people are going to be homeless. Bill stated the population is growing and when units are being built, they open all units at one time. They are trying to see if they can work with the owners and open each unit as it is finished, instead of waiting for all to open at the same time. Gary Whitfield stated rent control may offer some immediate relief, but with time it will drive builders away and then the available housing will go down; Bill stated some studies do show those results. Garth stated Washoe County is now the highest taxed place in Nevada and Reno is trying to be a welcoming city for events like Burning Man, but seniors are being pushed out in the process. CJ Bawden asked if there is any look into new regulations or lax in some regulations in engineering for the projects; Bill stated yes, but in regards to engineering, that is a challenge. Victoria Edmondson stated she spoke with a builder and asked if they had thought about doing grandmother units in the homes, the builder was surprised about that idea. She believes this is an idea to encourage builders to consider when building. Victoria also stated she toured Rosewood Homes and the director

said the restrooms are small but if they tried to put them up to code, they would have to do everything; she stated it might be good to change that code so that some remodeling is able to take place in areas that is needed. Bill stated there are many equations to take into consideration and they are working on getting started to help housing issues. Donna Clontz stated she wanted to applaud the Recommendation Center and the work they did to find the portion of seniors living in motels. She hopes to see people needing assistance receive it just like HOPES and Crossroads provides help. Donna also stated Senior Law Project is in the building and if anyone has issues with their housing, they can go speak with them about it. Darryl Feemster asked if anything is being done for families living in motels when their rates go up due to events such as Hot August Nights; Elaine Wiseman stated there is not, but the County does have programs for families needing help.

7. Business (For Possible Action):

a. Presentation regarding RTC bus transportation to attend Senior Fest – Susana Trinidad, RTC Paratransit Specialist

Susie Trinidad stated RTC will pick up seniors at Sparks Senior Center and Reno Senior Center and show them how to ride the bus. They are limited to 39 people and if they need more, they may have 2 busses. Reno pick up will be 8:30am and they will take them back to the center at about 2pm. It will take place on September 5th.

b. Discussion and possible action regarding legislation and advocacy for senior issues with policymakers including identification of issues and dates for future advocacy training and workshops (For Possible Action) - Larry Weiss and Donna Clontz

Donna stated many of the bills have already been presented and discussed at previous meetings. Connie McMullen stated there will be a Senior Coalition Meeting on August 4th.

Wendy Boszak stated that for people that are interested in legislation there are many things that happen in proposals that happen in between sessions. It would be good to contact their assembly person and check the state website to see what committees are coming up.

c. Discussion and possible approval of joint projects such as Older Americans Month, Stuff-A-Bus for Seniors, co-sponsorship of seminars and projects on affordable housing and financial security, transportation and other topics (For Possible Action) - Larry Weiss and Donna Clontz

Donna stated both city and county boards will be choosing shared issues and goals that they would like to work on, learn and/or be active by being advocates. Donna handed out the Senior Advisory Members Shared Issues/Goals Worksheet (see attachment) and asked members present what they would like to focus on. The following chose each issue/goal:

Housing- Victoria, Mac, Wendy, Stan, Barbara D., Larry, Donna

Advocacy- Victoria, Wendy

Communication and Information- CJ, Donna

Planning Data- Gary

Transportation- Garth, Victoria, Mac, Barbara D., Moe

Food Nutrition Program- Garth, Donna

Social & Recreation Opportunities- CJ, Stan, Donna, Wendy, Moe

Senior Law Services- Vanessa

Increase Volunteers-Donna, Larry

Increase Financing, Grants, Fundraising- Stan

Social Services & Health Services- Vanessa, Barbara D., Victoria, Larry

Donna stated the World Health Organization created a program for age friendly communities and AARP embraced it and has created the framework for what makes a place an age friendly community. Henderson, Nevada has been working on the program for a couple of years. The Master Plan includes the 8 domains of livability for seniors, which are as follow: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and

Employment, Communication and Information, and Community Support and Health Services. In order to get started in becoming an age friendly community there needs to be political commitment from elected officials and then an application. Larry suggested to take the idea back to each board (city and county) to talk about it and bring it back to the next joint meeting.

Gary Whitfield motioned to take the AARP Age-Friendly Communities idea to the Washoe County Senior Services Advisory Board and discuss, it was seconded by Stan Dowdy. Motion passed unanimously for the Washoe County Senior Services Advisory Board.

CJ Bawden motioned to take the AARP Age-Friendly Communities idea to the City of Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee and discuss, it was seconded by Mac Rossi. Motion passed unanimously for the City of Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee.

Gary Whitfield asked how many of locations are working on the idea, Donna replied 175.

- 8. Washoe County Staff Report** – Ken Retterath reported on August 8th there will be the final reading and they will officially be the Washoe County Human Services Agency. Ken also stated there are openings for the advisory board which include 1 At-Large position and the following:
District 1: 1 opening
District 2: 2 openings
District 3: No openings
District 4: 2 openings
District 5: 1 opening
During the next WCSSAB meeting, recommendations will be made from the applications and taken to the County Commissioners.
Ken also reported that the Lissners donated a van to Cold Springs seniors and there are 3 volunteers in the volunteer process to be able to drive the van.
Donna stated if anyone would like to volunteer and be involved with seniors she encourages them to apply to be a member for the WCSSAB.
- 9. City of Reno Staff Report** – Darryl Feemster reported Senior Games is from August 4-26 and the last day for registration is August 1st. Bean Bag Baseball has been expanded and there is over 100 Pickle Ball player registrations for the Games. Darryl encourages everyone to attend the meeting at Evelyn Mount following this meeting.
- 10. Agenda items for the next Joint Board meeting in October 2017 –**
Livable Communities
Update on final outcomes at the legislature (include a list)
Activities each board member is doing
Reno housing update on the council meeting
- 11. Public Comment** – Garth stated as of September 1st the membership to visit national parks is going from \$10 to \$80. To get grandfathered in for \$10, people can go to BLM. It's free to people that are disabled. Victoria expressed her thanks to the Board for what she has learned.
- 12. Adjournment** (For Possible Action)- Stan Dowdy motioned for Adjournment for the WCSSAB and Garth Elliot seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously for the WCSSAB. Wendy Boszak motioned for Adjournment for the SCAC and Donna Clontz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously for the SCAC. The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 pm.