



Mayor's Commission on Aging

City of Oakland – Human Services Department

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Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Held via Teleconference

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Bryan Ricks called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Present: Bryan Ricks, Martha Scott, Michael Coleman, Diana Garrett, Toni Gomez, Tomye Neal Madison, Shannon McDonnell, Jennifer Seibert

Absent: Asha Benne-Clarke, Cheryl Moore, Jaqueline Phillips

A quorum was established.

Staff: Scott Means, Aging & Adult Services Manager and Hayde Mazariego, Acting COA Clerk

Guests: Geri Berkvam, Clinical Nursing Instructor, California State University East Bay, and nursing students.

3. Agenda Modification and Approval

The agenda was approved.

4. Approval of Minutes:

The August 5, 2020 minutes were approved with one correction:

- Roll call was amended to reflect commissioner Toni Gomez's Excused Absence

5. Public Forum

The Mayor's Commission on Aging meeting was held in honor of the Center for Elders' Independence Chief Executive Officer, Linda Trowbridge for her exceptional contributions to the Livable Oakland Initiative and the senior community. She passed away on August 28, 2020.

6. City of Oakland Community Housing Service – Talia Rubin, HSD Program Analyst III

Chairperson Bryan Ricks stated that housing is a key element and primary focus of the Livable Oakland initiative. Talia Rubin stated that there has been increased collaboration between multiple City of Oakland departments and organizations during the pandemic. The City of Oakland Community Housing Services unit manages 6 tuff shed shelters, 3 RV safe parking sites, and 2 shelters in Oakland (West Oakland, Saint Vincent de Paul and East Oakland-75th & International). The Community Housing Services' mission is to end unsheltered homelessness. Their focus is transitional housing and permanent supportive housing.

COVID-19 Response: Talia stated that in partnership with Alameda County, CHS brought vulnerable people experiencing homelessness to hotel rooms. CHS doubled the Porta Potty sites and wash stations in the City of Oakland on March 9th. Talia noted that incidences of COVID-19 positivity and outbreaks has been significantly low in the sheltered community. Total number of sheltered and unsheltered individuals that have tested positive in Alameda County is 300. This includes individuals that are unsheltered, living in shelters, and double-up in housing that needed isolation and are eligible for COVID quarantine hotel housing.

Commissioner Diana Garrett asked about the City's involvement in Alameda County's 100-Day Challenge. Talia stated that the City is enfolded with the county to assist with permanently housing residents through Project Roomkey. Vice Chairperson Martha Scott asked about what plans were in place to keep resources flowing after COVID-19. Talia stated that the County is committed to having hotels available for the most vulnerable, at risk populations through the end of the year.

7. Age-Friendly Oakland

Chairperson Bryan Ricks stated that the Livable Oakland Committee continues to meet weekly via Zoom and highlighted that Age Friendly Oakland would be the focus of the Commission.

8. Commission Annual Report

Chair Ricks stated that the annual report would be submitted to the council and mayor as an informational report.

9. COVID-19 & Aging Services: *Where are we now and where are we going?*

Aging & Adult Services Manager Scott Means stated that all Senior Centers remain closed during this time due to COVID-19. Senior Center Directors are diligently working on the reopening safety standards for operation. The senior center team continues to explore virtual activities to address social isolation by promoting Senior Centers Without Walls which will extend amenities to a broader elder community. The Humans Services Department postponed the reopening of the Head Start Program from August 24th to September 14th. In addition, the City is closely monitoring the air quality index and may open shelters.

10. Human Services Department Report - *Scott Means, Aging and Adult Services Manager*

SENIOR CENTERS

Capital improvement projects are underway:

- Downtown Oakland Senior Center: basement level bathrooms and offices.
- East Oakland Senior Center: bathrooms and kitchen areas with increase ADA accessibility.
- West Oakland Senior Center: replacing roof and installing a sliding front door for enhanced ADA accessibility.

SUGAR SWEETENED BEVERAGE FUND

The Sugar Sweetened Beverage fund has been reduced to \$428,000. A portion of the funds were used to purchase new flooring and furniture in member areas at the senior centers.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WEBPAGE

The Senior Center webpage has been updated with information regarding COVID-19, food distribution, Information & Assistance for seniors, and online courses that are open to the public. In addition, Aging Services staff are being trained to add regular content to the city website. Members are encouraged to contact center directors about upcoming online members only classes. Aging has also hired a yoga instructor that will hold classes via KTOP and Zoom.

SENIOR CENTER MEMBERSHIP

Scott Means stated that senior center membership is similar to an organization like AARP, where members receive full amenities such as: information, virtual entertainment, congregate meals and supplies and equipment for classes. HSD is also considering the purchase of My Senior Center software to be used for senior center database and tracking purposes.

ASSETS SENIOR EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The program is reinstating four (4) program participants. The training curriculum is changing to encompass Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

AGING & ADULT SERVICES MOVE TO OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION

No report.

WEST OAKLAND SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR UPDATE

The senior center director minimum qualifications (MQ) are being revised to include senior center work experience. The position will open as Exempt Limited Duration Employee (ELDE). The director position is a classification within the Local 21 bargaining unit.

11. Announcements

- Chairperson Ricks announced that former commissioner Blake Spears is diligently working to educate the senior community on voting by mail for the upcoming November 3rd election. Scott Means suggested inviting the League of Women Voters to the next meeting to discuss absentee voting.
- Vice Chair Scott drafted a resolution to be given to the family of Linda Trowbridge recognizing her contributions to the Center of Elders Independence (CEI) and partnership with the Commission on Aging (COA) and the City of Oakland at large. The COA approved the resolution. *M/S/Carried: Bryan Ricks/Tomye Neal Madison/ Motion Carried unanimously.*
- Commissioner Shannon McDonnell announced that Stagebridge is offering two free Zoom technology workshops for seniors over the course of two days. She will provide the link.
- Commissioner Jennifer Seibert requested information and a presentation on the City's Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax funding allocations to support the community. Scott Means stated he will follow-up with HSD Director Sara Bedford.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. via teleconference.