



## **SENIOR AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Meeting Minutes**

WEDNESDAY, January 15, 2025

In Person Meeting: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Location: **Park De La Cruz Community Center**

**3901 Landis Street**

**San Diego, CA 92107**

### **Agenda**

#### **Item 1: Call to Order**

Interim Chair Gwenmarie Hilleary called the Senior Affairs Advisory Board meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

#### **Item 2: Roll Call**

Bob Prath, Juan Sotelo, Gwenmarie Hilleary, Marissa Feliciano, William Peetoom, Antoinette Alioto, Rosemary White Pope, Jacqueline Jackson, and JB Robinson present.

Michelle Matter and Mary Scott Knolls absent.

#### **Item 3: Review and Approval of Minutes**

Chair Gwenmarie Hilleary introduced the item. Antoinette Alioto made a motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting. William Peetoom seconded the motion. The motion passed with all voting members in favor.

#### **Item 4: Age Friendly San Diego Action Plan Overview**

Kristi Fenick provided an overview of the Age-Friendly San Diego Action Plan (AFSDAP) from 2018–2022. She shared that a significant barrier to the plan's implementation has been the lack of a designated City contact to lead and oversee the AFSDAP. Currently, there are nine community partners and twelve funding sources supporting AgeWell Services (AWS).

During the discussion, Rosemary Pope raised concerns about Special Use Permits (SUP) for senior centers, stating she would not sign the SUP due to numerous infractions. Kristi Fenick

committed to following up with Carlos Rios on this issue and reconvening with Rosemary separately.

Bob Prath noted that Chris Ward, who was initially involved with the initiative as a Councilmember, is now serving as an Assemblymember. He highlighted Kristi Fenick's role in tracking the plan and acting as its caretaker. Bob Prath also mentioned that several other cities in San Diego County, such as Imperial Beach, Chula Vista, National City, and Carlsbad, have adopted age-friendly initiatives, contributing to a total of 104 age-friendly cities in California and over 950 across the United States.

Additional resources were provided including the [2020 Progress Report](#) and the [Working Plan](#).

### **Item 5: Officer Reports**

Juan Sotelo did not present a report.

JB Robinson did not have any legislative updates, but shared he will provide the Board with opportunities to get involved with senior affairs.

### **Item 6: Old Business**

**Media Communications Plan:** Gwenmarie Hilleary emphasized that the Senior Affairs Advisory Board needs clear messaging points and a unified call to action to ensure consistent communication and effective outreach. She requested that Board Members submit a three-sentence blurb about themselves, tied to their role with Board, to Marissa Feliciano by February 19 to draft bios.

JB Robinson volunteered to create a spreadsheet of Board Members, including their contact information, workplace, council district, and board affiliations, to identify the best representative for each situation.

Juan Sotelo raised the question of where to store Senior Affairs Advisory Board documents and offered to house them in his shared Google Drive. Gwenmarie Hilleary recommended consulting Kristi Fenick to ensure the feasibility and compliance of this approach, and she agreed to research the matter. Once the file storage is resolved, the focus will shift to external communications. Gwenmarie Hilleary volunteered to draft a template introduction letter for engaging with other groups.

**Future SAAB Meeting Location:** Rosemary Pope recommended the George L. Stevens Senior Center as a future meeting location. William Peetoom suggested visiting all senior centers in San Diego, and Juan Sotelo supported this idea, proposing a tour of all locations. Antoinette Alioto also offered space at Jewish Family Service and volunteered to lead the effort to visit more senior centers, committing to bring additional information to the next meeting.

The next Senior Affairs Advisory Board Meeting will be held on February 19 at 12 noon at the 4th District George L. Stevens Senior Center, located at 570 South 65th Street, in the southeastern section of MLK Park.

### **Item 8: New Business**

**2025 SAAB Priorities:** Gwenmarie Hilleary led an exercise to help establish Board priorities. Board Members were invited to share their ideas by adding sticky notes with their suggested focus areas to the wall. Gwenmarie Hilleary will review and synthesize these contributions and present the consolidated priorities at the next board meeting.

### **Item 9: Non-Agenda Public Comment**

Rosemary Pope announced the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on January 25, 2025, starting at 11:00 AM. Shirley Weber, the California Secretary of State, will be the keynote speaker from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM. The theme for this year's celebration is "The Dream Lives On." Skyline Drive will be closed for a parade, followed by a festival and stage in the park, with the opening ceremony beginning at 9:00 AM, starting with the parade. The speaking program will begin at 11:00 AM and the event will conclude at 4:30 PM. Board Members are invited to attend this event, which will be run entirely by older adults. There will be health screenings, an AARP presence, and gumbo available for purchase. The event has a 200-person capacity, and attendees can RSVP by calling the George L. Stevens Senior Center.

Bob Prath shared that the application portal for Community Challenge Grants, offered through AARP, is open. These grants provide up to \$25,000 for quick projects aimed at making meaningful progress. Interested individuals or organizations can find more information on the [AARP website](#).

JB Robinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gwenmarie Hilleary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.