



## **SENIOR AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Meeting Minutes**

WEDNESDAY, February 19, 2025

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

Location: **Fourth District Senior Center**

**570 South 65<sup>th</sup> Street**

**San Diego, CA 92114**

### **Agenda**

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

Chair Gwenmarie Hilleary called the Senior Affairs Advisory Board meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

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

Bob Prath, Joan Sotelo, Gwenmarie Hilleary, Marissa Feliciano, William Peetoom, Rosemary White Pope, Jacqueline Jackson, Michelle Matter, and Mary Scott Knolls present.

JB Robinson and Antoinette Alioto absent.

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

Chair Gwenmarie Hilleary introduced the item. Marissa Feliciano made a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Bob Prath seconded the motion. The motion passed with all voting members in favor.

#### **Item 4: Staff Report**

Kristi Fenick shared that the link for the Brown Act training was not working but assured the group that she would send out a new link for the required training.

Kristi Fenick also provided an update on a previous discussion regarding the use of Google Drive for storing documents. Since this could violate the Brown Act, Kristi Fenick will serve as the designated keeper of documents if needed. William Peetoom suggested creating an index of available documents. However, the only existing documents currently include a list

of members and the bylaws. Public information, such as SAAB documents, can be posted on the Senior Affairs Advisory Board website.

There was also a reminder for Advisory Board members to send bios to Kristi Fenick to be added to the website to help the public get to know the board members and their interest in senior affairs. Additionally, the group discussed whether photos could be included with the bios.

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

None.

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

**Communication Talking Points:** Gwenmarie Hilleary shared a draft letter to be sent to community partners introducing the Senior Affairs Advisory Board (SAAB).

Mary Scott Knolls suggested including information on housing civil rights for seniors and individuals with disabilities, referencing fair housing laws. She emphasized that the community is largely undereducated on these issues, particularly regarding reasonable accommodations such as service animals and children in 55+ communities. Bob Prath recommended adding references to park and land use policies.

The final version of the letter will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting. Once approved, Gwenmarie Hilleary will distribute an announcement to senior service locations and county officials. Individual board members may introduce the Board to their respective contacts. William Peetoom proposed sending the letter to media outlets, including *Inside San Diego* and KPBS. The board also discussed creating a press release.

Kristi Fenick suggested posting the letter on the SAAB website and emphasized that we should share that the Senior Affairs Advisory Board was reactivated by Mayor Todd Gloria, rather than being a newly formed board.

**SAAB Priority Exercise:** Gwenmarie Hilleary distributed the list of priorities from the previous meeting to organize into key focus areas for the year. Marissa Feliciano suggested focusing on housing, education, and relationship building, while Michelle proposed using the domains identified in the Age-Friendly Plan. Bob Prath agreed that aligning with the plan would provide consistency.

Rosemary White Pope highlighted the importance of a holistic approach to senior services, emphasizing resource knowledge and health metrics. The board also discussed increasing outreach for senior centers, with Juan Sotelo proposing better promotion of housing programs. Marissa emphasized the need for more outreach and tracking program outcomes. Gwenmarie Hilleary suggested a weekly "Senior News" broadcast, while William proposed utilizing existing podcasts and the "Caring for All Seniors in San Diego" Facebook group to distribute content.

The Board voted on key priorities which include housing, social and civic participation, community health and wellness, and transportation. Kristi Fenick will assist in identifying guest speakers in these areas to discuss progress on the Age-Friendly Plan. Mary Scott Knolls was confirmed as the March speaker to discuss the National Fair Housing Act.

**SAAB Location for March Meeting:** In a previous meeting, it was suggested to hold upcoming meetings at different locations to increase public engagement. This idea will continue to be discussed, but the next meeting will be held at the Park de la Cruz Community Center.

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

**Emergency Preparedness:** Gwenmarie Hilleary shared that while emergency preparedness was initially planned for discussion, it will not be addressed during this meeting due to the focus on priority setting.

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

Gwenmarie Hilleary shared an email from Chida Warren-Darby reminding Advisory Board members to refrain from emailing any policy recommendations, letters of support, or priority memos to the Mayor and Councilmembers. All communication should be routed through the Board Liaison.

Marissa Feliciano initiated a discussion on creating a general statement for Advisory Board members to use in public discussions about the Board's work. Further discussion at March meeting.

*"The City of San Diego's Senior Affairs Advisory Board is reviewing the progress of the Age Friendly San Diego Action Plan to assess its impact and identify opportunities to enhance the quality of life for seniors by leveraging existing programs and resources."*

Juan Sotelo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marissa Feliciano seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.