



CITY OF PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Petaluma Community Center
320 N. McDowell Blvd
Petaluma, CA 94954

MINUTES

Thursday, March 09, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER – 8:35am by Jern

2. ROLL CALL

- A. **Present:** Railey Album, Cheryl Jern, Larell Fineren, Patricia Souza, Bonnie Koagedal, Sara Avery
- B. **Absent/Excused:** Elizabeth Savage

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Guest Don Forman presented about the dire need for public restrooms in downtown Petaluma. He has been reaching out to other Committees and Commissions about this problem. MSP Souza/Koagedal to add this item to the next agenda of the Advisory Board.

4. PRESENTATION

- A. Chess Table Celebration – Kris Rebillot
The presentation of the two tables will be held on April 29 from 11am to 2pm on Water Street. Brief remarks from the Mayor and acknowledgement of the grant from AARP will be part of the program. Iya is reaching out to a Senior who teaches chess to be present.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes of Regular Senior Advisory Committee Meeting of Thursday, January 19, 2023.
Motion to approve Minutes of Thursday, January 19, 2023 made and seconded. Minutes approved as presented.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND MATTERS OF CONSIDERATION

- A. Follow up on Proposal from Casa Grande students, formal letter response from Committee – Railey Album and Patricia Souza
Railey wrote a letter of response to the teacher, Todd Siders and the student who wrote the letter. She thanked them for their interest and

encourage the teens to follow through with their ideas. These services are outside the parameters of the Senior Advisor Committee. Railey and Kris Rebillot did present in Mr. Sider's classroom about "ageism" and Railey reported they were very well received.

B. Listening Bench Report – Railey Album

At the one year anniversary for the Project, coordinators are looking at all parts of the project to see how to make it more effective. There have been fewer visitors than expected so changes may be considered. The monthly round table meeting has been changed to the second Wednesday to improve attendance.

C. Ad Hoc Committee on Senior Programming Report Out – Cheryl Jern and Railey Album

Cheryl and Railey met with Council members and the Mayor to draw attention to the needs of seniors by decision-makers. They touched on such topics as bathroom accessibility and transportation. They encouraged them to use a filter of the needs of older adults as they make decisions.

D. Speaker Series – Report Out and Next Steps— Cheryl Jern

Very successful series of speakers. Cheryl is working with Iya to identify additional speakers.

E. Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Report Out – La rell Fineren and Bonnie Koagedal

Committee presented their Workplan (attached to the agenda). For different reasons, all the Committee members will be leaving the Advisory Committee so it will be up to other members to implement the Plan.

F. Discussion of Inclusion Statement – Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

After much discussion the Committee agreed upon:

The Petaluma Senior Center is a place where all can thrive. We help to create this healthy atmosphere by first acknowledging that we are not all the same. The diversity we each bring only strengthens us as a community. We welcome and respect the presence of those of all abilities, of any race and ethnicity, from all countries of origin, speaking any language, of any sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

It was suggested that this statement be posted in the newsletter, on the website and as a poster at the Senior Center.

G. Discussion of composition of the Senior Advisory Committee

Currently there are 7 members and 5 must be older than 55. It was suggested that we change to all members over 55 or some other configuration. After discussion, it was agreed that no efforts will be made to change the composition of the Committee.

H. Discussion of frequency of meetings

Some members have wanted to meet monthly and ask that a member of Council be included.

Rachel clarified that the Committee can convene additional meetings as needed. However, it is cumbersome to change the City regulations and the Council would need to approve a change to monthly meetings. It was agreed that the Chair will call additional meetings as needed.

Railey mentioned that with the retirement of three members we need to actively outreach for new members.

7. **COMMITTEE COMMENT**

None

8. **STAFF COMMENT**

Iya mentioned many new classes being offered. Attendance is up dramatically from 683 in December, 22 to 1422 in February, 23. She shared about other successes at the Center and new ideas to meet the needs of all.

9. **ADJOURN**