



Mayor's Commission on Aging

City of Oakland – Human Services
Department Lionel J. Wilson Building
150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite
4340 Oakland, CA 94612

Tel: (510) 238-3121 □ Fax: (510) 238-7207 □ TTY: (510) 238-3254

Wednesday, June 5, 2024
Held In Person at City Hall
Hearing Room 1

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Gunst called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. The meeting was held in person at City Hall Hearing Room 1. Chair Gunst also gave a brief overview of meeting procedures.

2. Roll Call

Present: Lenore Gunst, Blake Spears, Suzi Kalmus, Bob Scott, Lisa Malul, Ristina Ingram, Jennifer Seibert

Absent:

Absent Excused: Tydia Hill, Jacqueline Johnson

Late: Asha Beene-Clarke

A quorum was established.

Staff: Ana Bagtas (Human Services Manager), Susana Lugo (Admin Assistant), Yvonne Dunbar (MCOA Clerk)

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with 1 modification. Chair Gunst proposed moving item 10 on the agenda to after public comment, item 6.

Motion: Jennifer Seibert/Bob Scott/Motion carried unanimously

4. Approval of February 7, March 6, and May 1, 2024 MCOA Minutes

The minutes were approved with no modifications.

Motion: Jennifer Seibert/Asha Beene-Clarke/Motion carried unanimously

5. Public Comment (*specific agenda items, limit to 2 minutes*)

No speakers at this time.

6. Aging and Adult Services & Mayor's Commission on Aging Five-Year Strategic Plan:

Planning Activities and Timeline – Chair Lenore Gunst/Vice-Chair Blake Spears/HS Manager Ana Bagtas

Chair Gunst opened this item by letting everyone know that the timeline sheet they have in the agenda is what this item will be addressing. She provided a brief overview of how the 5-year strategic plan is created, and what we are anticipating for our next 5-year strategic plan. She invited Ana Bagtas Human Services Manager to come up and furtherly discuss. Ana Bagtas introduced herself and started explaining the 5-year strategic plan process and how the Mayors Commission on Aging will create and carry out another 5-year plan. This will be a partnership between Aging and Adult services and Mayors Commission on Aging. Ana invited the commission to volunteer for the different opportunities to participate in this planning. Goal of July 1st, 2025, to publish the teams' findings. Commissioner Scott asked a clarifying question around the organization of the task force and the roles. Commissioner Seibert asked what we have learned from the previous strategic plan. Vice Chair Blake Spears asked commissioners to sign up to participate in something on the list. Commissioner Malul Wants to participate on the task force. Commissioner Seibert and Ingram mics were not on, could not recall their answers. Commissioner Scott suggest he is to new to know where he can fit in, feels he can be a quick study on any group, suggests staying in the communications stakeholder group with a co-leader. Chair Gunst wants to serve on taskforce and transportation division. Commissioner Kalmus wants to do communications outreach. Commissioner Beene-Clarke believes capacity wise she will stay in the housing stakeholder group, wanting to be realistic about what her commitment can be. Vice chair Spears wants to do the taskforce and health and wellness. Commissioner Malul wants to help on health and wellness as well. Chair Gunst opened the floor for comments or questions from the public. Public member Barry Shapiro on the North Oakland Senior Center advisory board spoke about he and members of the public wanting to speak to the 30% budget cuts that were announced.

7. Budget Updates: State and City – Chair Lenore Gunst

Chair Gunst opened this item by discussing the 30% cut ordered across the boards. Mentioning we did a lot better this year but are concerned about grant programs. The commission has set up and attended one on one meetings with councilmembers. She refers to two forms that were provided that discuss what the commission will be talking about with the councilmembers. She explains briefly what those points are and the importance of these meetings, that speak to the advocacy around senior's voice we need. Chair Gunst strongly encourages the public member and his coalition to go to the council meetings and advocate. Commissioner Malul suggests they reach out to their city councilmember and ask what they would recommend. Commissioner Seibert asked when does the councilmember meet and when will the final budget meeting will be released. Ana Bagtas says she will send this information to the commissioners, suggests the calendar for these meetings are a little complexed to find. Budget will be release before June 30th. Commissioner Seibert asked what more can be done to accelerate the payments of the contracts. Commissioner Malul suggests that when the commission makes recommendations to council that we keep in mind of how the contract process goes. Vice Chair Spears mentions councilmember Treva Reid's newsletter gives very detailed information on the budget. Chair Gunst suggests one update to the spreadsheet paper they all have, that Ana Bagtas pointed out the SOS meals on wheels numbers are flipped. The general fund number is \$150,000 (covers the delivery of meals) and the grant is \$300,000 (covers the food).

8. Advocacy Updates – Tydia Hill

This item was discussed in the previous item. Items 7 and 8 were combined.

9. Presentations:

Chair Gunst opened this item by welcoming easy does it to present their presentation to the commission.

- **Easy Does It Services – Trevor Jacobson, Executive Director**
Executive director Bruce Curtis of easy does it introduce himself and provided a very informational presentation about easy does it and what they offer the community. Easy does it provides emergency services to Berkeley residents but are looking to expand to Oakland. Their presentation included a brief video explaining that they provide gaps in services for disabled persons and seniors. They provide emergency transportations to doctor's appointments, fixes for broken equipment (such as wheelchairs), and are managed and staffed by persons with disabilities. This is a grant funded program, funded by property taxes in Berkely. They have a small grant to expand their wheelchair fixing services to Oakland. Program "wheelchair rescue" has been running for 5 years and renewed their contract with Alameda Transportation services. Hoping that the Mayors Commission on Aging can get the word out, as they have been having a hard time getting the word out to the community. Wheelchair rescue is an emergency program, where they will come to people and fix their wheelchairs for free and give wheelchairs to homeless persons. Commissioner Malul asked how many seniors in Oakland do they think they can work with without over burdening their system. Bruce Curtis replied, under 20 persons a month. Commissioner Seibert asked if they are looking at specific zip codes in Oakland, Bruce Curtis replied all of Oakland. Commissioner Malul asked what work has been done to reach the community already, Bruce Curtis responded they have an outreach person that puts up a table at events, they attend senior centers, etc. are trying to get their information out by word of mouth. Chair Gunst opened this topic to the public for questions, no speakers at this time.
- **Oakland LGBTQ Community Center – Jessie Spivey, Director of Elder Services**
Jessie Spivey (He/Him) director of elder services gave a brief introduction, with a very informational presentation to follow. This center's elder services program offers support to LGBTQ+ seniors to provide resources, programs, and activities to keep them connected as they advance in age. They use a lot of resources to refer members to other programs in the area. Jessie Spivey walked through their presentation while also providing some statistics and humor. They serve LGBTQ+ seniors, 55+, in Alameda and surrounding areas. Commissioner Seibert asked if they have a building or office space they meet, Jessie Spivey replies yes, they have a new building in the lake merit area. Commissioner Ingram commented she's been a couple of times and love it. Vice chair Blake Spears asked based on the presented statistics, is there a way of reaching Black LGBTQ+ members. Jessie replied the numbers were from the beginning when he started, but they are seeing a shift and are doing intentional outreach. Commissioner Seibert asked what their operating budget is, Jessie replied he wasn't sure, but they rely on grants and donations. Chair Gunst asked how many people they are serving, is it a membership. Jessie replied not really a membership just participation based, roughly at 150 people. Vice chair Spears mentioned it is

pride month, and he would like to see the commission support resolution regarding pride month in Oakland. Blake proposed a motion.

Motion: Blake Spears/Lenore Gunst/Suzi Kalmus/Motion carried unanimously.

10. Scheduling of MCOA meetings at senior centers (July 2024 and December 2024 meetings)

Chair Gunst opened this item by recalling the visit to the East Oakland Senior Center for the first community meeting. Public member Barry Shapiro commented that the West Oakland Senior center is shutting down and moving into North Oakland. Chair Gunst is hoping that North or Downtown Senior Center would be a good fit for hosting another community meeting. She asked the commissioners, who lives in the areas and is willing to push forward the effort in coordinating the meeting for Wednesday July 3rd meeting. No one volunteered. Vice chair Blake mentioned he can not take it on himself but can work with Chair Gunst. Commissioner Ingram asked for clarification on what goes into planning a in community meeting. Commissioner Seibert replied that East Oakland was easy because councilmember Treva Reid was very helpful in her efforts with supporting her planning that meeting. While also supplying some key points on how to be successful. Commissioner Ingram offered to help set up and break down the meeting for July 3rd. Chair Gunst recommends a step of meeting with the senior center director. Chair Gunst recommends possibly moving this idea to September for North/West Oakland Senior Center. Commissioner Kalmus and Malul offered to lead the Downtown Oakland Senior Center community meeting in December 2024. Chair Gunst opened this up for public comment. No speakers at this time.

11. Health & Human Services/Adult & Aging Services Updates

Chair Gunst opened this item by acknowledging Ana Bagtas had to leave and recommending someone else in the room from Human Services to give a brief update. Scott Means Interim Director of Human Services spoke, letting the commission know this will be the last time he speaks to the commission as an employee. As he is set to retire from 23 years of working with the City of Oakland, bittersweet, but he is happy to have this last conversation with them. He will be stepping into as chair of The East Bay Foundation of Aging, will continue to be involved with senior issues. Scott mentioned there has been very severe cuts with funding. This year Kurry Foley really helped having the reductions implemented without having cuts of services. Reductions in senior centers have been submitted, reduced hours and staffing. Budget office accepted, but mayor did not. In the mayor's proposed budget, none of the reductions for senior services were included. Senior centers will not have reductions of staff. Clarifying that the only reason that the West Oakland Senior Center is closing is for capital improvement projects, not because of frozen or eliminated positions. Combining senior centers will be good for staff improvements. The last budget meeting is June 26, 2024. Will be bringing on a new targeted case manager, looking to hire please apply if you're interested. Would love to bring in more agencies within the city, such as head start. Commissioner Malul thanks Scott Means for his services with the seniors and helping with the lack of cuts. Commissioner Scott comments he's impressed by his commitment to the senior community and thanks him. The community is better off because of Scott Means. Blake proposed a resolution for our appreciation of Scott for his long years of service and the commission.

Motion: Blake Spears/Jennifer Seibert/Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Gunst points out number 3 on the new strategic plan is explore grant opportunities. The commission will be coming to the East Bay Foundation of Aging to connect.

12. Open Forum (Limit of two minutes)

No speakers at this time.

13. Closing Remarks, & Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned 11:56 am.

Motion: Blake Spears/Lisa Malul/Motion carried unanimously

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, at 10 a.m. in person at City Hall hearing room 1.