



Mayor's Commission on Aging

City of Oakland – Human Services
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Wednesday, July 3, 2024
Held In Person at City Hall
Hearing Room 1

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Gunst called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. The meeting was held in person at City Hall Hearing Room 1. Chair Gunst provided a few meeting procedures.

2. Roll Call

Present: Lenore Gunst, Blake Spears, Suzi Kalmus, Bob Scott, Lisa Malul, Jacqueline Johnson

Absent:

Absent Excused: Tydia Hill, Jennifer Seibert

Late: Asha Beene-Clarke, Ristina Ingram

A quorum was established.

Staff: Ana Bagtas (Human Services Manager), Kayla Brown (Senior Services Supervisor)
Marshay Boyd (Admin Assistant), Yvonne Dunbar (MCOA Clerk)

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no modification.

Motion: Blake Spears/Lisa Malul/Motion carried unanimously

4. Approval of April 3, 2024 and June 5, 2024 MCOA Minutes

Deferred to the September 2024 meeting. We are recessed in August.

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

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

Emily C. AARP CA, associate director of advocacy and community engagement. Trying to engage in local advocacy work in the areas. Willing to help/advise on age friendly issues. Chair Gunst invited Emily to participate in the stakeholders group.

6. Presentation: On the Senior Safety Survey - Kayla Brown, Senior Services Supervisor

Chair Gunst opened this item by welcoming Kayla Brown to do her presentation. Kayla Brown gave a brief introduction of her new position and that she is the former North Oakland Senior Center Director. She supplied survey results from a survey implemented to seniors on the feelings of safety in Oakland, CA. This presentation was very informational supplying helpful results. Survey was open May 2024 - June 2024 received 494 responses. Survey was implemented to senior center members and asked to pass along to other seniors 55+ they know. Commissioners asked about stats on electronic communications and how the seniors participated, Kayla replies with she doesn't have that information on hand but will strive to get that and forward along to the commission. The survey showed that it was long standing seniors, that been in their zip codes that participated in the survey. The survey detailed how safe seniors feels in Oakland, CA whether in their neighborhood or around Oakland. Commissioner Malul commented that she would have loved to see the breakdown by zip code, to determine which areas are in most need and how the commission can help. Kayla responded that they do have the results broken down by zip code. Commissioner Scott asked Kayla what her own antidotal thoughts about the survey from experience working in this field. Kayla hopes that the senior centers can use this data to implement new classes into the senior's centers such as self defense classes or life skills classes to help seniors navigate staying safe in Oakland, CA. Commissioner Johnson comments that the 94605-zip code includes areas all the way up to skyline, and when her organization did their survey the members that lived closer so skyline felt safe. This didn't really speak for the seniors living in the areas that have less HOA and security in their areas, she suggests a deeper dive into that zip code. Kayla suggests if the commission wants to go further with this information to distribute the survey in other languages as well. Commissioner Beene-Clarke suggest doing the deeper dive to get more information.

7. Advocacy Updates – Chair Lenore Gunst

Chair Gunst opened this item by providing a general update on what the commission have been doing in collaboration with the Senior Services Coalition. Mentions there was an elimination of senior grants that would eliminate the Asian senior center and two Vietnamese support organizations that are very fundamental. The group vouched for the senior voices that are not heard to get those grants back reinstated, and in President Bas budget amendment she did include two of the three. The commission was successful in the advocacy group. 23 organizations were impacted with 2 weeks' notice, due to the county not properly informing the organizations of the budget cuts. The commission advocated and was able to get mostly all the funding back for these organizations. Special thanks to Wendy Peterson and Priscilla Banks. 90 seniors showed up at city hall chambers to advocate to not close the senior centers. Chair Gunst provided budget update information about the realities of where the city stands with budgeting. Chair Gunst welcomed Ana to provide an update on where we stand with the budget hearings during her Health and Human Services update. Commissioner Malul stated no one on the City Council is being made accountable for these issues. Also, suggest we advocate to the organizations on creating a contingency budget and having a live stream of these council meetings for seniors to come and watch at their senior centers. Chair Gunst opened this item up to the public. No speakers at this time.

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

Chair Gunst opened this item by inviting Ana Bagtas to give updates. Ana Bagtas thanks the commissioners and Wendy Peterson for all their work and help. Ana Bagtas supplied information

about the budget. Informing the commission that due to their advocacy, our information and assistance budget this year is \$156,000 which is a slight increase. There is still a threat to the senior centers and other programs running out of senior centers that rely on general purpose funding on closing, everything thing is based around the coliseum sale. Ana suggested that analysis was that the impact damage would be around \$700,000 of lost revenue. This will impact head start as their kitchen is located at the downtown Oakland senior center and will impact veterans. Chair Gunst opened this item up to the public. No speakers at this time. Scott Means retired; Martina Bouey is currently acting as interim director for the human services department. Still talks about merging Human Services and Parks and Recreation departments together. September 4th MCOA meeting will be at the Downtown Oakland Senior Center and will use this meeting as kick off to the strategic planning work. Community will be invited and encouraged to be involved. Chair Gunst ask the commissioners to recommend organizations to work with in our stakeholder groups. Vice Chair Spears suggests Bryan Ricks and Charlie D with Meals on Wheels. Commissioner Beene-Clarke suggests East Bay Housing Organization. Commissioner Kalmus mic was off, didn't hear her recommendation. Commissioner Scott suggests CEO of Center for Elder's Independence Maria Zimora and Director of governmental relations Uche U. Commissioner Malul suggests Legal Assistance for Seniors and HERA, also Alameda Alliance for Health and Kaiser. Commissioner Ingram asks if nonprofits that receive money from dispensaries and can contribute to our efforts. Chair Gunst suggest Ashby Village, At Home with Growing Older and AARP. Chair Gunst asked public member Emily with AARP if she would be interested in joining. Emily is interested and recommend St. Mary's Center and Unity Council. Marshay Boyd suggests The Good Life director Shanette Merrick, and David Johnson. Swords to Plowshares was recommended. Anyone with other suggestions can forward the information to mcoa@oaklandca.gov or abagtas@oaklandca.gov.

9. Open Forum (Limit of two minutes)

Commissioner Ingram asks, if possible, to work with Marshay Boyd on establishing an IG and other social media for the commission. To highlight what programs are going on, to get more information to the public. Commissioner Ingram wanted to confirm if this was acceptable. Public Member Marjorie Ford introduced herself to the commission and expressed interest in joining the commission and getting involved.

10. Closing Remarks, & Adjourn

Vice chair Spears asked if we still take August off for recess. Suggests we meet in-between time. Commissioner Beene-Clarke mentioned the thank you note for the Senior Services Coalition, Chair Gunst will draft a note and forward to Marshay, to send to the commissioners. Meeting Adjourned 11:25 am.

Motion: No Motion

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 10 a.m. in person at City Hall hearing room 1.