



**SENIOR PROGRAMS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

February 11, 2016—Eastside Community Center

PRESENT: Chair Felix Vega (Eastside Center Representative), Secretary Marilu Darby (District 2 Representative), Sharlene Wittern (District 3 Representative), Renee Short (District 6 Representative), Bill King (Frank O'Brien Papen Center Representative); James Gibson (Munson Center Representative);

ABSENT: Vice Chair Judy Chavarria (Member-at-Large), Juliette White (Henry Benavidez Center Representative), Rick Jackson, (District 4 Representative), Kent Palmer (Sage Café Representative)

GUESTS: Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Administrator; Azucena Saucedo, Assistant Management Analyst; Jeneca Maya, Recreation Services Leader Senior; Sonya Delgado, Recreation Administrator; and Toni Flores, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Vega called the Senior Programs Advisory Board meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2016, at the Eastside Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo Street, Las Cruces, NM.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: It was noted that no Board members or staff present had a conflict of interest with any item of business on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: James Gibson, Munson Center Representative, moved to approve the January 14, 2016, Senior Programs Advisory Board meeting minutes as presented. Renee Short, District 6 Representative, seconded the motion. Vote: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays. Motion carried unanimously.

SENIOR PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Administrator, reported Kent Palmer, Sage Café Representative, at the previous meeting expressed concerns about the cancellation of the Enhance Fitness class held at the Sage Cafe Senior Center. She stated that the New Mexico State Senior Olympics office that sponsors the Enhance Fitness class has confirmed the fitness classes will continue. There are no plans at this time to cancel the class. Senior Programs' staff will help promote and advertise the class to the public.

S. Saldana provided an update on the February 2016 Senior Programs' Open Action Items. Action Items number 12--promote the bond issue to get funding for the central kitchen design remains in the works. Action number 13—implementation of a congregate meals program at Sage Café. The goal is to begin a trial congregate meals program in late spring at the Sage Café Senior Center. Action Item number 14—the purchase and installation of the acoustic panels for the Munson Center multipurpose room is expected to be completed by March 2016. S. Saldana stated there is an issue with the pool players. Every participant of the center is required to check in at the front desk. This is as a result of the new registration system, e-trak, that was recently implemented. The pool players are not checking in at the Munson Center

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50 front desk on a daily basis as required. As a result, the monthly attendance for billards has
51 dropped. There has been a substantial decrease from the previous month. This shows that the
52 room is being underutilized. Senior Programs will be looking at underutilized space in the
53 facility to relocate the exercise classes in order to eliminate the need for set ups and teardowns.
54 For this reason, it is very important that the pool players check in on a daily basis. It is a
55 challenge to channel people to the Munson Center front desk because there are so many other
56 entrances to the building. Board members recommended posting signs, flyers and verbal
57 reminders about the importance of checking in at the front desk. S. Saldana stated that Jeneca
58 Maya, Recreation Services Leader Senior, is very instrumental in getting the information out to
59 the participants. A sign-in sheet was suggested, but S. Saldana stated Senior Programs is
60 moving in the direction of an electronic registration system. Senior Programs is having success
61 with the participants of the other activities, with the exception of the pool players.

62 It was announced the terms of office for James Gibson (Munson Center Representative), Bill
63 King (Frank O'Brien Papen Center Representative), and Kent Palmer (Sage Café Senior Center
64 Representative) will expire on March 31, 2016. All current representatives are eligible for re-
65 election. Elections will be held at each of the respective centers in March 2016 to re-elect or
66 elect new representatives.

67 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** The Senior Programs Advisory Board voted on the proposed Senior
68 Programs' Fees and Charges schedule presented at the previous Board meeting.

69 J. Gibson moved to approve the proposed fee changes as recommended by Senior Programs'
70 staff for the Stained Glass class, Open Clay Works, China Painting, Mosaics/Gourds, and Open
71 Painting \$6.00 for a six-week session to \$1.00 per drop in slot. B. King seconded the motion.
72 Discussion: Secretary Darby inquired what the money that was collected is used for. S.
73 Saldana explained Senior Programs' goal is to recuperate costs for the recreational programs at
74 100%. The money collected is used to offset the cost of materials, staff time, utilities, and
75 facility maintenance. Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried unanimously.

76 J. Gibson moved to approve the proposed fee of \$6.00 for a six-session for Landscape Art. B.
77 King seconded the motion. Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried unanimously.

78 J. Gibson moved to approve a fee of \$3.00 per day for the Lapidary/Jewelry open lab studio. B.
79 King seconded the motion. Discussion: J. Gibson stated he has received complaints from the
80 participants of the lapidary/jewelry lab that the current fee of \$4.00 a day for the use of the
81 lapidary lab is too expensive. Attendance has decreased substantially as a result of the lapidary
82 lab use fee. S. Saldanda announced the lapidary lab room capacity is only 18 participants.
83 This may also be a reason that the attendance dropped. S. Wittern articulated a health safety
84 concern. She stated the noise level is very intense and the room ventilation requires
85 improvement. She inquired if aquoustic panels will be installed in the room to reduce the noise
86 level. S. Saldana stated that the City of Las Cruces Risk Management Department has followed
87 up on the complaints. At this time it is not feasible to install the acoustic panels in the room
88 because they are very costly. Protective hearing devises such as ear plugs were
89 recommended. She stated all machines now have overhead lighting. Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.
90 R. Short abstained. Motion carried.

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- 96 J. Gibson moved to approve the proposed lapidary certification fee of \$12.00. B. King seconded
the motion. Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried unanimously.
- 98
- 100 J. Gibson moved to approve the proposed silver jewelry fee of \$12.00 for a six-week session
and the proposed \$50.00 kit fee. R. Short seconded by the motion. Discussion: Secretary
102 Darby inquired where the kits are purchased. J. Maya stated the kits are purchased from Rio
Grande, as recommended by the instructor. The kits are reasonably priced. J. Maya stated the
104 students are not mandated to purchase a kit from Senior Programs. They may purchase a kit
from the vendor of their choice. S. Saldana stated Rick Jackson, District 4 Representative, who
106 was absent expressed his support for the recommended fee of \$12.00 plus the \$50.00 fee for
the silver jewelry. Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried unanimously.
- 108 J. Gibson moved to approve the proposed fee of \$6.00 for the Mosaics, Gourd Painting classes
and the Gourd Painting Open Studio fee of \$1.00 per drop in slot. B. King seconded the motion.
110 Discussion: J. Maya stated participants of the Gourd and Mosaics classes have complained
about the \$9.00 fee for the classes. Staff conducted research and is recommending a class fee
112 of \$6.00 for a six-week session because Senior Programs does not provide any materials for
the class. Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried unanimously.
- 114
- 116 J. Gibson moved to approve no fees for Quilting and Crocheting classes. R. Short seconded
the motion. Discussion: S. Saldana stated staff has recommended no charge for these classes
because quilts or other items are donated to local agencies in the community. Vote: 6 Ayes, 0
118 Nays. Motion carried unanimously.
- 120 J. Gibson moved to table the approval of the proposed fee charge of \$1.00 per day for billiards
at Munson and Eastside Centers. R. Short seconded the motion. Discussion followed
122 regarding the proposed fee of \$1.00 per day for billiards at Munson Center and the Eastside
Community Center. Chair Vega stated it is not reasonable to charge \$1.00 per day for billiards
124 at the Eastside Center. There are currently two billiard tables at Eastside Center. The center is
only open until 2:00 p.m. To charge a \$1.00 a day for people to sit and wait for a pool table is
126 unfair. Board members inquired if there will be a charge for people playing card games,
dominos and women billiard games. S. Saldana stated Senior Programs has spent over
128 \$10,000 on just the Munson Center billiards room. Board members stated other private places
charge anywhere from \$.60 to \$.75 a game to play pool. The difference is that the private
130 places are for profit and the centers are for seniors to come and socialize for that reason a fee
should not be charged. Sonya Delgado, Parks and Recreation Administrator, stated the City of
132 Las Cruces is accountable to the tax payers and as a result it is required to recover costs. It is
costly to maintain the pool tables and purchase the supplies needed. S. Delgado suggested
134 retrofitting the existing pool tables. Chair Vega stated he has played pool in other senior
centers and there is no charge to play pool. S. Saldana stressed the importance of the pool
136 players registering at the front desk. J. Maya stated there are plans to have a volunteer advisor
for each activity. The advisor will monitor the volunteers, track class attendance, address safety
138 and maintenance issues. She also informed those present that the during a billiards focus
group meeting, pool players stated they had no problem paying \$.25 for four hours to play
140 billiards. S. Saldana stated Senior Programs wants to be fair and equitable. Board members
suggested posting the rules in the billiards room. Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried
142 unanimously.

144 J. Gibson provided a recap of the Senior Programs' fees approved by the Board:

Senior Programs Fees		
Current Class/Open Studio	Current Fee	Approved Fees
Stained Glass	\$6 (6 week sessions) + \$5 kit	Introductory class \$6 + \$5 kit
Stained Glass	\$6	Stained Glass Open Studio \$1 Per Drop in Slot
Stained Glass	\$6	Stained Glass Open Studio \$1 Per Drop in Slot
Stained Glass	\$6	Stained Glass Open Studio \$1 Per Drop in Slot
Open Clay Works AM	\$6	\$1 Per Drop In Slot
Open Clay Works PM	\$6	\$1 Per Drop In Slot
Open Clay Works Friday	\$6	\$1 Per Drop In Slot
China Painting	\$6	\$1 Per Drop In Slot
Open Mosaics/Gourds	\$6	\$1 Per Drop In Slot
Open Painting	\$6	\$1 Per Drop In Slot
Landscape Art	\$6	\$6 (6 week sessions)
Lapidary/Jewelry Lab	\$4 per day	\$3 per day
Lapidary Certification	\$12	\$12
Silver Jewelry	\$12 + \$50 Kit	\$12 + \$50 Kit
Mosaics	\$9	Introductory Class for Mosaics/Gourds \$6
Gourd Painting	\$9	Gourd Painting Open Studio \$1 Per Drop In Slot
Quilting	No Charge	No Charge
Crochet	No Charge	No Charge
Billiards Daily (Munson)	No Charge	TABLED FOR ONE MONTH
Billiards Daily (Eastside)	No Charge	TABLED FOR ONE MONTH

146 S. Saldana announced the Transit Department will be conducting educational campaigns at
 148 each of the senior centers to educate the public on the bus routes, qualifications and fares for
 150 the the Dial-A-Ride transportation program. The Transit presentations will be held from 10:00
 152 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at each of the Senior Programs' sites as follows: Munson Center on
 154 February 12, 2016; Benavidez Center on February 16, 2016; Eastside Center on February 23,
 2016; Frank O' Brien Papen Center on February 26, 2016 and Sage Café Senior Center on
 February 29, 2016. Board members were encouraged to attend.

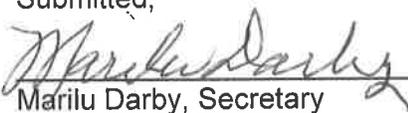
156 **CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:** Sharlene Wittern, District 3 Representative,
inquired about the piano at the Munson Center. S. Saldana stated due to an issue regarding
158 the piano, only volunteers will be allowed to play the piano. A schedule will be developed.
Secretary Darby stated she has received requests from several individuals regarding starting an
160 English as a second language class at Munson Center. S. Saldana stated she will inform Ryan
Steinmetz, Volunteer Center Coordinator, and he will follow up. Discussion followed regarding
162 the congregate meals donations. The monthly meal donation for Munson Center is averaging
\$.81. J. Gibson stated he has observed seniors who do not contribute. S. Saladana informed
164 the Board due to the federal and state funding regulations staff is unable to monitor donations.
He commented the congregate meal ticket system was very successful. It was recommended
166 the importance of the meal contributions be included in the newsletter and flyers posted at each
of the centers.

168 S. Saldana introduced Azucena Saucedo, new Senior Programs' Assistant Management
Analyst. A. Saucedo, replaces Elizabeth Vega who transferred to the Convention and Visitors
170 Bureau. A. Saucedo has seven years' experience with the City of Las Cruces Payroll
Department. She currently has earned two associate degrees in business and plans to continue
172 her education. As part of her duties and responsibilities, she will be evaluating and alaying
programs and services to see what is working and what needs to be improved.
174

176 **UPCOMING MEETING:** The next regular Senior Programs Advisory Board meeting is
scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Munson Center, 975
S. Street, Las Cruces, NM.

178 **ADJOURNMENT:** S. Wittern moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Secretary Darby
180 seconded the motion. Vote: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays. Motion carried unanimously.

182 Submitted,

184 
Marilu Darby, Secretary


Toni Flores, Recording Secretary