



**SENIOR PROGRAMS ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**May 12, 2016—Sage Café Senior Center**

**PRESENT:** Chair Felix Vega (Eastside Center Representative), Vice Chair Judy Chavarria (Member-at-Large), Sharlene Wittern (District 3 Representative), Renee Short (District 6 Representative), Bill King (Frank O'Brien Papen Center Representative); Gabriel Montalvo (Munson Center Representative); Juliette White (Henry Benavidez Center Representative); Rayla Buchanan (Sage Café Senior Center Representative)

**ABSENT:** Rick Jackson, (District 4 Representative), Marilu Darby (District 2 Representative)

**GUESTS:** Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Administrator; Michael Garcia, Recreation Facilities Manager; Azucena Saucedo, Assistant Management Analyst; Claudia Chavez, Parks and Recreation Services Manager; Jerry Gunderson, AARP Volunteer; John Hamilton, Guest; Abel Chavarria, Potential Board Member; and Toni Flores, Recording Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Vega called the Senior Programs Advisory Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at the Sage Café Senior Center, 6121 Reynolds Drive, 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:** Board members reviewed the April 14, 2016, Board meeting minutes. After review, J. White, Henry Benavidez Center Representative, moved to approve the April 14, 2016 meeting minutes. R. Buchanan, East Mesa Sage Café Representative, seconded the motion. Vote: 8 Ayes; 0 Nays. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Claudia Chavez, Parks and Recreation Services Manager; reviewed the May 2016 Parks and Recreation monthly recreation attendance report. She reported attendance has increased for Pickle Ball and H<sup>2</sup>O Cardio. She is looking to expand programming and is looking at trends nationwide. She encouraged Board members to contact her or Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Administrator, if they had any ideas for new programs and/or activities. Board members inquired about Pickle Ball. C. Chavez stated Pickle Ball is a huge trend that originated in the east coast. It is a cross between tennis and racquet ball. Apodaca Park has been outfitted with Pickle Ball courts. The activity has become very popular. The equipment for Pickle Ball is provided by Parks and Recreation Department.

46 John Hamilton, guest, addressed the board and asked for their support in establishing  
and maintaining a neurodegenerative disease registry for New Mexico. He stated he  
48 represents a group of people in New Mexico interested in creating a disease registry for  
individuals with Parkinson and other neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's,  
50 muscular dystrophy, autism, ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), etc. The primary  
purpose of a registry is to get an account of the number of people who have a particular  
52 disease. By creating a registry for New Mexico, the result will be the creation of a tool  
that can have long term implications and better research opportunities to find a solution  
54 for the disease. The registry must comply with HIPPA regulations. During the last  
legislative session, House Bill 106 was introduced by Representative Terry McMillan  
56 requesting funding to establish a neurodegenerative disease registry for New Mexico.  
The Bill failed in the Appropriations Committee. J. Hamilton stated the group he is  
58 working with has a strong desire to introduce new legislation during the 2017 Legislative  
session that will create a registry appropriate for New Mexico that is broad in scope and  
60 incorporates all the different neurodegenerative diseases. He stated Ryan Steinmetz,  
Volunteer Coordinator, is very supportive of this effort. Focus group meetings will be  
62 conducted to educate the public about the need of a registry and to answer questions.  
Currently, there are four states that have a registry: Nebraska, Utah, Washington State  
64 and Minnesota that can serve as a model. J. Hamilton was invited to provide an update  
on the registry at a future board meeting.

66 Jerry Gunderson, AARP Volunteer, reported the identity theft presentations, held at  
each of the centers, were very successful. He thanked Lisa Padron, Senior Programs  
68 Office Assistant, for recommending the presentations be held during the lunch hour  
because the presentations were well attended. He reported AARP plans to conduct  
70 caregiving presentations beginning this fall, and AARP is interested in using the Senior  
Programs' facilities to hold the presentations in each of the centers. AARP is also  
72 working on their campaign, "I Take a Stand." "I Take a Stand" focuses on preserving  
Social Security so that it will be available for the younger generation. He stated if Social  
74 Security is not fixed by 2034, there is a possibility that it will be reduced by 25 percent  
for all individuals. This is a very important issue that AARP is pursuing. He also  
76 explained AARP is conducting presentations on the "Work and Save Program" which  
helps younger people prepare for retirement.

78 **SENIOR PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Sonia Saldana, Senior  
80 Programs Administrator, introduced Michael Garcia the new Senior Programs' Facilities  
Recreation Manager. She stated M. Garcia will be based at the Benavidez Recreation  
82 Center and will be visiting all the centers on a regular basis. He will be working on new  
programming, ensuring that the facilities are well maintained and safe. In addition, he  
84 will be addressing issues of concern, evaluating programs and activities. G. Montalvo,  
Munson Center Representative, inquired if outdated equipment will be replaced.

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88 Senior Programs will work with Risk Management to ensure the equipment is working properly for the safety of the center participants.

90 S. Saldana updated the Board on the Sage Café Senior Center. She reported on  
92 upcoming enhancements to the center such as the installation of benches, gutters, and  
automatic door openers to meet ADA requirements. Canvas art has been purchased  
94 and hung in the facility to help with the acoustics. The front office furniture will be  
reconfigured. Table and chairs will be purchased to accommodate the congregate  
meals program, which is scheduled to begin in July 2016.

96 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** S. Saldana provided an update on the May 2016 Senior  
98 Programs' Open Action Items. Action Items number 12--promote the bond issue to get  
funding for the central kitchen design remains in the works.

100 Action number 13—implementation of a congregate meals program at Sage Café  
102 remains in the works. The goal is to begin the congregate meals program in July 2016  
at the Sage Café Senior Center. Senior Programs is working on a schedule with  
104 Facilities on the setup and teardowns of the facility.

106 **CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:** Vice Chair Chavarria requested tables for  
the patio be purchased for the Eastside Center. She stated currently there are benches  
108 but no tables.

110 G. Montalvo recommended the managers visit with the recreation program participants.  
He has received complaints from the participants stating that management never takes  
112 time to visit the classes or activity participants at the center. S. Saldana stated for this  
reason a recreation facilities manager was hired so the individual in this position can  
114 visit with the participants of each of the centers and address issues or concerns. It was  
recommended this information be placed in the monthly newsletter to inform individuals  
116 when the recreation facilities' manager will be visiting the centers.

118 At the April 2016 meeting there was a request made by the Board in regards to the  
wasted food. S. Saldana presented a twenty-five-page document with the requested  
120 data that is available for review. She reiterated the importance of reserving a meal to  
help reduce the amount of wasted food.

122 Abel Chavarria, potential new Board member representing District 1 was introduced and  
welcomed. A. Chavarria is Vice Chair J. Chavarria's husband. A. Chavarria is being  
124 recommended for appointment as the District 1 representative on the board at the May  
16, 2016, City Council meeting. City Clerk's office confirmed there is no conflict of  
126 interest with the appointment.

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130 R. Short stated in terms of the Sage Cafe Senior Center there are limited activities. She  
132 inquired of the possibility of adding a pool table or a ping pong table. S. Saldana stated  
134 installing a pool table, will significantly impact the activities in the room. Discussion  
136 followed regarding future plans to expand the facility. R. Short pointed out Munson  
Center at one time had a collapsible ping pong table. S. Saldana stated the ping pong  
table is not in the Senior Programs inventory because it was transferred to the Parks  
and Recreation Department.

138 R. Buchanan reported concerns expressed by the Sage Cafe Center participants.  
140 There is poor air circulation in the rooms. It is very hot. The paints produce strong  
142 fumes. It was suggested odorless glazes be made available for purchase by the class  
participants because the fumes are affecting the health of the participants. She  
recommended providing toilet seat covers. M. Garcia will follow up.

144 **UPCOMING MEETING:** The next regular Senior Programs Advisory Board meeting is  
146 scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Benavidez  
Recreation Center, 1045 McClure Road, Las Cruces, NM.

148 **ADJOURNMENT:** R. Buchanan moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Vice  
150 Chair Chavarria seconded the motion. Vote: 8 Ayes; 0 Nays. Motion carried  
unanimously.

Submitted,

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Marilu Darby, Secretary

  
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Toni Flores, Recording Secretary