



2 **SENIOR PROGRAMS ADVISORY BOARD**
4 **MEETING MINUTES**
6 **JULY 14, 2016—EASTSIDE CENTER**

6 **PRESENT:** Chair Felix Vega (Eastside Center Representative); Vice Chair Judy
8 Chavarria (Member-at-Large), Secretary Marilu Darby (District 2
10 Representative), Sharlene Wittern (District 3 Representative), Rick
12 Jackson, (District 4 Representative), Renee Short (District 6
14 Representative), Gabriel Montalvo (Munson Center Representative),
16 Rayla Buchanan (Sage Café Senior Center Representative)

12 **ABSENT:** Dr. Abel L. Chavarria (District 1 Representative), Bill King (Frank O'Brien
14 Papen Center Representative), Juliette White (Henry Benavidez Center
16 Representative)

16 **GUESTS:** Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Administrator; Michael Garcia,
18 Recreation Facilities Manager; Azucena Saucedo, Assistant Management
20 Analyst; Claudia Chavez, Parks and Recreation Services Manager; John
Hamilton, Guest; and Toni Flores, Recording Secretary

22 **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Felix Vega called the Senior Programs' Advisory Board
24 meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2016, at the Eastside Center, 310
N. Tornillo Street, Las Cruces, NM.

26 **INTRODUCTIONS:** John Hamilton was introduced and welcomed. J. Hamilton stated
28 he was available to answer questions from the Board in reference to information about
Parkinson's disease.

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

34 **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Board members reviewed the June 9, 2016, Board
36 meeting minutes. After review, Rick Jackson, (District 4 Representative), moved to
38 approve the June 9, 2016 Board meeting minutes. Secretary Marilu Darby, District 2
Representative, seconded the motion. Vote: 8 Ayes; 0 Nays. Motion carried
unanimously.

40 **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Michael Garcia, Recreation Facilities Manager, reported John
42 Hamilton is proposing to disseminate information about Parkinson's disease at the
44 centers. J. Hamilton stated he first came before the Board a few months ago requesting
46 their support in establishing and creating a registry for neurodegenerative diseases for
New Mexico. Since that time, he discovered people are very poorly informed about
Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's,
muscular dystrophy, ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), etc. He stated the purpose of
his visit today was to provide a broad overview of his intent to educate, bring awareness
and inform the public about Parkinson's disease. J. Hamilton acquired literature from

48 the American Parkinson's Disease Association (APDA) which he will distribute to those
individuals who are interested. The material provided is strictly for informational
50 purposes. He is also interested in engaging in conversation with the public about the
disease. He stated he is only familiar with Parkinson's disease. Experts will need to be
52 brought in to talk about other neurodegenerative diseases. After further discussion, it
was agreed Mr. Hamilton will provide the literature that will be distributed to the public in
54 the appropriate language to M. Garcia. M. Garcia will review the material and, if
approved, will meet with J. Hamilton to schedule a date and time to disseminate the
56 information. Renee Short, District 6 Representative, requested this item be added to
the action item list since it has been ongoing since May 2016. It was also
58 recommended upon receiving approval, this event be advertised in the newsletter.

60 **SENIOR PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Claudia Chavez, Parks and
Recreation Services Manager, reviewed the June 2016 Parks and Recreation 50 plus
62 fitness classes' activity attendance report. She reported a spike in activity attendance
for water aerobics. People are choosing to exercise indoors due to the hot weather. R.
64 Short requested a copy of the Parks and Recreation activity attendance report for May
and June 2015. C. Chavez stated she will send the report to Sonia Saldana, Senior
66 Programs Administrator.

68 S. Saldana stated as discussed at the previous Board meeting, Michael Garcia will be
visiting each of the different centers. M. Garcia distributed the schedule to Board
70 members for review. Beginning July 21, 2016 M. Garcia will be visiting the centers on a
rotating basis every Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the visit is to
72 meet face to face with anyone who has concerns or issues. The ultimate goal is to grow
the Senior Programs' recreation activities, increase attendance and receive input from
74 seniors. M. Garcia can be contacted any time by calling 541-2005 or 528-3000. Flyers
will be posted at the centers to inform participants when M. Garcia will be visiting the
76 centers. Vice Chair Chavarria expressed concern with the scheduled hours. She
stated the high peak at Eastside Center is after 10:30 a.m. Prior to that there are very
78 few participants in the center. Another concern that was expressed was that M. Garcia
is new and many people do not know him. It was recommended M. Garcia schedule a
80 meeting with the site center representatives during the noon hour so that the
representative can reintroduce M. Garcia to the program participants. R. Jackson stated
82 the schedule presented to the Board by M. Garcia is the only time that M. Garcia has
available to meet with the program participants because of other commitments. R.
84 Short stated she understood that, but M. Garcia is working for the seniors. He needs to
make himself available to the seniors when the seniors are at the centers. Vice Chair
86 Chavarria commented visibility is low, particularly at the Eastside Center. M. Garcia will
be contacting each of the center representatives to schedule a meeting time to be
88 reintroduced to the center participants.

90 S. Saldana stated at the June meeting the Board discussed and tabled a motion to
change the board meetings from monthly to quarterly. She stated there are a few board

92 members who are still employed and have stated it is challenging to attend monthly
board meetings. S. Saldana stated it is difficult to schedule guest speakers on a
94 monthly basis. Chair Vega stated board members are appointed by City Council and
elected by the senior center program participants to advocate on their behalf, the least
96 the Board can do to show they care about the seniors and centers they represent is to
show up to the Board meetings on a monthly basis. After further discussion, R. Short
98 made a motion that the Senior Programs Advisory Board continue holding the board
meetings on a monthly basis. Motion seconded by Secretary Darby. Vote: 8 Ayes; 0
100 Nays. Motion carried unanimously.

102 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Administrator, provided an
update on the May 2016 Senior Programs' Open Action Items. Action item number
104 12—promote the bond issue for funding for the central kitchen design remains in the
works.

106 Action number 13—implementation of a congregate meals program at Sage Café
108 Senior Center has been completed. S. Saldana reported the congregate meals pilot
program at the Sage Café Senior Center started on July 5, 2016. Meals are being
110 served two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

112 Renee Short, District 6 Representative, reported at the inception of the Sage Café
congregate meals' program there was confusion. Several of the participants were
114 under the impression they did not need a meal reservation and just showed up for a
meal. The registration process is time consuming. Some people did not want to wait
116 and walked out. The next day Jean Harris was very accommodating and let them eat
first. Then, had them register after the meal. S. Saldana stated there is a short
118 registration form that new participants can complete, which is less time consuming.

120 It was reported signs were posted informing participants of the starting date of the
congregate meals program, the registration requirements and the procedures for
122 making a meal reservation. Staff will repost the requirements and the procedures. The
meals are open to any person 60 years of age and older for a suggested donation. Any
124 person 59 years of age and younger is required to pay the full cost of the meal. There
are no residency requirements to attend the congregate meals program at any of the
126 centers. S. Saldana reported there was an increase in the number of meals served at
Sage Cafe during the first three days of operation. The meal count was 31, 36 and 44
128 respectively. It was a great turnout. There was a combination of new people and
those who shifted from one of the existing congregate meal sites to Sage Café. S.
130 Saldana stated staff will reevaluate and make adjustments as needed for the
congregate meals' pilot program after three and six months. R. Short stated that staff
132 needs to constantly get the word out to people in the community. S. Saldana stated
Senior Programs' staff has promoted the program. People in the community heard
134 about the meals program and just showed up. The pilot congregate meals program was
advertised in the Senior Programs' newsletter; a presentation is being made in October

136 to the community. It will also be advertised in the *Las Cruces Bulletin* and the *Las*
138 *Cruces Sun News*. There is limited seating and space available and we need to make
140 sure we are prepared once we start advertising more. Staff will need to get creative to
accommodate the influx of participants, because Senior Programs does not want to turn
anyone away.

142 In the event the program continues to grow beyond 50 participants, staff has discussed
144 other options such as expanding the serving time or redirecting people to other centers.
Relocating the exercise class to the Parks and Recreation program facility located
146 across the street from Sage Café was also discussed. S. Saldana informed the Board
Sage Café was not at that point yet, but staff is working on a back-up plan if
participation continues to increase.

148 R. Short expressed concern about wasted food. S. Saldana stated because the food is
150 transported to Sage Café, the food cannot be repackaged. She requested Board
members remind participants of the importance of reserving a meal and calling to
152 cancel a meal reservation if they are unable to attend the program.

154 R. Buchanan moved to close Action Item 13. Vice-Chair Chavarria seconded the
motion. Vote: 8 Ayes; 0 Nays. Motion carried unanimously.

156 **CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:** S. Wittern stated many people attending
158 Munson Center are very appreciative of the artistic décor and the furniture. The center
is welcoming, has a pleasant atmosphere and encourages socialization. Many people
160 stay longer at the center, because it is very conducive and inviting.

162 Vice Chair Chavarria reported the 28th annual New Mexico Conference on Aging to be
held August 23-24, 2016 in Albuquerque, NM was mentioned in the AARP newsletter. It
164 talks about special keynote speaker, Dr. Bill Thomas, an AARP visiting scholar and
innovative geriatrician. He will discuss how people view aging and how some of the
166 preconceptions of aging are not accurate. Dr. Thomas is an engaging dynamic speaker
who really connects with the audience. Vice Chair Chavarria is looking forward to
168 attending the presentation.

170 Chair Vega stated this is the second year that Roswell has hosted the Senior Olympic
games. There are 39 different events. S. Saldana stated the Munson Center Line
172 Dancers are competing in this year's games. Chair Vega reiterated the Board's
support to return the Senior Olympic games to Las Cruces. A bid must be submitted by
174 Dona Ana County Senior Olympics for Las Cruces to host the New Mexico State Senior
Olympic games.

176 R. Buchanan inquired on the status of the installation of the automatic front door opener
178 for the disabled at the Sage Café Senior Center. S. Saldana stated a work order has
been placed. M. Garcia will follow up and provide an update at the next board meeting.

180 R. Buchanan stated the art work that was hung in the Sage Café meeting room looks
very nice and has helped with the acoustics in the room. The only issue is the air flow
182 of the room. The room is very hot. The fan that is currently in room is not conducive for
the small area. Several smaller fans would be more appropriate to help with the air
184 flow. M. Garcia will follow up.

186 Gabriel Montalvo, Munson Center Representative, inquired if there is a way to regulate
the temperature of the Munson Center dining room during the lunch hour. There are
188 certain areas that get very cold. People are complaining their food is getting cold and
others complain that they are too cold. S. Saldana stated the temperature was lowered
190 because people complained the building was too hot. G. Montalvo stated the issue is
probably the sensor that regulates when the cooling unit turns on and when it shuts off.
192 Sometimes the location of the sensor makes a difference. Facilities will be contacted to
regulate the temperature of the room and evaluate where the sensor is located.

194 Chair Vega requested a work order be placed to resurface the sidewalk leading into the
196 dining room of Eastside Center. M. Garcia will follow up.

198 R. Buchanan requested toilet seat covers be placed in the Sage Cafe restrooms for
sanitary reasons. This is the second request made. M. Garcia will follow up on the work
200 order.

202 Chair Vega inquired as to the status of the installation of the flag pole at Sage Café
Senior Center. Woodmen of the World will donate a flag as soon as the pole is
204 installed. A ceremony will be conducted. It was recommended the ceremony be held
when the noon meals are served. M. Garcia will follow up on the work order.

206 R. Buchanan inquired on the status of the installation of the bench at Sage Café. M.
208 Garcia will follow up. The work order to install rain gutters at Sage Café has been
completed.

210 S. Saldana stated M. Garcia will develop a tracking system for work orders and will
212 provide a status update at the Board meetings. Board members can then report to their
constituents.

214 Chair Vega stated this is the purpose of the site center representatives to see what the
216 needs of the centers are and to bring these issues of concern to the staff's attention for
prompt resolution. R. Buchanan commented the new chairs purchased for Sage Cafe
218 are much more comfortable.

220 Chair Vega commended Vice Chair Chavarria on the excellent job she did conducting
the June Board meeting in his absence.

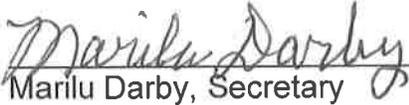
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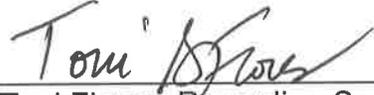
224 **UPCOMING MEETING:** The next regular Senior Programs Advisory Board meeting is
scheduled for Thursday, August 11, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Munson
Center, 975 S. Mesquite Street, Las Cruces, NM.

226
228 **ADJOURNMENT:** Secretary Darby moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Vice
Chair Chavarria seconded the motion. Vote: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays. Motion carried
unanimously.

230 Submitted,

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234 
Mariju Darby, Secretary


Toni Flores, Recording Secretary