

2 The following are summary minutes of the **Senior Programs Advisory Board Meeting** held on  
4 January 10, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Eastside Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo Street, Las  
6 Cruces, New Mexico.

8 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

8 Chair Cheryl De Young, Benavidez Center Representative  
9 Vice Chair Rayla Buchanan, Sage Café Senior Center Representative  
10 Secretary Judy Chavarria, Member-at-Large  
11 Sharlene Wittern, District 3 Representative  
12 Etta Kaufman, District 6 Representative  
13 Rudy Alvarez, Eastside Center Representative  
14 Jo Ann Rodriguez-Haught, Frank O'Brien Papen Center Representative  
15 Gabriel Montalvo, Munson Center Representative

16 **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

18 Chair Dr. Abel L. Chavarria, District 1 Representative  
19 Marilu Darby, District 2 Representative  
20 Rick Jackson, District 4 Representative  
21 Manuel Contreras, District 5 Representative

22 **GUESTS PRESENT:**

24 Michael Garcia, Recreation Facility Manager  
25 Azucena Saucedo, Assistant Management Analyst  
26 Liz Ambrose, Senior Programs Dance Committee Member  
27 Toni Flores, Recording Secretary

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29 I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Cheryl De Young, Benavidez Center Representative, called the  
30 Senior Programs' Advisory Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 10, 2019,  
31 at Eastside Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo Street, Las Cruces, NM.

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33 II. **ROLL CALL:** Roll call was taken, and a quorum ascertained.

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35 III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Gabriel Montalvo, Munson Center Representative, led the  
36 Pledge of Allegiance.

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38 IV. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** A moment of silence was observed.

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40 V. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Board members and staff present had no conflict of interest  
41 with any item of business on the agenda.

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43 VI. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Liz Ambrose, Senior Programs' Dance Committee Member, was  
44 introduced and welcomed. L. Ambrose reported she has been a member of the dance committee  
45 for over a year. The committee has been coordinating the dances held at Munson Center on the  
46 third Thursday and the first Saturday of the month. The dances, held at Munson Center, have  
47 been very successful. The Thursday afternoon dances have an average attendance of 40 to 60  
48 participants. She stated the committee was recently informed the dances are being rotated to the  
49 different centers. The Christmas dance was held at the Eastside Center, which upset several  
50 people because the dance floor was too small. As a result of the rotation, the Munson Center  
51 participants are left without entertainment specifically the individuals that utilize the Dial-a-Ride  
52 transportation service. They have no way to get to the other centers to attend the monthly dances.

54 The seniors look forward to the dances. She stated the committee members met with Sonia  
Saldana, Senior Programs Administrator, to discuss their concerns about the rotation of the  
56 dances. S. Saldana explained this is a pilot program that was approved by the Board and runs  
through June 30, 2019. At the end of June the pilot program will be evaluated, and a final  
58 determination will be made to either continue or discontinue the rotation of the Thursday afternoon  
dances. No changes are expected to be made to the Saturday evening dances. The dances will  
60 continue to be held at Munson Center on the first Saturday of each month. L. Ambrose extended  
an invitation to the Board to attend the monthly dances. Music is provided by DJ Ray Lopez, who  
62 does an outstanding job.

64 M. Garcia stated there were approximately 70 people in attendance at the Christmas dance held  
on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at the Eastside Center. It was a successful event, but it was  
66 crowded, because the tables set up along the perimeter of the room reduced the dance floor  
space. He reminded Board members the dances are open to the public. It was recommended  
68 square tables be utilized instead of the round tables to help with the limited space. Secretary J.  
Chavarria stated everyone in attendance enjoyed the dance. There is an entry fee of \$3.00 per  
70 person for the dances which includes snacks, refreshments, and door prizes. Board members  
recommended Senior Programs' staff coordinate with Dial-a-Ride to provide transportation  
72 services to seniors to and from the dances. M. Garcia will follow up with Transit.

74 After further discussion, Vice Chair R. Buchanan voiced her support for the continuation of the  
pilot program. She stated the rotation of the Thursday afternoon dances to the various Senior  
76 Programs' sites will allow other seniors from the specific site centers to attend the dances. There  
was consensus from the Board members.

78 **VII. ACTION ITEM(S)—APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Secretary Judy Chavarria, Member-  
at-Large, moved to approve the December 13, 2018 Senior Programs Advisory Board meeting  
80 minutes as presented. Vice Chair Rayla Buchanan, Sage Café Representative, seconded the  
motion. Vote: 8 Ayes; 0 Nays. Motion carried unanimously.

82 **VIII. DISCUSSION ITEM(S):** Rudy Alvarez, Eastside Center Representative, inquired about the  
84 "A Matter of Balance" Program to be held at the Eastside Center. M. Garcia explained the "A  
Matter of Balance" program is an educational fall prevention program for seniors. It provides  
86 strategies to reduce the risk of falls and includes workout sessions that help to increase strength  
and balance so that seniors can remain safe in their own home. These class were offered at the  
88 Munson Center in English and became very popular. For this reason, the classes will be offered  
in Spanish at the Eastside Center. The class time and date have not been finalized. There is a  
90 possibility that the classes will expand to the other centers and will be offered in English and  
Spanish. M. Garcia reported Tai Chi classes have also started at the Eastside Center. Tai Chi  
92 involves slow, controlled and low-impact movements. This form of exercise helps to improve  
strength, flexibility, and range of motion. It helps with balance and coordination. The Tai Chi  
94 classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursdays from 8:15-9:45 a.m. in the dining room of the  
Eastside Center.

96 Board members reviewed the January 2019 list of pending work orders and issues of concern.  
98 Michael Garcia, Recreation Manager, provided an update on the following action items:

100 Item #5—Resurfacing of the sidewalk at the Eastside Center. M. Garcia reported Facilities is  
102 moving forward with the resurfacing of the sidewalk. He stated it is a top priority, because it is a  
104 safety hazard for seniors. There are also plans to repaint the lines of the parking spaces of the  
106 Eastside and Munson Centers. Secretary J. Chavarria stated people have difficulty seeing the  
lines and are taking up two parking spaces. This is a problem particularly during the lunch  
program. She added the dip in the parking lot is also an issue that needs to be addressed.

108 S. Wittern added there were complaints at Munson Center about some people parking diagonally  
and taking up two parking spaces. M. Garcia stated these parking issues are a safety hazard and  
should be reported to staff immediately so staff can address the issues. S. Wittern stated several  
110 men were complaining about electric hand dryers in the Munson Center restrooms located on the  
southside of the building. They preferred the regular paper towels instead of the electric hand  
112 dryers. They did not feel the hand dryers were sterile enough and the hand dryers did not have  
enough pressure to dry their hands. M. Garcia will discuss these concerns with Facilities and  
114 explore the possibility of replacing the electric hand dryers with regular paper towels. M. Garcia  
stated it is very difficult for the custodian to keep the restrooms clean at Munson Center. He  
116 reported Facilities is considering replacing the toilet paper dispensers with more user-friendly  
dispensers.

118 #69—Recommendation to collaborate with Parks and Recreation to construct community gardens  
120 at Frank O'Brien Papen and Benavidez Recreation Centers. M Garcia reported at this time, the  
Parks and Recreation Department has no plans to expand or create any additional community  
122 gardens.

124 R. Buchanan requested item #69 be removed from the work order list, because it is a mute issue.  
There was consensus from the Board to remove the item from the Work Order list.

126 M. Garcia announced the Parks and Recreation Department will be holding a public meeting to  
128 discuss the Parks and Recreation Program master plan on January 23, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the  
Benavidez Recreation Center. Board members were encouraged to attend the public meeting to  
130 voice their support for the addition of community gardens at the Frank O'Brien and Benavidez  
Centers. Board members requested information about the community garden plots being leased  
132 by Parks and Recreation Department. M. Garcia will follow up with the request.

134 **IX. UPDATES:** Jo Ann Rodriguez-Haught reported the participants of the beading class are  
136 enjoying the classes. M. Garcia stated Senior Programs continues to recruit for an instructor to  
teach the beading classes.

138 Secretary J. Chavarria expressed concern about the noise level in the lobby of Eastside Center.  
The piano is being played too loud. It was so loud a new participant and the hostess were having  
140 problems communicating with each. R. Alvarez stated he was happy someone else brought the  
piano issue to light, because he first brought this issue up three months ago and nothing has been  
142 done about it. M. Garcia stated there is not enough room at the Eastside Center to relocate the  
piano. However, anyone interested in playing the piano must first contact M. Garcia. Time has  
144 been scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to play music. Flyers will be posted to provide  
advance notice to the participants of the centers.

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148 R. Alvarez stated the other issue is the door that slams shut. M. Garcia stated the work order has  
been placed with Facilities to repair the door.

150 E. Kaufman thanked Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Administrator, for coordinating the tours to  
152 the different Senior Programs' facilities. She stated as a new member of the Board, she was  
unaware of the different facilities, services and programs Senior Programs offers at the various  
154 sites. At the previous meeting E. Kaufman inquired about the number of seniors residing in the  
community. She conducted research and provided the following statistical information:  
156 according to the 2017 Census, there are 215,000 people residing in Dona Ana county. Of the  
215,000, 13 percent are 65 years of age and older, 66.4 percent are Hispanic, and 20.6 percent  
158 are mixed. The City of Las Cruces has a population of 101,712. Of that amount, 14.8 percent  
are over 65 years of age and 58 percent are Hispanic.

160 Secretary J. Chavarria commended Jean Harris, Office Assistant, on a job well done. Secretary  
162 J. Chavarria's friend forgot his musical instrument at the Sage Café. Jean Harris found the  
musical instrument and secured it overnight. The next morning Secretary J. Chavarria's friend  
164 was there at 9:00 a.m. to claim the musical instrument and was very pleased that J. Harris had  
found it and secured it. J. Harris was commended for going above and beyond to ensure the  
166 instrument was secured until it was claimed by its owner the next day.

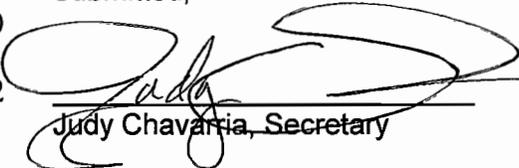
168 R. Buchanan inquired if there is a cell phone use policy in place for the participants of the centers.  
She stated there is a couple who attend Sage Café on a daily basis. The couple set their cell  
170 phones on speaker mode, which are loud and distracting. It causes a disturbance for the  
participants of the center, and it makes it very difficult for J. Harris to hear on the telephone and/or  
172 tend to the customers at the front desk. M. Garcia stated this type of issue is covered in the  
Senior Programs' code of conduct and needs to be brought to the staff's attention so it can be  
174 addressed as soon as possible. R. Buchanan inquired on the status of the expansion of the Sage  
Café Senior Center facility. Azucena Saucedo, Assistant Management Analyst, stated Senior  
176 Programs started the capital outlay request for funding process. She stated the funding request  
is for a multipurpose room for the Sage Café and a fitness room for the Munson Centers.

178 Chair C. De Young stated staff should review the menus more closely. On the coldest day of the  
180 month in January a cold meal was served. This is when a hot meal should have been served,  
because for some seniors, this may be the only hot meal they receive. J. Rodriguez-Haught  
182 commented the chocolate chip cookie she was served contained very few chocolate chips. Staff  
will pass the information on to the Food Services Supervisor.

184 The next Board meeting will be held February 14, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the  
Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite Street, Las Cruces, NM.

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188 **X. ADJOURNMENT:** S. Wittern moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

190 Submitted,

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Judy Chavarria, Secretary

  
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Toni Flores, Recording Secretary