The following are summary minutes of the Senior Programs Advisory Board Meeting held on June 13, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at Eastside Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Chair Cheryl De Young, Benavidez Center Representative
Vice Chair Rayla Buchanan, Sage Café Senior Center Representative
Secretary Judy Chavarria, Member-at-Large
Dr. Abel L. Chavarria, District 1 Representative
Sharlene Wittern, District 3 Representative
Etta Kaufman, District 6 Representative
Rudy Alvarez, Eastside Center Representative
Gabriel Montalvo, Munson Center Representative
Jo Ann Rodriguez-Haught, Frank O’Brien Papen Center Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Marilu Darby, District 2 Representative
Rick Jackson, District 4 Representative
Manuel Contreras, District 5 Representative

GUESTS PRESENT:
Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Administrator
Michael Garcia, Recreation Facility Manager
Elaine Avina, United States Census Bureau Partnership Specialist
Ceci Vasconcellos, City of Las Cruces Community Outreach Marketing Coordinator
Toni Flores, Recording Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Cheryl De Young, Benavidez Center Representative, called the Senior Programs’ Advisory Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 13, 2019, at the Eastside Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo Street, Las Cruces, NM.

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Rudy Alvarez, Eastside Center Representative, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

VI. INTRODUCTIONS: Elaine Avina, United States Census Bureau Partnership Specialist, and Ceci Vasconcellos, City of Las Cruces Community Outreach Marketing Coordinator, were introduced and welcomed. E. Avina provided an overview of the 2020 United States Census. She stated every decade since 1790 the US Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency, has been conducting a mandated Census to determine the number of people living in the United States and its territories. The Census data is used by the nation’s leaders to make vital decisions on behalf of all residents including congressional representation, community funding, etc. As an example, Texas gained four US House of Representative seats as a result of the 2010 decennial numbers. E. Avina reviewed the 2020 Census timeline. She stated local Census Bureau area
offices will open in Las Cruces between June and October 2019. Outreach will be conducted to educate the community about the Census. The Census launches on March 23, 2020. All households will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census by April 1, 2020. Individuals will have until April 30, 2020 to self-respond either by phone, mail, or online. April 1, 2020 is designated as Census day. In May 2020 Census takers will begin nonresponse operations. They will follow up with households that did not respond to the survey. The Census concludes in August 2020. In December 2020 the Census Bureau will provide to the President the results of the 2020 Census, in statistical format only. E. Avina reported NM was one of the most challenging states to track in the 2010 decennial census. She stressed the importance of completing and submitting the Census survey by the deadline. The Board was informed all information collected will be kept confidential and private. E. Avina stated it is against the law for any Census Bureau employee to publicly release the respondent’s information or to identify individuals or households.

E. Avina is also a member of the Complete Count Committee (CCC). E. Avina explained the CCC is made up of a group of people working together to create awareness in communities across the country. The CCC’s goal is to help the Census Bureau to get a complete count of people by partnering with local government agencies and community organizations. The CCC is comprised of a broad spectrum of government and community leaders. The Committee will develop and implement a 2020 Census awareness campaign based upon their knowledge of the local community to encourage a response. Any one is welcome to participate. If the Census Bureau does not receive an accurate count, billions and billions of dollars will be lost. Dr. Abel Chavarria, District 1 Representative, expressed his concern stating that raising accurate awareness is critical especially among the senior citizens. E. Avina stated the CCC will be strategizing to raise awareness and educate the public. They are available to answer questions. E. Avina and C. Vasconcellos were thanked for the presentation.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

VIII. ACTION ITEM(S): Vice Chair Rayla Buchanan, Sage Café Representative, moved to approve the May 9, 2019 Senior Programs Advisory Board meeting minutes. Dr. Abel Chavarria, District 1 Representative, seconded the motion. Vote: 9 Ayes; 0 Nays. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. DISCUSSION ITEM(S): Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Administrator, reported she has received several complaints from women who are learning to play pool at Munson Center. Five women came forward stating the men in the Munson Center billiard’s room were harassing them. They were learning how to play pool on their own, and the men were making inappropriate remarks. S. Saldana informed the Board this type of behavior will not be tolerated at the Centers, and it is being addressed. She asked the Board for input on ways to resolve the issue because beginners have a right to play pool, also. Board members provided recommendations on ways to solve this issue such as scheduling different times for women and men to play pool or designating a table for beginners. After discussion, Board members requested Senior Programs staff develop a plan and present it to the Board for their approval. M. Garcia reported a volunteer instructor is being recruited to teach a beginning Billiard’s class. He stated any changes made to the Munson Center billiard’s will also be implemented at the other centers. There was consensus from the Board for staff to present a plan to the Board for consideration at the next Board meeting. R. Alvarez stated he also feels intimidated when he enters the Munson Center pool room. He commented it is very difficult to play pool at Munson Center, because the men are very territorial.
S. Saldana stated if you as a man feel intimidated just imagine how the women must feel. Everyone needs to feel welcome. Options were discussed such as implementing time limits. Vice Chair R. Buchanan reiterated that staff will develop a plan to resolve this issue and will present it to the Board for consideration at the next Board meeting.

S. Saldana stated she needed input from the Board regarding another issue that was brought to her attention. The starting time of the Munson Center afternoon classes is being delayed due to the congregate meal program participants staying and socializing after the dining room closes. S. Saldana explained that the afternoon classes held in the Munson Center auditorium are scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. However, afternoon classes have started as late as 2:25 p.m., because maintenance staff cannot begin to prepare for the afternoon programming until after all participants have vacated the dining room, which is sometimes after 1:00 p.m. When this occurs, there is not enough time after lunch to tear down tables, chairs and complete the floor maintenance. For safety purposes the floor needs to be completely dry before the class participants can enter the dining room. Signs have been posted informing the public the dining room closes at 12:45 p.m. Staff have been very lenient with the participants by allowing them to stay until 1:00 p.m. S. Saldana stated participants are not abiding by the rules. If the cleaning crew starts late, then the classes start late. Class participants are complaining because of the delay in the starting time. Participants are welcome to socialize in the lobby. The contracted agency has a scheduled time to set up and tear down, but for safety reasons, they cannot begin until everyone has vacated the dining room. The flyers have not been effective. S. Saldana stated staff will begin to enforce the rules because it is impacting classes and programs. She wanted to bring this issue of concern to the Board's attention should they receive complaints from the participants.

S. Saldana announced Senior Programs will continue to disseminate the food distribution surveys to receive input from the participants regarding the food they want or need. There have been many complaints from participants because often they receive food they cannot use. Another issue of concern is that Dial-a-Ride will only permit two bags of food on the bus. In addition, the food distributions are time consuming to organize and coordinate on a monthly basis at the five centers. M. Garcia is short staffed. As a result, staff discussed alternatives such as consolidating the food distributions to once a quarter at two centers only. Staff will review the results of the survey and meet with the food bank staff to discuss the responses. R. Alvarez stated he noticed the first people going through the line receive an abundance of food. The people at the end of the line do not get much food, because they run out of food. M. Garcia stated the food is divided evenly amongst the number of registered individuals to ensure everyone receives the same amount of food. All food is distributed.

Michael Garcia, Recreation Facility Manager, updated the Board on the June 2019 list of pending work orders and issues of concern:

Vice Chair R. Buchanan commented at the previous Board meeting she reported there was an emergency at the Sage Café where 911 was activated. Volunteers were unable to provide the address of the facility, because there was no address on the facility. For this reason, she requested the address of the facility be placed on the outside of the building. M. Garcia stated the address is already located on the Reynolds side of the building; however, the numbers are small. M. Garcia stated the address numbers will be replaced with larger numbers. Jean Harris,
Office Assistant, posted the address of the facility on the front door. Vice Chair R. Buchanan requested this item be placed on the Actions Items list.

Action item no. 37—Signage needed for the men’s and women’s restroom entrances at the Eastside Center. The temporary signs have been placed on the restroom doors at the Eastside Center. As soon as the permanent plaques that are on back order are received, the signs will be posted.

Vice Chair R. Buchanan reported she received a complaint regarding the Sage Café restrooms. Currently, the restrooms are designated as unisex restrooms which can be used by either gender. Women have complained about the urine on the floor and seats. Vice Chair R. Buchanan stated she received several requests from the participants to separate the restrooms by gender. M. Garcia stated he will follow up with the recommendation. He stated the only reason the restrooms have not been separated by gender is because the four single occupancy restrooms can accommodate the amount of people that attend the center. However, if it is becoming an issue, he does not see a problem making the designation. He will follow up with this recommendation.

Action item no. 38—Status on the recruitment of a Tai Chi instructor. The Tai Chi classes are scheduled to continue through June 30, 2019. M. Garcia is working with New Mexico State University to recruit a certified instructor to teach Tai Chi classes after July 1, 2019. Secretary J. Chavarria, Member-at-Large, suggested polling the class participants to see how many are interested in attending the classes after June 30, 2019. She informed the Board the Branigan Library offers free Tai Chi classes to the public. Many of the class participants are attending these classes. M. Garcia will follow up with the Library Administrator to see if it is feasible to add another Tai Chi class at either the Eastside or Munson Centers.

Action item no. 39—Status on the internet connection for the TV monitor located in the Munson Center hallway. M. Garcia reported the monitor will be removed.

Action item no. 44 - Status on the floor remodeling project at the Benavidez Center. M. Garcia reported the Benavidez Center floor renovation project has been completed.

M. Garcia announced a new project is scheduled to begin at Munson Center. A wall will be constructed in the Munson Center dining room. The area behind the wall will be used to store the dining room tables and chairs. The project is expected to be completed by June 30, 2019.

S. Saldana announced the Munson Center and Eastside Center congregate meals program survey results are available for review upon request. Overall, the results were very favorable. A total of 51 surveys were returned.

X. UPDATES: Vice Chair R. Buchanan inquired on the status of the recruitment process to replace Ryan Steinmetz, Network Volunteer Coordinator. M. Garcia informed the Board he is still in the process of hiring a volunteer coordinator. Interviews will be scheduled during the week of June 17, 2019. Until a replacement has been named, Jordan, a summer intern, will be assisting M. Garcia with the duties and responsibilities of the volunteer coordinator position. Jordan is very innovative.
Senior Programs Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2019
Page 5

Sharlene Wittern, District 3 Representative, reported she is aware of the issue with congregate meals program participants staying in the dining room after the dining room closes. She has explained to the participants that they need to be out of the dining room by 1:00 p.m. She stated the issue is with the clock that has the incorrect time. M. Garcia will follow up.

Gabriel Montalvo, Munson Center Representative, reported the maintenance personnel needs to check the men’s restroom located on the north side of the building for cleanliness on a regular basis. S. Saldana stated a sign will be posted asking the public to please use the wastebasket. S. Saldana stated many times the resources are available, but people choose not to use them.

R. Alvarez reported there were several complaints regarding a gentleman who came into the center wearing an undershirt/tank top. Chris Gomez, Case Manager, followed up on the complaint. S. Saldana stated Senior Programs does not have a dress code for seniors. R. Alvarez expressed frustration with the security guard at the Eastside Center. He stated the security guard does not like to confront people who are violating the rules. The security guard has never taken any action when people park inappropriately, solicit or beg for money. Secretary J. Chavarria reported there is a woman at the Eastside Center who is soliciting, bringing homemade food into the center, and acting inappropriately. The security guard witnessed the incident but took no action. Th women refuses to follow the policies. M. Garcia stated Senior Programs is aware of the situation and has addressed the concerns with the parties involved. S. Saldana will follow up with the security guard’s supervisor.

Dr. A. Chavarria informed the Board AARP is interested in providing information at the centers about AARP’s Driver Safety Courses. The classes are scheduled to begin in the Fall. S. Saldana requested a copy of the documents to be handed out for her review and approval. It was announced AARP will sponsor a health fair in October 2019. Location to be announced.

Vice Chair R. Buchanan recommended placing a mailbox on the outside of the Sage Café facility. S. Saldana stated due to safety concerns an outside mailbox is not recommended at this time. All incoming and outgoing mail should be delivered/picked up by the City of Las Cruces’ interoffice mail system and should be delivered when the facility is open.

R. Alvarez reported the issue with the piano at the Eastside Center has been resolved. He reported Jaime Mendoza has taken it upon himself to plant flowers, vegetables, and herbs in the Eastside Center Community Garden. He maintains the garden, and it looks beautiful. R. Alvarez suggested J. Mendoza be recognized by placing a photo in the monthly newsletter.

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Dr. A. Chavarria moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Submitted,

Judy Chavarria, Secretary

Toni Flores, Recording Secretary