

Tuolumne County Commission on Aging
Minutes of Meeting on Monday, October 11, 2021, 1:30 pm
**** Meeting held via Zoom ****

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm by Chair Rex Whisnand.
2. **Introductions: Commissioners Present:** Rex Whisnand, Malcolm Carden, Ted Michaud, Matthew Rose, John Featherstone, Serenity McQuirter, Laurie Sylwester, Cathie Peacock, Zandra Bietz, Syd Robenseifner, Melody Brothby. **Absent:** Carleton Penwell, Kristi Conforti, Tyler Summersett, Jim Grinnell, Catherine Driver, Charlotte Frazier (LOA).
BOS/County Staff Representatives: David Goldemberg, District 1 Supervisor, Jaron Brandon, District 5 Supervisor, Jason Terry, County Administrator's Office, Tim Gillespie, TCTC, Dore Bietz, TC OES.
Guests: Janet Kwiatkowski, Michele Roberts, Sandy Nall, Cara Smith, Sue Petersen, Linelle Marshall, Tomas Hernandez, Jackie Sample, Bob Swan, all from Groveland.
3. **Public Comments:** Non-Commissioners are welcome to speak about senior-related issues NOT listed on this agenda (2 minutes maximum per speaker) – no discussion, please. None.
4. **Minutes:** Minutes of the September 13, 2021 meeting were approved with the correction that Jim Grinnell was present.
5. **Chair's Report:** Rex welcomed everyone, particularly the guests from Groveland.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Cathie Peacock – the Commission's balance with the County is unchanged at \$9,475.
7. **Corresponding Secretary's Report:** No report.
8. **BOS Report:** Supervisor Goldemberg mentioned that the Covid situation is improving slightly, but that the risks are still out there, and we shouldn't lower our guard too quickly. He also mentioned that Fire Safety is still a major concern, and that the County Fire Safety Committee is working on a new countywide Vegetation Ordinance. He also mentioned that interviews are being conducted for the new Homeless Coordinator positions. The position is being split into two separate functions, one of which will be an administrative person. Jason Terry mentioned that County Counsel has stated that all County Commissions need to pass a motion each month confirming whether the next meeting will be in person or by teleconferencing. Hybrid meetings are no longer allowed.
9. **Guest Speaker – Dore Bietz, County Office of Emergency Services Coordinator.** Dore presented a slide show describing the activities of OES and how it interfaced with other County and State bodies in the event of an emergency. She has been in the position for 10 months, during which time the Groveland evacuation during the Moccasin Fire took place, and then the recent Washington fire. She is also closely involved with the new County Fire Safety Committee. There were numerous questions for her from the Groveland participants concerning evacuation procedures, in particular whether the Moccasin Fire had prompted any changes in procedures. Syd spoke about the lessons learned by the Groveland population as a result of the evacuation,

and how they could be applied to future emergencies. There was also concern over egress routes from Groveland, especially Pine Mountain Lake, and whether some of the alternative routes were suitable for large vehicles such as RVs and trailers. (Note: the consultants hired by TCTC will be looking at this issue as part of their study).

10. Committee Reports on 2021 Goals:

Transportation Committee: No report.

- 1. Report unmet needs in Senior Transportation to SSTAC (Social Services Transportation Advisory Council) and County.**
- 2. Review a program of driver assistance to Seniors utilizing taxi and public transportation services.**

Community Relations Committee: Nothing to report.

- 3. Continue to review viability of Senior Volunteer Event.**
- 4. Continue to review viability of Centenarian Luncheon.**
- 5. Have a Commissioner attend BOS (Board of Supervisors) meetings as needed and speak on Senior topics during Public Comment or on Agenda.**
- 6. Attend Senior community meetings & events and publicize COA (Commission on Aging). Report back to COA as part of regular Agenda item.**
- 7. Investigate establishment of County-wide network to provide services to seniors via phone, online, newspapers, etc.**

Legislative Committee: Per Rex, lots going on statewide with the Senior Legislature. The Capitol in Sacramento will be closed for up to a year for a major remodel. There is a series of Zoom meetings about to happen which will cover legislative objectives for the coming year.

- 8. Continue to monitor State and Federal Legislation as it impacts Seniors, and report to BOS as needed.**
- 9. Report periodically on the status of Senior Legislature proposals, and highlight items which will directly impact the County.**
- 10. Study California Master Plan for Aging and make recommendations to BOS and other agencies.**

Governance Committee: No report.

- 11. Continue to recruit new members to fill openings and maintain a “bench strength”.**

12. **Develop an ongoing succession process for the COA.**

13. **Review COA ByLaws and present recommended changes to COA.**

Education Committee: Minutes of the last meeting have been submitted to the Commission. Malcolm mentioned the Senior Homeless interviews held by Cathie at Interfaith, and how the Ed Comm felt they should be presented to the Board of Supervisors. Homeowners insurance and evacuation issues were also discussed at the meeting, and an update on Covid vaccination rates was given. The guest speaker in November will be Tyler Summersett, now part of the new Blue Zone team in the County.

14. **Review information from applicable organizations and agencies on Senior homelessness, and report concerns to BOS.**

15. **Investigate impact of Homeowners Insurance situation on Senior homeowners and renters.**

16. **Review current County plans for emergency evacuation of Seniors and make recommendations as appropriate.**

17. **Develop list of relevant speakers for March – November meetings, to include all Supervisors.** Tyler Summersett, now with the Blue Zone team, will give an update in November. No speaker in December.

18. **Monitor and report on Covid-19 vaccination situation in County as it applies to Seniors.**

Senior Expo Task Force:

19. **Investigate putting on 10th Senior Expo later in year.** No change in prognosis.

11. Unfinished Business:

Status of Commission Membership – Serenity McQuirter, the new ED of the Senior Center, has applied for membership in the Commission. Tim Gillespie from TCTC is also planning on applying. This will leave two vacancies on the Commission. One Commissioner (Charlotte) is still on Leave of Absence.

Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will present a report in November.

12. New Business: The presentation of the Senior Homeless interview data to the BOS mentioned in the Education Committee report above was discussed, and it was agreed that such a presentation would be worthwhile. Jason Terry will look into getting a slot at one of the BOS meetings in the near future.

13. Public Comment: Syd asked about the possible opening of the Little House in Groveland. There are no County plans to raise the restrictions on meetings at this point.

14. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3 pm.

Next COA Executive Committee Meeting – Monday, November 1, 2021, 2 pm on Zoom.

Next COA Meeting – Monday, November 8, 2021, 1.30 pm. on Zoom.