

Tuolumne County Commission on Aging
Minutes of Meeting on Monday, November 8, 2021, 1:30 pm
**** Meeting held via Zoom ****

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:36 pm by Chair Rex Whisnand.
2. **Introductions: Commissioners Present:** Rex Whisnand, Malcolm Carden, Matthew Rose, John Featherstone, Serenity McQuirter, Laurie Sylwester, Tim Gillespie, Kristi Conforti, Tyler Summersett, Cathie Peacock, Syd Robenseifner, Catherine Driver, Melody Brotby. **Absent:** Carleton Penwell, Ted Michaud, Jim Grinnell, Zandra Bietz, Charlotte Frazier (LOA). **BOS/County Staff Representatives:** David Goldemberg, District 1 Supervisor, Jason Terry, County Administrator's Office.
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 October 11, 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.
5. **Chair's Report:** Rex welcomed everyone. He will cover more ground in his Legislative Committee report.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Cathie Peacock – the Commission's balance with the County is now \$9,816.77, including interest recently applied to the balance. Malcolm's check for Zoom fees reimbursement of \$300 is in process.
7. **Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Nothing to report.
8. **BOS Report:** Supervisor Goldemberg thanked Cathie for her patience is rescheduling her presentation to the BOS. He mentioned that the Covid situation is not improving as quickly as he would like, and that the risks are still out there, so we shouldn't lower our guard too quickly. Jason Terry mentioned that both Serenity and Tim's applications to join the COA were approved at the last BOS meeting. There is one other application pending, that of Jacqueline Sample, from Groveland. The BOS will also be meeting shortly to discuss the allocation of more Federal ARP funds, specifically to Community Grants and the proposed County gift card program for small businesses, which will essentially double the value of gift cards bought at local (small) businesses. Laurie urged everyone to support small businesses this Holiday season.
9. **Guest Speakers –** Tyler and Kristi took off their COA hats and presented an update on the local Blue Zone Project, which is being sponsored by Adventist Health. The initial management team, of 5 persons including both of them, is now in place, and a plan is being developed on how to structure the project. The initial push is to get 700 of the Real Age surveys completed by local residents, which will provide base point data for future comparisons. There was some concern expressed by Commissioners over the privacy of the data submitted, but we were assured that it was all aggregated and presented anonymously to team members. The team will be working over the coming months with local organizations and stakeholders to involve as many entities as possible, which will help make the project a success.

10. Committee Reports on 2021 Goals:

Transportation Committee: Tim reported that the bus routes are gradually opening back up, and are still free for the time being, including Dial-a-Ride.

- 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: Cathie reported that there will be an article in the UD shortly about this year's Centenarian event, which will be different from the luncheons of previous years due to the Covid situation. Certificates will be delivered in person to the recipient's residence by COA members and local celebrities, including the CHP.

- 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, the recent CSL Zoom meetings were very well attended, and extremely productive. More than 50 potential bills were presented for consideration, and a top 10 list of bills that the CSL will support was approved by the end of the three days.

- 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: Malcolm mentioned that the Committee did not meet during October. There is nothing to report on the Homeless goal, other than interviews for the two open County positions are now taking place. The Fire Safety Committee has been involved with the Fire Siren project in the County, and proposed a moratorium on new siren activations until a plan could be developed to integrate the installations into the current County OES structure. This was approved last week by the BOS. Malcolm also mentioned the new AB38 requirements which came into effect a couple of months ago, and which now require that properties be inspected by CalFire for fire safety compliance, with a report being presented to the buyer before a sale closes. Also, there are rumblings about a potentially large insurance premium increase from the California Fair Plan this coming year. Per Darrin Grossi, the consultants hired by TCTC to look at local evacuation routes and procedures are on board and are reviewing existing information. They hope to have a report completed by next Fall.

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. No speaker in December, at this point.

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. The Expo will not be possible for several months at least, due to the Covid situation.

11. Unfinished Business:

Nominating Committee. The development of a slate of officers for next year is still a work in progress. Candidates for Vice Chair and Corresponding Secretary have been identified, but Chair, Treasurer and Recording Secretary are still up in the air, although two commissioners have announced their willingness to serve in some capacity. A further report will be made at the next Executive Committee meeting in December.

12. New Business: Jason Terry talked about the new Brown Act requirement regarding teleconferencing during the Covid Emergency. In a nutshell, we will need to pass a resolution

every month if we intend to conduct the next meeting on Zoom. Each resolution is good for 30 days only. After some discussion, the remaining 11 Commissioners voted unanimously for such a resolution to be approved for the next 30 day period. Laurie proposed, Syd seconded.

13. Public Comment: None.

14. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2.54 pm.

Next COA Executive Committee Meeting – Monday, December 5, 2021, 2 pm on Zoom.

Next COA Meeting – Monday, December 12, 2021, 1.30 pm. on Zoom.