

COMMITTEE: EXECUTIVE	JANUARY 26, 2015	LOCATION: 10 NORTH SAN PEDRO ROAD, ROOM 1012
PRESENT: Teri Dowling, Jim Monson, Lee Pullen, Ellie Bloch, Sybil Boutilier, Allan Bortel, Chris Asimos		
EXCUSED: Jody Timms ABSENT: Salamah Locks		
RECORDER: Gary Lara		
Next Meeting: 10 N. San Pedro Rd., Conference Room 1012 - Monday, February 23, 2015		

MINUTES SUMMARY	ACTION TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE PARTY
<p><u>Agenda</u></p> <p>Chair Monson called the meeting to order at 1:02p.m. The agenda was approved with modification to the order of items.</p> <p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The November 17, 2014 minutes were approved as written.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>Chair's Report</u></p> <p>Monson discussed the following items:</p>	

MINUTES SUMMARY

**ACTION
TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE
PARTY**

Monson and Commissioner Ralph Marchese met with Steve Kinsey (District 4) from the Marin County Board of Supervisors. The Commission on Aging has expressed interest on becoming involved in the Health and Human Services director recruitment that will take place due to the retirement of Dr. Larry Meredith. Per Vicki Martinez in Human Resources, they are currently putting together an interview panel. Monson also reiterated the fact to Supervisor Kinsey that having a “champion” from the Board of Supervisors to address the issues of older adults is a good idea. Monson will continue to follow up on this item.

The next issue of the Great Age Newsletter is in the works. Commissioner Marianne Gontarz-York has written a book review for the next issue. Books reviews will be an ongoing feature in the newsletter.

The planning committee for the Healthy Aging Symposuim has secured Dr. Matthew Willis, Public Health Officer, as the key note speaker. The theme for this year’s program which will be held on Thursday, May 14th is “Living in an Age-Friendly Marin.” The remainder of the program is still in the planning stages. If you have any ideas you would like to contribute, please contact Chair Monson or Ana Bagtas at the office of Aging and Adult Services.

Director’s Report

Area Agency on Aging Director Lee Pullen noted he will be reaching out to Board of Supervisors President Katie Rice, in the hopes of securing her attendance at the symposium to present a proclamation for Older Americans Month.

Last week, there was a community presentation for ADRC hosted by Eli Gelardin from Marin Center for Independent Living and Lee Pullen from Marin County Aging and Adult Services. This event was facilitated by consultant Wendy Todd. The meeting lasted two hours and was well attended by various community partners throughout the county. There is a lot of interest and support for this project in an effort to bring aging and disability together.

Larry Meredith, Director of Health and Human Services hosted a conversation with the focus on artist colony housing. This was a four hour dialogue with the objective of discussing how to replicate the Southern California model known as “Engage” which offers housing units for artists. The vision of organizer Tim Carpenter is to make aging a beginning by providing life-enhancing programs to low-income seniors living in affordable

MINUTES SUMMARY

**ACTION
TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE
PARTY**

apartment communities to give them the opportunity to continue to grow intellectually, creatively and emotionally.

At the Federal level, the Older Americans Act is going through the process for reauthorization.

Action Item:

1) Media Representative Appointment:

Chair Monson mentioned having more public relations for activities of the commission. At the last meeting, Monson asked commissioners to apply for a public relations point person with the county's media team. One application was received from Commissioner Marianne Gontarz-York. Marianne's background makes her an excellent candidate for this position. Commissioner Ellie Bloch had also offered to serve if no one else came forward.

Monson motioned to approve Marianne Gontarz-York as the public relations point person with Commissioner Sylbil Boutilier serving as the alternate. Motion made and passed. Area Agency on Aging Director Lee Pullen mentioned the public relations committee will be meeting soon.

Discussion Items:

1) Planning for General Meeting Locations for FY 2015-16:

This discussion began with Area Agency on Aging Director Lee Pullen commenting about the dual role of his position which requires attendance at two different State associations that conduct meetings on the second Thursday which is the same time as the General meeting of the Commission on Aging. Due to this fact, he is not able to maintain a presence at the State meetings and asked the Executive Committee about introducing the option of changing the General meeting date to another day of the week. This item will be tabled for future discussion.

MINUTES SUMMARY

**ACTION
TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE
PARTY**

The Executive Committee reviewed the proposed list of venues for the General Commission meetings for fiscal year 2015-2016. Chair Monson commented we have an arrangement to meet every other year at the San Geronimo Valley Community Center in lieu of the Dance Palace. No other venue changes were mentioned. Secretary Gary Lara will begin to secure the locations for the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Bloch asked for a consensus on how the other executives felt about the monthly General Commission meetings; specifically, what would they like to see done differently to make the meetings more fun and innovative. Another idea would be to have a commissioner appreciation event. Pullen interjected something could be planned in conjunction with the General Commission meeting that will include the Legislative update during the next fiscal year. A survey would seem appropriate to gather information about commissioner's thoughts. Subject tabled for the next Executive meeting.

2) Retreat Follow-up:

Due to time constraints, this subject will be tabled until the meeting of February 23rd.

Committee Reports

Health and Nutrition: Commissioner Asimos reported the committee's objectives are moving along. During their meeting of January 15th, the group discussed compiling a tool kit for end of life issues. The tool kit would be distributed thru community outreach. The committee needs to look at ways to fund this project. This was not an official meeting since the group did not have a quorum.

Commissioner Dowling asked if the HHS Media Team could do a public relations outreach. The topic of end of life issues is the presentation topic for the June 2015 General Commission meeting.

Housing and Transportation: Commissioner Bortel noted the committee met recently on January 21st. The meeting featured two presentations; junior style housing second units promoting single rooms in people's homes. This saves thousands of dollars in permits if you have a second unit. These dwellings have separate entrances.

The second presentation at the committee's meeting focused on the whole spectrum of chair lifts; what you can do when you are unable to reach the 2nd floor in your home. The first preference should be an elevator. There

MINUTES SUMMARY

**ACTION
TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE
PARTY**

are currently 15 companies operating in this market.

Commissioner Boutilier asked to talk about home sharing options. She also cautioned not to promote the chair lift organization as a stand alone option. The commission should maintain a neutral position.

Commissioner Bortel informed the committee their next goal is to go to Marin City to give a talk about transportation. Bortel noted that Marin Transit's Mobility Manager, Paul Branson, is retiring next week. His last meeting will be the consortium scheduled for next Monday. Jon Gaffney will be the interim point person at Marin Transit.

At a recent Marin Transit meeting, Bortel made a pitch for more taxis. He would like to see some kind of task force. A report indicates the need is growing 6 to 7%; while funding is growing at 3%.

Commissioner Boutilier expressed a concern about Catch A Ride and Paratransit not being able to accommodate people with permanent walkers. Bortel mentioned Tiburon Village currently gives rides to people with walkers.

Commissioner Asimos noted there needs to be a paid coordinator for the assisted ride program. At some point it would be a full-time city position. An RFP will be issued to hire someone to manage the GAP Grants additional matching funds of \$15K that has been received from the city. Discretionary funding from the supervisors is available as well. Asimos noted the time table for this grant runs thru June of 2016 and they are continuing to raise funds. The goal is to establish a permanent fund.

Commissioner Bloch informed the executives that Liz Darby is working on housing issues.

Last Wednesday Bloch and Bortel went to the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on CSL for the 35th anniversary. Bloch reported it was a nice event which gave the community, legislators and board aides a chance to get to know each other. About 60 people attended.

Commissioner Bortel mentioned he is working with AAA Program Coordinator Michele McCabe to write letters of support for senior and other affordable housing. Bortel will provide an update at the next Executive meeting.

Legislative Task Force: Commissioner Bloch noted that State lawmakers introduced a bill to allow doctors to

MINUTES SUMMARY

**ACTION
TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE
PARTY**

prescribe a lethal dose of drugs to terminally ill people who want to die, aka "Death with Dignity" Senate Bill 128. More information to come.

Bloch also mentioned her proposed bill that would require a 6 month notice prior to eviction of an older adult. She noted that rents are going down in the South Bay; however, lawmakers are reluctant to pick up any bills that would support this.

Boutilier stated she was concerned about what is going on in Washington. The House of Representatives has passed a rule stating that they would not take up any social security bill that would augment cutting Social Security Disability (SSDI) and further commented this rule will create a crisis in social security. This will be a problem next year in 2016 when the disability fund runs out of money. Boutilier will send an email to the Legislative Task Force outlining the issue further.

Commissioner Dowling inquired about more constraints on transportation fundng which would allow for free transportation for children and older adults; similar to the program operated in San Francisco.

AAA Director Pullen commented this is a new year to take an opportunity to support city councils. The Legislative Task Force will review their guidelines. AAA Program Coordinator Michele McCabe will be sending an update.

- **Planning Committee:** Commissioner Boutilier was not present at the meeting of January 6th due to illness. No report was given.

New Business

In regard to the meeting date and time for the Executive Committee, Commissioner Boutilier requested this be a "New Business" item to discuss the best meeting time and day for commissioners. Subject tabled for the next Executive meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, February 23, 2015.