

COMMITTEE: GENERAL	DATE: JULY 11, 2019	LOCATION: TIBURON TOWN HALL CHAMBERS
PRESENT: Asimos, Bloch, Bortel, Boutilier, Bradley, Brilliant, Dowling, Gunn, Kwentus, Locks, López, Marchese, Safran, Silverman, Timms, Turner, Weingarten, Zeller		
EXCUSED: Hagerty, Lamorte		
VACANT: City of Novato, District 2, District 4		
RECORDER: Mandy Reyes		
NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 5, 2019, Albert J. Boro Center (Pickleweed)		

MINUTE SUMMARY	ACTION TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE PARTY
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<p>Call to Order Chair Marchese called the meeting to order at 11:29 a.m.</p> <p>Approval of Agenda The agenda of July 11, 2019 was approved as written.</p> <p>Approval of the Minutes The minutes of June 7, 2019 were approved as written.</p>	
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Open Time for Public Expression:

Sue Kwentus, speaking as a member of the public, publicly recognized Salamah Locks for her work as Chairperson of the Commission on Aging by presenting her with a certificate from the County of Marin Commission on Aging.

Dana Van Gorder, Executive Director of The Spahr Center – they operate a senior program for LGBTQ seniors that consists of discussion groups and social activities. They are currently in the planning phase for additional programs they will be doing in the future. The Spahr Center works with LGBTQ seniors who have profound issues and come from places of discrimination or isolation. They do a lot of work to address this isolation. They have been having conversations with Aging and Adult Social Services about the need to do more cultural competency training in the county’s care facilities, retirement homes and other institutional settings where many LGBTQ seniors may be deeply in the closet and not sure if they are living a supportive environment. Many are afraid to go to physicians and other service providers to get the care that they need because they aren’t sure how they will be received. The Spahr Center looks forward to working with all of you to increase the level of support and programs that serve this community.

Linda Jackson, Aging Action Initiative – AAI has two new co-chairs, Teri Dowling and Michele Javid. The Detect and Connect program has now trained 11 people to put on this workshop. It’s free and she invites the commission to consider having the workshop or sponsoring the workshop. It’s three hours long but it’s a fabulous program about how to connect with people who may be acting confused and how to help them get connected to resources.

They received a small grant from Marin Community Foundation for their Junior Accessory workshop in the fall.

They will have a booth at the senior fair.

AAI is speaking up about the unsupportable PG&E program to shut down the county for 3 – 7 days when people depend on electricity and refrigeration for their medication, to get around, to have the home healthcare they need. They will be asking PG&E if they have thought about any other options? Regarding affordable housing for seniors; rents are going up. MOC is watching and getting involved. It may take state action to keep these units affordable.

Chair's Report: Chair Marchese reported on the following:

- Thanked everyone for vote of confidence.
- Marchese and several others have been meeting to examine the commission in its current form and status. They have solicited opinions and comments about the functioning of the commission and its goals and objectives. They are in the process of assembling the information and will produce a report that will be distributed to everyone for review and comments. The intention is not to make any radical changes but engage in a performance improvement program.
- Marchese suggests the commission's performance could be helped if the commissioners read and understand more deeply the Brown Act and bylaws.
- Marchese will be engaging with Lee Pullen and Jenay Cottrell about the department's budget.
- The Marin County Strategic Plan needs to be flushed out.
- The media, community and outreach need to be increased and formalized.
- There is the potential to add another committee.
- The reporting relationships with the committee will be considered in order not to run out of time.
- Advocacy at the State and County level is something that should be maximized.
- Reminder that we are at the beginning of a 4-year plan. The annual plan that gets revisited should incorporate the initiatives and work of the committees.
- Marchese met with Marin General Hospital on the mental health issue and they are interested in developing their program and expressed an interest in soliciting the engagement of the commission in shaping this program.

All Commissioners

Vice Chair's Report: Chair López reported on the following:

- Marchese, Kwentus and López have been meeting on a regular basis and will continue to do so to support each one of you and the commission.
- López will be reaching out to each of the committee chairs to talk about the committee structures and how they've been running, etc. She will be doing this over the next month to see what can be done to support the chairs of the committee and if any changes need to be made.

Election of the Nominating Committee:

Marchese noted this is an open solicitation for people to express interest in serving on the Nominating Committee. Serving on this committee does not take too much time. Please notify any member of the Executive Committee to express your interest.

Action Items:

Kwentus asked for a vote on the date for the retreat. Choices were Friday, Sept. 6 or Friday, Sept. 13. September 6th won by a vote of 6 to 5. It was decided that a half day will be the format plan for now.

Committee Reports:

Health and Nutrition (Asimos):

- The committee will be meeting Monday, July 15 at 1:00 p.m. to brainstorm their next program that will focus on a certain aspect of ageism to be announced later.

Housing and Transportation (Marchese):

- Marchese noted that the committee needs a chairperson.
- Marchese invited Ron Brown, the former foreperson for the Grand Jury to the last meeting to discuss his knowledge from the Grand Jury and help shape the policies of the Commission on Aging.
- Ron Brown noted that the response and recommendations of the court on reports can be seen online at the Marin County Civil Grand Jury's website. Brown noted that the more a request is coherently written, the more likely the jury will pick it up.
- If you have any suggestions for a topic for the Grand Jury, please bring to the Executive Committee.
- Marin Transit is partnering with Technology for Life which teaches older adults on how to use their website.

Legislative: (Co-Chair Boutilier):

- The Legislative Committee met yesterday. Spreadsheet of bills the committee is watching has been handed out. There are four categories they are watching: Master Plan on Aging at the State Level, Elder Justice, Housing and Healthcare.
- The committee decided to write a letter in support of SB 5 which is to establish affordable housing and community development investment program.

(Co-Chair Bloch):

- Anne Warren from CSL joined their meeting yesterday. A sheet that was passed to the commissioners is a list of the bills that are moving forward and being supported by CSL.
- Bloch spent 3 hours listening to the senate housing committee and noted there are many bills that the committee are watching.

Age- Friendly Update (Timms):

- For those who aren't familiar, the Age-Friendly movement is an international initiative begun by the World Health Organization. 9 of the 11 cities in Marin have the designation of Age-Friendly. They meet twice a month.
- Novato now has a member to represent them for Age-Friendly.
- Timms has been going to a lot of fire meetings on behalf of Age-Friendly.

Director's Report (Pullen):

- With regards to Age-Friendly, the county has completed the survey, conducted department head interviews, and had focus groups with a couple more to go. Next month, their consultant will be going into the report writing and recommendation phase. The aim is to get this in front of the Board of Supervisors near the end of October.
- It was a good budget year for the first time in many years. There will be funding for the Senior Nutrition Program, to support staffing in the Ombudsman program, and to support Aging and Disability Resource Connection which is a partnership we have with the Marin Center for Independent Living.

- It was great to see Spahr Center and everyone here. If you would like to join any of the committees, you are welcome to join as a member of the public.
- In the Adult Protective Services (APS) and In-Home Support Services (IHSS) programs, we encounter many older adults with mental health issues. We have hired Kelly Soto, a Licensed Mental Health Practitioner, who will be helping these individuals in their home.

New Business:

Commissioner Bortel – The Senior Fair has official dropped the word ‘Information’ from its title. The Marin Senior Fair is Oct. 23. There will be a JADU booth and speakers on different topics. If you want to speak for a fee of \$100, you can sign up.

Commissioner Updates:

López (District 1):

- Attended the Housing Summit where there were 35 organizations who participated. López would like to invite Next Gen Marin to come and talk to us about what they are doing.

Boutilier (City of Sausalito):

- Sausalito has been meeting to do a county-wide waiver for accessible changes. They are waiting to hear back on their final draft. At that point they have asked that they go in front of the BOS.
- Sausalito has put some exercise equipment into Martin Luther King Park. They will be having a soft-opening soon.

Weingarten (District 2):

- In San Anselmo this weekend there will be a meeting on evacuation for the residents.
- Later in the month there will be a clean-up of the Redwood Road area.
- Age-Friendly San Anselmo has developed a logo. They have a website that has gone up and they will get a certificate this month.

Turner (District 3):

- She is back as the acting general manager for the Community Service District which is why she has been missing in action. Commissioner Turner is glad to be here today.

Marchese (District 4):

- There is a vacancy on the commission for District 4 – there are three candidates.

Locks (City of San Rafael):

- The tree and plant removal for San Rafael goes through the middle of July.
- San Rafael has movies in the park all of July and through August.
- JCC. Programs – salsa dancing classes, line dancing classes and other programs.
- San Rafael Age-Friendly – grant money was spent on hiring for training and workshops, they secured a consultant for preparation of city-wide survey which has been completed, hired an analyst to analyze and prepare the data, updated website, amongst other things.
- Planning a splash celebration highlighting those who are 100+

Bortel (CSL): Pass

Kwentus (City of Tiburon): Pass

Gunn (District 5):

- Gunn attended the Board of Supervisor’s meeting on Tuesday to promote today’s presentation. It was nice to see the interaction as part of the meeting between Jason Weber, Matthew Hymel and each member of the BOS in terms of their reaction of the Wildfire Report by the Grand Jury. It’s a real opportunity for us to use this to identify seniors who are falling through the cracks.

Dowling (City of Ross):

- In September, AARP will present the plaque stating they are an Age-Friendly city.
- Ross Valley will be doing an evacuation exercise this month.

Silverman (District 3):

- Had a wonderful meeting with Dana and Nancy of the Spahr Center last weekend.
- A focus group is coming up at Tam Valley on Aug. 19.

Asimos (District 1):

- The San Rafael Fire Department was able to get a grant for Wildfire prevention and they came out and assessed the properties for older adults and low income at no cost.
- There is a PG&E meeting this evening for San Rafael residents on the effects of outages; 7p.m. at city council

Timms (City of Fairfax):

- Spahr runs a discussion group for seniors. If you know any LGBTQ community members who would be interesting in attending, let them know.
- She will offer for commissioners a consciousness raising group on the issues of ageism. If interested, let her know. It will be a pilot program and meetings will be once per month.
- Victory Village, the 53-unit affordable housing units under construction, will open in April 2020.
- Bennett House is going to go through a major renovation that they are excited about.
- Age-Friendly Fairfax had their forum in June and discussed transportation options.

Bradley (Belvedere): The city of Belvedere is working on what to do about fire so that no one is left out.

Brilliant (City of Mill Valley):

- She is advocating as a new vegetation management role and talking to city council people about trees that need to be removed in which seniors don't have the funds to pay for it. The city has been sympathetic and is looking at various financial vehicles.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be on September 5, 2019, Albert J. Boro Center (Pickleweed)