

CITY OF LAS CRUCES

1 The following are the summary minutes of the **Senior Programs Advisory Board** meeting
2 held on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 9:05 a.m. at the Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite,
3 Las Cruces, New Mexico.

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5 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

6 Chair Jo Ann Rodriguez-Haught, Frank O'Brien Papen Center Representative
7 Vice-Chair Gabriel Montalvo, Munson Center Representative
8 Secretary Mona Bedale, District 2 Representative
9 Judy Chavarria, Member-at-Large
10 Yolanda Knodle, District 4 Representative
11 Steve Gaskell, District 3 Representative
12 Belinda Soto, Henry Benavidez Recreation Center Representative
13 David Hernandez, Eastside Center Representative
14

15 **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

16 Larry Altamirano, Sage Café Senior Center Representative
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18 **GUESTS PRESENT:**

19 Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Deputy Director
20 Chris Behrens, Recreation Facility Manager
21 Patricia Bertoldo, Senior Programs Kitchen Supervisor
22 Roger Bishop, Nutrition Program Manager
23 Toni Flores, Recording Secretary
24

25 I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Jo Ann Rodriguez-Haught, Frank O'Brien Papen Center
26 Representative, called the Senior Programs Advisory Board meeting to order at 9:05
27 a.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite
28 Street, Las Cruces, NM.
29

30 II. **ROLL CALL:** Roll call was taken, and a quorum was ascertained.
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32 III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chair Gabriel
33 Montalvo.
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35 IV. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** The Board observed a moment of silence.
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37 V. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** A motion was made by Judy Chavarria, Member-at-
38 Large, and seconded by Secretary Mona Bedale, District 2 Representative, to approve
39 the January 11, 2024, Senior Programs Advisory Board meeting agenda as presented.
40 Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion passed.
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42 VI. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Board Members had no conflict of interest with any item
43 on the agenda.
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45 VII. **INTRODUCTIONS:** None.
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47 VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

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2 **IX. ACTION ITEMS:**
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4 **A. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 14, 2023 SENIOR PROGRAMS ADVISORY**
5 **BOARD MEETING MINUTES:** A motion was made by J. Chavarria and
6 seconded by Vice Chair G. Montalvo to approve the December 14, 2023,
7 Senior Programs Advisory Board meeting minutes as presented. The vote was
8 called: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion passed.
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10 **B. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SENIOR PROGRAMS' FEES AND**
11 **CHARGES FOR FY24:** A motion was made by J. Chavarria and seconded by
12 Yolanda Knodle, District 4 Representative, to approve the Senior Programs
13 Fees and Charges for FY24 as presented. The vote was called: 10 Ayes, 0
14 Nays. Motion passed.
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16 **C. REPORT FROM THE NOMINATIONS' COMMITTEE FOR 2024 BOARD**
17 **OFFICERS:** M. Bedale Nominations' Committee Chair reported the
18 Committee is interested in submitting the following slate of Board officers for
19 2024 for their consideration:
20

21 Chair - Gabriel Montalvo, Munson Center Representative.

22 Vice-Chair - Belinda Soto, Benavidez Center Representative.

23 Secretary - Judy Chavarria, Member at Large.
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25 **D. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2024:** Chair J. Rodriguez-Haught
26 opened the floor for nominations. There being none. Belinda Soto, Benavidez
27 Center Representative, moved to approve the Nominations Committee's slate
28 of officers as presented consisting of Chair-Gabriel Montalvo, Vice-Chair
29 Belinda Soto, and Secretary-Judy Chavarria. J. Chavarria seconded the
30 motion. Vote 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, Motion unanimously passed.
31

32 **X. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
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34 **A. SENIOR PROGRAMS DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT - SONIA SALDANA:**
35 Meals. Two reports were distributed to the Board. The first report is a
36 congregate donations meals report for October, November, and December
37 2023. The report shows the number of participants and the donations per
38 month. The total per center does include the guests. The guests are reported
39 but are not part of the goal they have every year to collect donations. Towards
40 the bottom of the report, it shows the number of participants that ate lunch,
41 divided by the amount of money collected, and shows the average for Munson
42 Center of \$0.65 a meal, Benavidez averages \$1.12, Eastside \$0.76, Sage Café
43 \$1.73, and Papen \$1.20. Board members inquired if it was allowed to bring a
44 child to the center to eat a meal. S. Saldana stated if the child accompanies a
45 senior to the center and they pay the regular meal price of \$7.50. If the child
46 is disabled and the senior individual is the caregiver, the child can be qualified
47 to eat a meal for a suggested donation of \$2.50 but they must first meet with a

1 case manager to determine eligibility. Seniors with caretakers, not related to
2 them, cannot be qualified. Bringing outside food into the dining room is not
3 allowed, but special accommodations can be made for caregivers that wish to
4 eat their lunch at the center by contacting a case manager. The second sheet
5 is the home delivered meal donations report. Home delivered meals are
6 cooked at Benavidez and Eastside Centers. Currently, there are 12 home
7 delivered meal routes. The report shows the monthly donation amount of
8 \$6,984.20, the meals served were 28,140, which averages to \$0.25 a meal.
9 The drivers carry donation boxes for homebound client donations. The
10 suggested donation for the Home Delivered Meals program is \$3.00.

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12 Guest speakers. There was discussion about the guest speakers and getting
13 them on the agenda or having to amend the agenda if the guest speaker was
14 unable to attend. Suggestion to have guest speakers at the beginning of the
15 agenda and continue with other business thereafter. There was consensus
16 from the Board members to being flexible with guest speakers and their time.
17 The Board members will accommodate the guest speakers at the time that they
18 arrive to provide the presentation(s)/training and will be respectful of their time.
19 A suggestion for a guest speaker was made by J. Chavarria. She
20 recommended a presentation on brain health by Jody Crowley from NMSU be
21 scheduled at the centers.

22
23 Art class. C. Behrens announced the art classes have been filled. B. Soto
24 stated she has received complaints about the time. Participants have said the
25 classes are too early. The timeslots will be revisited for the next session.
26 Overall, people are happy with the classes. These classes are being run in six-
27 week sessions. There will be a two-week registration period for the next class.
28 This is the second activity that is being taught by a contractor. Both activities
29 are doing well. Classes are posted on Facebook, Instagram, City's website,
30 newsletter, and the Senior Programs activity calendar. The staff is working on
31 adding exercise, yoga, and dance classes.

32
33 Saturday dances. Although people pushed for the Saturday dances, the
34 attendance has been very low. The best attendance was the Halloween
35 Dance, which had a live band. C. Behrens stated there is a possibility of having
36 quarterly Saturday dances with a live band. Staff are evaluating this option due
37 to low attendance. Beginning in February 2024 Senior Programs will be
38 switching to Thursday afternoon dances from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., from now
39 until the end of the fiscal year. The afternoon dances will be rotated between
40 all the facilities. The Sage Café Senior Center will be excluded from the rotation
41 scheduled due to the limited square footage of the building. Karaoke is
42 currently being held at Munson Center. If there is enough interest at the other
43 centers, then Karaoke can be expanded to the other centers.

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1 **XI. BOARD UPDATES:**

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3 Board members stated the food has improved at the Benavidez and Frank O'Brien
4 Papen Centers. There have been no complaints.

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6 Yolanda Knodle, District 4 Representative, stated there were no knives at the at the
7 Benavidez Center on January 10, 2024. Staff reiterated seconds are not permitted. If
8 Center participants are still hungry after eating their meal, they can talk to one of the
9 case managers, and they will provide resources.

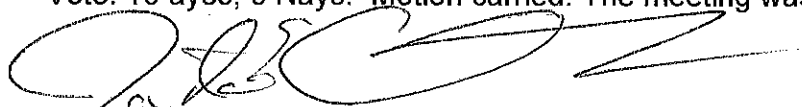
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11 Steve Gaskell, District 1 Representative, stated the Christmas lunch was wonderful.
12 There are new people coming to the Munson Center.

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14 There was a request from AARP for a Senior Programs' representative to conduct a
15 presentation on programs and services provided by Senior Programs, at AARP's next
16 meeting scheduled for January 17, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church in
17 the fellowship hall. Approximately, 20 people will be attending.

18
19 David Hernandez, Eastside Center Representative, stated there is a senior participant
20 that continually grabs other people's food from their trays. D. Hernandez discussed
21 this issue with the individual. S. Saldana asked that it be reported to staff so they can
22 address the issue. It was also reported that if anyone is interested in volunteering to
23 clean tables, set up chairs, etc., they need to register with the Network.

24
25 It was announced some kitchen staff are being rotated between centers. The City
26 Inspector General, Charles Tucker, will be at the Benavidez Center from 2:00-5:00
27 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday, and Sage the second and fourth Thursday of
28 every month to be able to meet with anyone from the public. This year the New Mexico
29 Conference on Aging was conducted virtually at Munson Center. Two rooms were
30 reserved for the Conference at Munson Center, but there was no one in attendance.
31 Senior Program's will consider sending Board members to this year's conference.
32 New Board members will be given priority.

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34 **XII. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Y. Knodle, seconded by B. Soto.
35 Vote: 10 ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

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39 Judy Chavarria, Secretary