

City of Las Cruces[®]

2 The following are the summary minutes of the **Senior Programs Advisory Board** meeting held
4 on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Benavidez Recreation Center, 1045 McClure
Road, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

6 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chair Judy Chavarria, Member-at-Large
8 Secretary Jo Ann Rodriguez-Haught, Frank O'Brien Papen Center Representative
Dr. Abel L. Chavarria, District 1 Representative
10 Sharlene Wittern, District 3 Representative
Diane Turo, District 6 Representative
12 Gabriel Montalvo, Munson Center Representative

14 **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Vice Chair Rudy Alvarez, Eastside Center Representative
16 Mona Bedale, District 2 Representative
Rick Jackson, District 4 Representative
18 Manuel Contreras, District 5 Representative
Cheryl Young, Benavidez Center Representative
20 James Mitchell, Sage Café Center Representative

22 **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Lori Garcia-Palacios, Acting Senior Programs Administrator
24 Chris Behrens, Recreation Facility Manager
Christine Rivera, City Clerk
26 Toni Flores, Recording Secretary

28 **I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Judy Chavarria, Member-at-Large, called the Senior Programs'
Advisory Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at the Benavidez
30 Recreation Center, 1045 McClure Road, Las Cruces, NM.

32 **II. ROLL CALL:** Roll call was taken, and a quorum was ascertained.

34 **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led Dr. Abel Chavarria, District
1 Representative.
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38 **IV. MOMENT OF SILENCE:** The Board observed a moment of silence.

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Dr. A. Chavarria, moved to approve the January 13,
40 2022, Senior Programs Advisory Board Meeting agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Gabe
Montalvo, Munson Center Representative. Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried unanimously.
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VI. CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Board members had no conflict of interest with any item of
44 business on the agenda.

46 **VII. INTRODUCTIONS:** Christine Rivera, City of Las Cruces City Clerk, was introduced and
welcomed.
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50 **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:** C. Rivera stated her goal this year was to attend Board meetings and
check in to make sure everything was running smoothly. She was available to answer any
52 questions from the Board.

54 **IX. ACTION ITEM(S):** Chair J. Chavarria requested a motion for approval of the Board meeting
minutes. Dr. A. Chavarria moved to approve the December 9, 2021 Senior Programs Advisory
56 Board meeting minutes as presented. Gabriel Montalvo, Munson Center Representative,
seconded the motion. Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays; Motion carried.

58 The following Board members were appointed to serve on the Nominations Committee for the
2022 election of Board officers: J. Chavarria, Dr. A. Chavarria, and Dianne Turo. The
60 Nominations Committee will present a slate of officers for 2022 for consideration at the next Board
meeting.

62 **X. DISCUSSION ITEMS - SENIOR PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Lori
64 Garcia-Palacios, Acting Senior Programs Administrator, reported Sonia Saldana, Senior
Programs Administrator, is out of the office for an undetermined length of time. L. Garcia-Palacios
66 announced she is currently overseeing Senior Programs until Ms. Saldana's return.

68 L. Garcia-Palacios reported Long Term Care staff continue to track the number of people that
70 have not received the COVID-19 vaccination. The Case Managers continue to provide resources
and assistance to register and schedule seniors for the COVID-19 vaccinations and/or booster.
72 She stated most of the individuals the Case Managers have contacted have received the COVID-
19 vaccination and the booster. There are very few people who remain unvaccinated for various
74 reasons, but the numbers are low.

76 Chris Behrens, Recreation Facility Manager, stated that due to customer complaints about the
lack of sanitization taking place in the facilities, Senior Programs has contracted with an outside
78 vendor to provide custodial services during the lunch hour at the three open centers. The
custodians will primarily focus on sanitizing the highly frequented areas of each of the facilities
such as the dining rooms, lobby areas, and restrooms. Currently, a custodian has been placed at
80 Munson Center. The contractor is in the process of hiring two more custodians for the Benavidez
and Eastside Centers. In the meantime, volunteers are currently ensuring tables, chairs, and high
82 touched areas in the dining rooms are cleaned and sanitized daily at the two centers. Discussion
followed regarding the challenge of finding applicants to fill the positions. Dr. A. Chavarria
84 suggested advertising the vacant four-hour positions at the centers. There may be some seniors
who may be interested in the positions since they attend the centers on a regular basis. C.
86 Behrens stated interested candidates can contact ITSQUEST directly or submit an on-line
application. L. Garcia-Palacios stated the Long-Term Care Case Managers are available to assist
88 with the on-line application process, if needed. C. Behrens announced Munson Center currently
does not have computers available for the public's use. However, public computers are available
90 at the Branigan Library.

92 **XI. CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:** Sharlene Wittern, District 3 Representative,
inquired approximately how many of the individuals coming to the three centers remain
94 unvaccinated. She stated she did not want names, as she knew this information was confidential,
but wanted to know the number of people attending the centers that were unvaccinated. L.
96 Garcia-Palacios stated although the Long-Term Care staff track the number of people that are

98 not vaccinated, she could not provide this information because the Case Managers contact and
100 track many people that do not attend the centers. The number of unvaccinated people that they
102 track include those individuals who do not attend the centers. As a reminder, the City of Las
104 Cruces is not requiring anyone entering the centers to disclose or show proof of vaccination status
in order to participate in the programs and activities. However, senior participants can ask the
vaccination status of those sitting around them. It is up to that individual if they want to divulge
that information or not.

106 Dr. A. Chavarria stated he was very disappointed with the meal served on Tuesday, December
14, 2021. The Green Chile Meat Stew was more like a soup. The stew was tasteless. His
serving contained only four pieces of potatoes, very little meat, no flavor, and no spices. After
108 making several phone calls to complain about the meal to the Senior Programs Administrative
office, the Eastside kitchen staff, and Roger Bishop, Nutrition Program Services Manager, the
110 quality of the food significantly improved.

112 He also wanted to know why coffee and tea were not being provided to the participants. People
are missing their coffee and/or tea. C. Behrens stated at this time, it is uncertain when the
114 Keyboard Café will reopen. Currently, it is not the appropriate time to reinstate this activity. He
stated there will be changes with the operation of the Keyboard Cafe when it reopens. All
116 volunteers will be required to attend food safety training and obtain the appropriate food handling
certification to ensure that food safety standards are being met.


118 Chair J. Chavarria stated there are several Board members that have missed several consecutive
120 Board meetings. She stressed the importance of attending Board meetings on a regular basis.
She will be contacting those Board members that have missed several consecutive Board
122 meetings and requesting they make a decision about attending the Board meetings on a regular
basis or consider resigning from the Board. A letter will also be sent to those Board members.

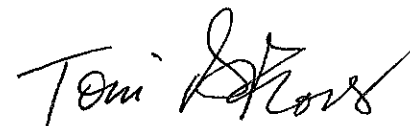
124 **XII. CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:**

126 Chair Judy Chavarria announced the next Board meeting will be held at the Eastside Community
128 Center, 310 N. Tornillo Street, Las Cruces, NM.

130 **XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** Dr. A. Chavarria moved to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:48 a.m. G.
132 Montalvo seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

134 Submitted,

136 
Jo Ann Rodriguez-Haught, Secretary


Toni Flores, Recording Secretary