

Tuolumne County Commission on Aging
Minutes of Meeting on Monday, March 14, 2022, 1:30 pm
**** Meeting held via Zoom ****

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:37 pm by Chair Cathie Peacock.
2. **Introductions: Commissioners Present:** Malcolm Carden, Ted Michaud, John Featherstone, Tim Gillespie, Kristi Conforti, Catherine Driver, Jackie Sample, Cathie Peacock, Paula Burklin, Melody Brotby, Zandra Bietz. **Absent:** Serenity McQuirter, Carleton Penwell, Laurie Sylwester. **BOS/County Staff Representatives:** David Goldemberg, District 1, Liz Peterson, County Administration.
Guests: Kristin Milhoff, Area 12, Harry Ohls.
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 February, 2022 COA meeting were approved unanimously as submitted.
5. **Chair’s Report:** Cathie welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves. Feedback has been received and distributed from Supervisors Haff and Brandon on suggested COA priorities for the coming year, also from Commissioner Laurie Sylwester. She will pursue the other Supervisors for comments, and we will discuss at the next meeting. Holding in-person meetings does not seem practical as yet – the Senior Center is still closed, and they have had some staff changes, including the Executive Director, so it could be June at the earliest before the facility is available.
6. **Treasurer’s Report:** No change in our balance with the County. The new membership badges have been ordered and will need to be paid for.
7. **Corresponding Secretary’s Report:** “Thank you” cards have been sent to Matthew Rose, Jason Terry and Jim Grinnell for their services to the COA.
8. **County Report:** David mentioned that Covid is still around, and we shouldn’t relax too much just yet. He has spent time on the Homeless issue in the past month, and thanked people for their participation. BOS is in the process of setting goals for the coming year, will be discussed at meeting tomorrow. Liz Peterson was welcomed back as the County’s liaison with the COA. Malcolm asked David about plans for the old hospital in Sonora. David said the County is trying to reduce its use of rented space around town, and had identified departments such as Behavioral Health that could be moved out of rented space and into the Hospital, at a potential saving of \$500,000 annually. Some renovations to the building will be needed. Having more departments that offer services to the community in one location would be a major benefit to clients. In response to a question about the 211 national service, Cathie mentioned that ATCAA used to have an Infonet which acted as a central point for clients, and also that the Sonora Area Foundation was favorable to funding ideas that would develop the Hospital site. Kristin mentioned that Area 12 has a system in place already to direct client queries to the right agency, and that 211 was expensive to operate, as it was 24/7.

9. **Blue Zone Community Fair, April 9.** This will be 2-5 pm at the Fairgrounds. There are already 30 or so vendors signed up who will offer “healthy lifestyle” choices of different kinds. We discussed how we might participate, given our lack of publicity materials and a popup tent. Handing out a survey of elder needs was suggested. Volunteers are needed, perhaps we could help out in that area. Malcolm will follow up with Kristi.

10. **Unfinished Business:**

Commission Membership Status: Jim Grinnell has resigned since our last meeting, and Paula Burklin has joined the Commission, so we are still at 14 members, with 6 vacancies. One new applicant, Harry Ohls, is in the works, and a replacement for Serenity McQuirter, who has resigned from the Senior Center, will also be forthcoming. Two other possible candidates were also mentioned by Commissioners.

Committees and Goals for 2022: Committee formation is proceeding, and most Commissioners have committed to one or more of the Standing Committees. Committees should meet as soon as is possible, and start work on their goals for the year. We will review goals at the April meeting.

Form 700 reminder: Malcolm reminded everyone that a **signed, original** Form 700 is due to Debi Bautista at the County by April 1. The URL for the current year’s form (please don’t use an old one!) is <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/Form700.html>.

11. **New Business:**

Resolution to confirm Paula Burklin’s induction as a COA Commissioner. Since Paula has already been approved as a Commission member by the BOS, this motion was waived, and Paula was welcomed to the Commission.

Resolution on Teleconferencing - A resolution covering Meetings by Teleconferencing for the next 30 days to comply with the Brown Act was passed, 8 votes for, two against, by the 10 Commissioners present at the time. See the discussion on in-person meetings under Chair’s Report above.

12. **Public Comment:** Liz will send copies of all COA applications to us before a BOS vote, going forward.

13. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3.13 pm.

Next COA Executive Committee Meeting – Monday, April 4, 2022, 2 pm, on Zoom or in person.

Next COA Meeting – Monday, April 11, 2022, 1.30 pm, on Zoom.