

**Tuolumne County Commission on Aging**  
**Minutes of Meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021, 1:30 pm**  
**\*\* Meeting held via Zoom \*\***

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm by Chair Rex Whisnand.
2. **Introductions: Commissioners Present:** Rex Whisnand, Malcolm Carden, Carleton Penwell, Ted Michaud, Tyler Summersett, Matthew Rose, Kristi Conforti, Catherine Driver, John Featherstone, Laurie Sylwester, Syd Robenseifner, Melody Brotby. **Absent:** Cathie Peacock, Charlotte Frazier (LOA), Zandra Bietz.  
**BOS/County Staff Representatives:** Jaron Brandon, District 5 Supervisor, Jason Terry, County Administrator's Office, Tim Gillespie, TCTC.  
**Guests:** Quincy Yaley, Tuolumne County Community Development Department, Carol Ornelas, Dan Penick, Marisela Fuller and Krystal Sarranaz, all from Visionary Home Builders, Inc.
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 August 9, 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.
5. **Chair's Report:** Rex mentioned that the Senior Center has a new ED, Serenity McQuirter, replacing Kristi, who is moving to the Blue Zone Project Team, along with Tyler.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Cathie Peacock – no report.
7. **Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Nothing to report.
8. **BOS Report:** In Supervisor Goldemberg's absence, Jason Terry mentioned that the final County Budget for the year will be brought up for a vote at the September 21 BOS Meeting. He also mentioned a new County portal on their website for budget information. Supervisor Brandon mentioned that there will be a post mortem on the Washington fire and the response to it. He also mentioned that new affordable housing projects may qualify for a housing density bonus. The Waste Management contract for the County is coming up for renewal, feedback would be appreciated. The first part of the Covid dollars allocated by the Federal Government will be received soon. More discussion on the Covid vaccine mandate for County workers will be held at the next BOS meeting. A new Homeless Coordinator will be hired by the County shortly. Numerous other small items were discussed following questions by Commissioners.
9. **Committee Reports on 2021 Goals:**  
  
**Transportation Committee:** Tyler mentioned that he and Tim Gillespie are discussing the handover of the Transportation Committee going forward. Tim was urged to join the Commission to replace Tyler.
  1. **Report unmet needs in Senior Transportation to SSTAC (Social Services Transportation Advisory Council) and County.**

2. **Review a program of driver assistance to Seniors utilizing taxi and public transportation services.**

**Community Relations Committee:** No report.

3. **Continue to review viability of Senior Volunteer Event.**
4. **Continue to review viability of Centenarian Luncheon.**
5. **Have a Commissioner attend BOS (Board of Supervisors) meetings as needed and speak on Senior topics during Public Comment or on Agenda.**
6. **Attend Senior community meetings & events and publicize COA (Commission on Aging). Report back to COA as part of regular Agenda item.**
7. **Investigate establishment of County-wide network to provide services to seniors via phone, online, newspapers, etc.**

**Legislative Committee:** Per Rex, lots going on statewide with the Senior Legislature. The Capitol in Sacramento will be closed for up to a year for a major remodel.

8. **Continue to monitor State and Federal Legislation as it impacts Seniors, and report to BOS as needed.**
9. **Report periodically on the status of Senior Legislature proposals, and highlight items which will directly impact the County.**
10. **Study California Master Plan for Aging and make recommendations to BOS and other agencies.**

**Governance Committee:** Nothing to report.

11. **Continue to recruit new members to fill openings and maintain a “bench strength”.**
12. **Develop an ongoing succession process for the COA.**
13. **Review COA ByLaws and present recommended changes to COA.**

**Education Committee:** Malcolm summarized the Committee’s most recent meeting, minutes have been distributed. Major points were the recommendation to actualize the interview summaries with senior homeless people that Cathie Peacock had carried out. Matthew’s group at AH has been through and summarized the information more rigorously. Kellae Brown, the County Homelessness Coordinator, has resigned, and a replacement is being sought. John Featherstone gave a reprise of the Adventist Housing Community’s evacuation during the Washington fire, which was an exemplary success. Malcolm expressed his concerns over the impact on local insurance rates of the fires in the State this year.

14. **Review information from applicable organizations and agencies on Senior homelessness, and report concerns to BOS.**
15. **Investigate impact of Homeowners Insurance situation on Senior homeowners and renters.**
16. **Review current County plans for emergency evacuation of Seniors and make recommendations as appropriate.**
17. **Develop list of relevant speakers for March – November meetings, to include all Supervisors.** Dore Bietz from County OES will be the speaker in October, Tyler in November.
18. **Monitor and report on Covid-19 vaccination situation in County as it applies to Seniors.**

**Senior Expo Task Force:**

19. **Investigate putting on 10<sup>th</sup> Senior Expo later in year.** No change in prognosis.
10. **Guest Speakers:** Carol Ornelas and her team from Visionary Home Builders presented an overview of the planned affordable housing development proposed for a parcel of land currently owned by Adventist Health at the corner of Greenley and Cabezut in Sonora. 74 rental units of 1,2 and 3 bed units, mostly at subsidized rates, plus a community center housing a Head Start program and other amenities. Ground breaking expected in 2023 if all goes well.
11. **Unfinished Business:**

**Status of Commission Membership** –4 vacancies on the Commission at present. One Commissioner (Charlotte) is on Leave of Absence,

**Groveland Meeting.** We agreed after some deliberation that a face to face meeting in Groveland in October would not be viable under the current pandemic situation. The meeting will be held on Zoom, and Syd will gather up as many Groveland people as possible to attend. Dore Bietz from County OES will be the speaker.

**Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee will present a report in November.
12. **New Business:** None.
13. **Public Comment:** None.
14. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2.45 pm.

**Next COA Executive Committee Meeting – Monday, October 4, 2021, 2 pm on Zoom.**

**Next COA Meeting – Monday, October 11, 2021, 1.30 pm. on Zoom.**