The following are summary minutes of the Senior Programs Advisory Board Meeting held on January 10, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Eastside Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Chair Cheryl De Young, Benavidez Center Representative
Vice Chair Rayla Buchanan, Sage Café Senior Center Representative
Secretary Judy Chavarria, Member-at-Large
Sharlene Wittern, District 3 Representative
Etta Kaufman, District 6 Representative
Rudy Alvarez, Eastside Center Representative
Jo Ann Rodriguez-Haught, Frank O'Brien Papen Center Representative
Gabriel Montalvo, Munson Center Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Chair Dr. Abel L. Chavarria, District 1 Representative
Marilu Darby, District 2 Representative
Rick Jackson, District 4 Representative
Manuel Contreras, District 5 Representative

GUESTS PRESENT:
Michael Garcia, Recreation Facility Manager
Azucena Saucedo, Assistant Management Analyst
Liz Ambrose, Senior Programs Dance Committee Member
Toni Flores, Recording Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Cheryl De Young, Benavidez Center Representative, called the Senior Programs' Advisory Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 10, 2019, at Eastside Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo Street, Las Cruces, NM.

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Gabriel Montalvo, Munson Center Representative, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. MOMENT OF SILENCE: A moment of silence was observed.

V. CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Board members and staff present had no conflict of interest with any item of business on the agenda.

VI. INTRODUCTIONS: Liz Ambrose, Senior Programs' Dance Committee Member, was introduced and welcomed. L. Ambrose reported she has been a member of the dance committee for over a year. The committee has been coordinating the dances held at Munson Center on the third Thursday and the first Saturday of the month. The dances, held at Munson Center, have been very successful. The Thursday afternoon dances have an average attendance of 40 to 60 participants. She stated the committee was recently informed the dances are being rotated to the different centers. The Christmas dance was held at the Eastside Center, which upset several people because the dance floor was too small. As a result of the rotation, the Munson Center participants are left without entertainment specifically the individuals that utilize the Dial-a-Ride transportation service. They have no way to get to the other centers to attend the monthly dances.
The seniors look forward to the dances. She stated the committee members met with Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Administrator, to discuss their concerns about the rotation of the dances. S. Saldana explained this is a pilot program that was approved by the Board and runs through June 30, 2019. At the end of June the pilot program will be evaluated, and a final determination will be made to either continue or discontinue the rotation of the Thursday afternoon dances. No changes are expected to be made to the Saturday evening dances. The dances will continue to be held at Munson Center on the first Saturday of each month. L. Ambrose extended an invitation to the Board to attend the monthly dances. Music is provided by DJ Ray Lopez, who does an outstanding job.

M. Garcia stated there were approximately 70 people in attendance at the Christmas dance held on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at the Eastside Center. It was a successful event, but it was crowded, because the tables set up along the perimeter of the room reduced the dance floor space. He reminded Board members the dances are open to the public. It was recommended square tables be utilized instead of the round tables to help with the limited space. Secretary J. Chavarria stated everyone in attendance enjoyed the dance. There is an entry fee of $3.00 per person for the dances which includes snacks, refreshments, and door prizes. Board members recommended Senior Programs’ staff coordinate with Dial-a-Ride to provide transportation services to seniors to and from the dances. M. Garcia will follow up with Transit.

After further discussion, Vice Chair R. Buchanan voiced her support for the continuation of the pilot program. She stated the rotation of the Thursday afternoon dances to the various Senior Programs’ sites will allow other seniors from the specific site centers to attend the dances. There was consensus from the Board members.

VII. ACTION ITEM(S)—APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Secretary Judy Chavarria, Member-at-Large, moved to approve the December 13, 2018 Senior Programs Advisory Board meeting minutes as presented. Vice Chair Rayla Buchanan, Sage Café Representative, seconded the motion. Vote: 8 Ayes; 0 Nays. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEM(S): Rudy Alvarez, Eastside Center Representative, inquired about the "A Matter of Balance" Program to be held at the Eastside Center. M. Garcia explained the "A Matter of Balance" program is an educational fall prevention program for seniors. It provides strategies to reduce the risk of falls and includes workout sessions that help to increase strength and balance so that seniors can remain safe in their own home. These class were offered at the Munson Center in English and became very popular. For this reason, the classes will be offered in Spanish at the Eastside Center. The class time and date have not been finalized. There is a possibility that the classes will expand to the other centers and will be offered in English and Spanish. M. Garcia reported Tai Chi classes have also started at the Eastside Center. Tai Chi involves slow, controlled and low-impact movements. This form of exercise helps to improve strength, flexibility, and range of motion. It helps with balance and coordination. The Tai Chi classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursdays from 8:15-9:45 a.m. in the dining room of the Eastside Center.

Board members reviewed the January 2019 list of pending work orders and issues of concern. Michael Garcia, Recreation Manager, provided an update on the following action items:
Item #5—Resurfacing of the sidewalk at the Eastside Center. M. Garcia reported Facilities is moving forward with the resurfacing of the sidewalk. He stated it is a top priority, because it is a safety hazard for seniors. There are also plans to repaint the lines of the parking spaces of the Eastside and Munson Centers. Secretary J. Chavarria stated people have difficulty seeing the lines and are taking up two parking spaces. This is a problem particularly during the lunch program. She added the dip in the parking lot is also an issue that needs to be addressed.

S. Wittern added there were complaints at Munson Center about some people parking diagonally and taking up two parking spaces. M. Garcia stated these parking issues are a safety hazard and should be reported to staff immediately so staff can address the issues. S. Wittern stated several men were complaining about electric hand dryers in the Munson Center restrooms located on the southside of the building. They preferred the regular paper towels instead of the electric hand dryers. They did not feel the hand dryers were sterile enough and the hand dryers did not have enough pressure to dry their hands. M. Garcia will discuss these concerns with Facilities and explore the possibility of replacing the electric hand dryers with regular paper towels. M. Garcia stated it is very difficult for the custodian to keep the restrooms clean at Munson Center. He reported Facilities is considering replacing the toilet paper dispensers with more user-friendly dispensers.

#69—Recommendation to collaborate with Parks and Recreation to construct community gardens at Frank O’Brien Papen and Benavidez Recreation Centers. M Garcia reported at this time, the Parks and Recreation Department has no plans to expand or create any additional community gardens.

R. Buchanan requested item #69 be removed from the work order list, because it is a mute issue. There was consensus from the Board to remove the item from the Work Order list.

M. Garcia announced the Parks and Recreation Department will be holding a public meeting to discuss the Parks and Recreation Program master plan on January 23, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Benavidez Recreation Center. Board members were encouraged to attend the public meeting to voice their support for the addition of community gardens at the Frank O’Brien and Benavidez Centers. Board members requested information about the community garden plots being leased by Parks and Recreation Department. M. Garcia will follow up with the request.

IX. UPDATES: Jo Ann Rodriguez-Haught reported the participants of the beading class are enjoying the classes. M. Garcia stated Senior Programs continues to recruit for an instructor to teach the beading classes.

Secretary J. Chavarria expressed concern about the noise level in the lobby of Eastside Center. The piano is being played too loud. It was so loud a new participant and the hostess were having problems communicating with each. R. Alvarez stated he was happy someone else brought the piano issue to light, because he first brought this issue up three months ago and nothing has been done about it. M. Garcia stated there is not enough room at the Eastside Center to relocate the piano. However, anyone interested in playing the piano must first contact M. Garcia. Time has been scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to play music. Flyers will be posted to provide advance notice to the participants of the centers.
R. Alvarez stated the other issue is the door that slams shut. M. Garcia stated the work order has been placed with Facilities to repair the door.

E. Kaufman thanked Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Administrator, for coordinating the tours to the different Senior Programs' facilities. She stated as a new member of the Board, she was unaware of the different facilities, services and programs Senior Programs offers at the various sites. At the previous meeting E. Kaufman inquired about the number of seniors residing in the community. She conducted research and provided the following statistical information: according to the 2017 Census, there are 215,000 people residing in Dona Ana county. Of the 215,000, 13 percent are 65 years of age and older, 66.4 percent are Hispanic, and 20.6 percent are mixed. The City of Las Cruces has a population of 101,712. Of that amount, 14.8 percent are over 65 years of age and 58 percent are Hispanic.

Secretary J. Chavarria commended Jean Harris, Office Assistant, on a job well done. Secretary J. Chavarria's friend forgot his musical instrument at the Sage Cafe. Jean Harris found the musical instrument and secured it overnight. The next morning Secretary J. Chavarria's friend was there at 9:00 a.m. to claim the musical instrument and was very pleased that J. Harris had found it and secured it. J. Harris was commended for going above and beyond to ensure the instrument was secured until it was claimed by its owner the next day.

R. Buchanan inquired if there is a cell phone use policy in place for the participants of the centers. She stated there is a couple who attend Sage Cafe on a daily basis. The couple set their cell phones on speaker mode, which are loud and distracting. It causes a disturbance for the participants of the center, and it makes it very difficult for J. Harris to hear on the telephone and/or tend to the customers at the front desk. M. Garcia stated this type of issue is covered in the Senior Programs' code of conduct and needs to be brought to the staff's attention so it can be addressed as soon as possible. R. Buchanan inquired on the status of the expansion of the Sage Cafe Senior Center facility. Azucena Saucedo, Assistant Management Analyst, stated Senior Programs started the capital outlay request for funding process. She stated the funding request is for a multipurpose room for the Sage Cafe and a fitness room for the Munson Centers.

Chair C. De Young stated staff should review the menus more closely. On the coldest day of the month in January a cold meal was served. This is when a hot meal should have been served, because for some seniors, this may be the only hot meal they receive. J. Rodriguez-Haught commented the chocolate chip cookie she was served contained very few chocolate chips. Staff will pass the information on to the Food Services Supervisor.

The next Board meeting will be held February 14, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite Street, Las Cruces, NM.

X. ADJOURNMENT: S. Wittern moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Submitted,

Judy Chavarria, Secretary
Toni Flores, Recording Secretary