



SENIOR AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
In-Person Meeting: 12:00pm
Location: Park de la Cruz Community Center
3901 Landis St., San Diego, CA 92105

Chair: Gwenmarie Hilleary | **Vice Chair:** Juan Sotelo | **Secretary:** Michelle Matter |
Legislative Chair: JB Robinson

Board Members: Antoinette Alioto, Marissa Feliciano, Jacqueline Jackson, William Peetoom, Robert Prath, Mary Scott Knoll, Rosemary White Pope

Public Comment on an Agenda Item: If you wish to address the Board on an item for today's agenda, please complete and submit a speaker form before the Board hears the agenda item. You will be called at the time the item is heard.

Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda: You may address the Board on any matter not listed on today's agenda. Please complete and submit a speaker form. However, California's open meeting laws do not permit the Board to discuss or take any action on the matter at today's meeting. At its discretion, the Board may add the item to a future meeting agenda or refer the matter to staff or committee. Individuals' comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. At the discretion of the Chair, if a large number of people wish to speak on the same item, comments may be limited to a set period of time per item.

Written Comment

In lieu of in-person attendance, members of the public may submit their comments using a webform <https://www.sandiego.gov/boards-and-commissions/public-comment>. If using the webform, indicate the agenda item number you wish to submit a comment for. Instructions for word limitations and deadlines are noted on the webform. On the webform, members of the public should select Senior Affairs Advisory Board.

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Gwenmarie Hilleary, Juan Sotelo, JB Robinson, Antoinette Alioto, Marissa Feliciano, Jacqueline Jackson, William Peetoom, Robert Prath, Mary Scott Knoll, Rosemary White Pope

Absent: Michelle Matter

Item 4: Review and approval of February 19, 2025, draft minutes.

Rosemary White Pope made a motion to approve the February 19, 2025 minutes, Juan Sotelo seconded the motion. All 10 board members present voted in favor to pass the motion.

Item 2: Information Item: Library Department updates relating to Age Friendly SD-

Presentation by Richard Cooper from the San Diego Public Library

- Richard is new and currently still assessing opportunities for seniors. Updating their website.
- OliverMcMillan I CAN! Center provides services, programs, resources, and professional assistance for persons with accessibility needs in a safe and comfortable environment. Located on the First Floor of Central Library (330 Park Blvd.)
 - o racooper@sandiego.gov, 619-238-6665
 - o Support for children with disabilities also exists in the children's library at Central Library
 - o 10 computers with assistive technology, e-readers, large print books and publications, Braille books, digital talking books, video relay service, enlarged screens, etc.
 - o Homebound services: for qualified participants, this program delivers books to their homes. Books also delivered and returned via USPS mail for free (limited to large print books, audio books, or braille books).
 - o Services animals.
 - o Events, like the Lori Bell Trio
- Questions from the Board:
 - o Any transportation support?
 - o Any outreach efforts to the community to let them know about resources and programs?
 - Flyers, podcast, managers show up at outreach events
 - o Are ADA services only provided at Central and not at other branches?
 - Yes that's correct. There is a lack of patrons at other branches. Currently conducting an inventory of equipment at other branches and finding that much of that equipment was removed in recent years.
 - o Any intergenerational programs or events?
 - Not yet, open to launching new initiatives.

Item 3: Non-Agenda Public Comment

None.

Item 5: City Staff Liaison Report

- Future Board Presentations
 - o Mary Scott Knoll's presentation on Fair Housing Act (FHA) will be moved to the April board meeting.
 - o Disaster Preparedness presentation from a County representative for the June meeting. Juan would like to hear about homebound seniors. JB would like to hear how congregate living facilities (RCFEs) are prepared for this.
 - o Kristi is working with Chida to find someone to present on transportation or housing for the May meeting.
- Jose Ysea, City Communications staff, is here today to discuss other ways to do outreach.
 - o Internal newsletter for City staff, insider.org website.

- Podcast idea, possibly have kids working with seniors to create a podcast. The City can help promote this through city sources.
- This would be a great project for SDSU Center for Excellence (note to talk to Michelle Matter).
- Jose will keep thinking on these.

Item 6: Officer Reports

President Report:

- Gwenmarie inquired about board members' progress to complete the Brown Act trainings. Not all board members have it completed yet. She expressed the importance of completing these by our April 16 board meeting.
- Memorial Senior Center There will be a senior center grand opening on March 28 in Logan Heights. 610 S. 30th St., San Diego, CA 92113.
- Board Member bios are compiled. Kristi Fenick passed out printed copies for the board for final review before posting on SAAB website.

Legislative Officer Report – JB

- We have a proposed ordinance that the Council will be voting on next week, affecting grocery coupons. Any location that sells food items (including grocery stores, convenience stores), coupons must be offered at the same discount in both print and digital versions to increase equity.
- Bob Prath provided more context about the origins of this ordinance, citing Sean Elo-Rivera's experience and state law in New Jersey. He will attend the press conference at City Hall next week as well as City Council to support this new ordinance.
- Proposed new committee will assess the impact of cost of living on older adults. Sharing this information as an FYI.
- The proactive work we do as an Advisory Board is so important, the shaping of initiatives and policy is where we'll make the most impact as a Board.
- Gwenmarie suggests we can write a letter of support for Elo-Rivera to support this ordinance. We can also help ensure the right senior advocates are informed about this to help with implementation and accountability. How do we want to be involved with this initiative?
- Bob Prath left at 1:12pm
- JB: recommend we show councilmembers we are here and tuned into these issues.
- G: If this is approved, the Board is interested in learning how they plan to implement this. What are their next steps to implement and enforce this new policy.
- MSK: I'd be happy to show our support in a letter.
- Letter of support for legislation Elo-Rivera is putting forth to council on March 24th. Letter of support to be drafted by JB and reviewed by staff (Kristi Fenick). Letter will be signed by Gwenmarie and sent on behalf of SAAB. JB will write the initial draft and submit to Gwenmarie and Kristi by 3/20/25.
- **Motion made by Mary Scott Knoll, seconded by William Peetoom. All 9 board members present voted in favor, the motion passed at 1:18pm.**

- JB also commented on the proposed budget cuts and how that may negatively impact seniors in San Diego.
 - Mary Scott Knoll shared that a senior being denied access due to a service animal not meeting certain requirements is as an example of a violation of the FHA.
 - Free virtual conference coming up on 4/2/25, Fair Housing For Our Future, Laws & Litigation Conference. Mary passed out a flyer with more info on the event. It's a free virtual conference.
- Rosemary White Pope and Jacqueline Jackson left at 1:30pm.

Item 7: Action: SAAB Introduction Letter

- Final letter presented by Gwenmarie with all edits from previous board meeting.
- **JB motioned to approve the SAAB introduction letter as is. Juan seconded the motion. All 7 members present voted in favor to approve the letter and move forward with sending out to provided list of organizations.**
- Gwenmarie reviewed the list of organizations to share this with and called upon the board to recommend other organizations to add to this list.

Item 8: Action: Response to "what is SAAB working on?"

- Short statement provided for board members to review to use as a response to what SAAB is working on in 2025. We will review each year.
- **JB makes motion to approve, Juan seconded the motion. All 7 board members present voted in favor to approve the statement. Motion passes unanimously.**

Item 10: Boards comments, announcements, topics for future SAAB meetings

- Gwenmarie: Live Well San Diego (County of San Diego) just released the [2024 Aging Roadmap Annual Update](#). She called upon everyone to review this, paying particular attention to the Aging Roadmap Action Plan at the end of the document.
 - o 23% of SD's population is 55+ and will increase to 31% soon.

Item 9: Action: Next SAAB meeting location

- Gwenmarie proposed for the April meeting to occur at the Park de la Cruz location. All board members present concurred, no opposition.

Item 11: Adjournment

- **Gwenmarie calls to adjourn the board meeting. JB motions to adjourn, Juan seconded, all members in favor, passes unanimously.**
- Meeting adjourned at 1:48pm.

Next Meeting: April 16, 2025

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