



SENIOR AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

WEDNESDAY, October 15, 2025

In Person Meeting: 12:00 Noon

Location: **Park de la Cruz Community Center**
3901 Landis Street, San Diego, 92105

Agenda

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Gwenmarie Hilleary called the Senior Affairs Advisory Board meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

Gwenmarie Hilleary, Jacqueline Jackson, Michelle Matter, William Peetoom, Bob Prath, JB Robinson, and Rosemary White Pope present.

Antoinette Alioto, Marissa Feliciano, and Mary Scott Knoll absent.

Item 2: Non-Agenda Public Comment

Gwenmarie Hilleary congratulated Board Member Rosemary White Pope on The Old Globe renaming its Technical Center in her honor.

Item 3: Approval of the September 17 Meeting Minutes

Gwenmarie Hilleary introduced the item. JB Robinson recommended correcting the statement regarding medical aid call volume to reflect an increase of 8–14%, rather than 8–11%. An edit was also made to correct the misspelling of Board Member Mary Scott Knoll's name. Jacqueline Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted changes. Rosemary White Pope seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4: Action – Revised Bylaws

Gwenmarie Hilleary presented updates to the bylaws, including changing the officer election timeline to July to align with the City's schedule. It was noted that the Mayor has the authority to select the Chair, which was not previously reflected in the bylaws. The City Attorney reviewed

the bylaws and recommended consolidations to ensure compliance with the Brown Act and alignment with the City's July officer transition date. The bylaws will also follow the City's Code of Conduct rather than maintaining a separate statement.

Bob Prath asked about Board Member terms expiring on May 31. Kristi provided clarification regarding staggered board terms. JB Robinson inquired whether serving less than one year in an initial appointment counts toward the two consecutive term limits. Kristi Fenick will follow up with this information.

The updated bylaws will go into effect in November.

A motion was made to approve the revised bylaws by Michelle Matter and seconded by Bob Prath. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 5: Action – Officer Elections

Gwenmarie Hilleary presented the item. She shared that officers are normally elected in January; however, due to the updated bylaws, officer terms will now follow the City's schedule. The Mayor may appoint the Chair in July, and if not appointed, the Board may elect a Chair in August. The Board discussed whether to hold new officer elections in November to align with the transition period through August or to maintain the existing slate of officers. During discussion, JB Robinson suggested staggering officer terms. Bob Prath noted the time commitment involved and made a motion to keep the current slate of officers and vote in November. JB Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 6: Discussion – Draft Inclusive Public Engagement Guide

Gwenmarie Hilleary shared information about the City's draft Inclusive Public Engagement Guide and encouraged the Board to review the resource. The Guide is available on the City website (<https://www.sandiego.gov/engagement>) and provides City staff with best practices for implementing inclusive public outreach and engagement to ensure diverse perspectives are included in City decision-making.

Michelle Matter noted the City is seeking input on the Guide and that it is not finalized. The public review period is open from September 10, 2025, to October 19, 2025.

Item 7: Officer Reports

Gwenmarie Hilleary reported that District 4 and District 8 meetings are scheduled. The District 8 meeting on October 24 will include Gwenmarie Hilleary, William Peetoom, Marissa Feliciano, and Mary Scott Knoll via Zoom. The District 4 meeting on October 29 will include Jacqueline Jackson, Rosemary White Pope, and Marissa Feliciano. Rosemary White Pope requested that the meeting be held at the George Stevens Senior Center and William Peetoom indicated he is available to attend as well. The purpose of district meetings is to identify key contacts in Council offices and establish relationships. District meetings for Districts 3, 7, and 9 still need to be scheduled.

JB Robinson asked about the value of providing summative feedback to Council staff. Gwenmarie Hilleary suggested creating a list of key items of interest for City Council members. Bob Prath recommended sharing results from meetings and following up on topics such as disaster preparedness and identifying areas where Council support may be needed.

William Peetoom asked JB Robinson about Measure C (Hotel Tax) and whether allocations for unhoused individuals and transportation could impact the Board's work. JB Robinson will follow up. Bob Prath noted formula funding requirements and indicated he would share information.

Rosemary White Pope emphasized the importance of transparent funding processes so organizations can apply appropriately, noting that Community Projects, Programs, and Services (CPPS) funding information is available on the City's website, but she experienced issues when allocated funds were returned to the general fund. Gwenmarie Hilleary mentioned consolidated funding through the San Diego Foundation as a potential source of funding opportunities for senior organizations in the County.

Item 8: Staff Liaison Report

Kristi Fenick shared information from Mary Scott Knoll on the Fair Housing for Our Future Laws & Litigation Conference on October 22. She also provided an update on Balboa Park paid parking, which was originally scheduled to begin on October 1. The initial proposal was pulled back following public feedback, and the City is still encouraging community members to provide input.

Item 9: Update – County of San Diego Aging and Independence Services

Antoinette Alioto was not present to provide an update.

Item 10: Board Comments, Announcements, Meeting Locations/Topics for Future SAAB Meetings

Gwenmarie Hilleary asked about opportunities for students to gain experience as part of the Board, and Kristi noted it would be a valuable learning experience. William Peetoom suggested engaging an intern to assist with media relations, and Michelle Matter shared information about the SDSU Board Intern program. The Board discussed including this topic on the agenda for new business at the next meeting, considering whether it could provide a high-quality learning experience during the spring semester.

Bob Prath suggested exploring the Village Movement model and recommended it as a topic for a future agenda item.

Rosemary White Pope requested a presentation on health initiatives in marginalized communities. She noted that Dr. Susanna Fallow could speak to the Board about programs such as the Shiley EyeMobile, which provides free eye exams and glasses for seniors through a grant from the Shiley Eye Institute, as well as the ¡Más Fresco! More Fresh Nutrition Incentive program, which supports food access for seniors and the broader community through health clinics and the Jackie Robinson YMCA.

Rosemary White Pope also shared an announcement regarding the fifth anniversary production of *Julius Caesar* at The Old Globe, scheduled for Friday, November 14.

Item 11: Adjournment

Michelle Matter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. William Peetoom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.