



ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 16, 2014

11:00 a.m.

Porterville Senior Center

280 North 4th Street

Porterville, CA 93257

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marlene Chambers

Sharon DeMasters

Dick Johnson

Sharon Lamagno

Kyle Melton

Cheri Taylor

Don Turner

Grace Schraa

Maggie Woodhouse

STAFF PRESENT:

Laura Silva, K/T AAA Director m

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

GUESTS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Albert Cendejas, CSET

Isidro Silva, Jr.

Mary Garcia, Manager-Porterville Sr. Cntr.

Victor Martinez

Frances Noura

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Beckie Cortez:

Fern Haller

Mary Krieg-Vasquez

Susan Mudge

Suzann Wray

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1. **Call to Order** – Sharon DeMasters, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.
 2. **Public Comments** – None
 3. **Approval of Minutes** – Marlene Chambers motioned to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2014, meeting. Dick Johnson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved with Sharon Lamagno abstaining from the vote.
 4. **Announcements and Correspondence** – Albert Cendejas, CSET Senior Program Coordinator, announced that a Senior Prom event is being organized at the Porterville Senior Center. The event is scheduled for June 27th, from 4 to 7 p.m. Transportation from the other center locations remains an obstacle. Mr. Cendejas asked Council members if there were any ideas to solve this. The Classic Charter bus line company was a possibility, but the date was already booked by another customer. The hope is that as many seniors from other centers can attend as possible in order to make it a fun social gathering. Over 50 seniors from other locations have signed up to attend.

Additionally, there are plans underway for an Open House at the Porterville Senior Center to show off the remodeled building and grounds. The prospective date is June 30, 2014, but the date has not been officially announced.

5. **Milestone Updates**

- Christine Tidwell said she recently spoke to Council member Fern Haller, who had called to “check in”. Ms. Haller is looking forward to participating again and to her return after her recovery.
- Sharon Lamagno asked if anyone had been in touch with Council member, Beckie Cortez, noting that Ms. Cortez had been absent from meetings, lately. Membership Committee Chair, Kyle Melton, has attempted to reach her by phone to follow up with her and he will continue to try to get hold of her. Membership attendance criterion was discussed and it was decided to follow up with a letter.

6. **Discussion of Site Committee Tasks and Strategy** – In a review of past meeting minutes, it was noted that at the February meeting at the Exeter Senior Center, Committee membership was discussed and at this point is as follows:

Membership Committee: Marlene Chambers, Dick Johnson, and Kyle Melton

Senior Site Committee: Sharon DeMasters, Fern Haller, Marlene Chambers, Sharon Lamagno, Grace Schraa, Albert Cendejas (CSET,) Maggie Woodhouse, and Beckie Cortez.

It was noted by the Council Chair that if Ms. Cortez does not continue on with her Council membership, another Council member should be appointed to replace her on this committee. Ms. DeMasters suggested that each Senior Site Committee member make a visit their local centers. She noted that on Friday, June 20, there will be a barbeque at the Corcoran center, and on the following Friday, June 27, a barbeque will be held at the Avenal center. These events are being done as an outreach effort to encourage more seniors to attend, and it may be a good opportunity for the committee members talk to and visit with the seniors and to discuss if there are any issues. Ms. DeMasters suggested the Site Committee members should visit the individual sites and bring back to the main Council a report on anything that is of a concern – that will be a starting point. Ms. DeMasters said the Senior Site Committee work will be an ongoing project. She said it’s important that the Council’s “fingers are in the pot,” so it knows if there are any issues out at the centers. She knows an on-going issue is transportation limitations. She requested each committee member to make those visits.

Ms. Silva said she thought a Transportation Committee that had been formed. This prompted a discussion about creating just such a committee, since transportation is such an ongoing issue.

Transportation Committee: Albert Cendejas, Cheri Taylor, Sharon DeMasters, Dick Johnson, Don Turner, and Laura Silva.

Area Plan, Budget, & Contracts (ABC) Committee: Fern Haller, Cheri Taylor, Don Turner, and Susan Mudge.

The Area Plan has been reviewed and approved. Laura Silva said this also is an ongoing committee, and as issues arise, staff will work with the committee to call it into action.

California Senior Legislature (CSL) Committee: Grace Schraa, Kyle Melton, Dick Johnson, and Don Turner (appointed at the current meeting by Ms. DeMasters).

Originally, the CSL Committee was created as an ad hoc committee to make sure the preliminary requirements for the CSL elections were properly in place. However, it was suggested that this Committee remain intact to help the CSL representatives if they need assistance doing any CSL advocacy letters or research.

On a separate note, Don Turner, the new K/T AAA CSL Senator, took the opportunity to distribute summary information on the status of the bills the CSL has taken under consideration. These are bills proposed at the beginning of the year. He said only one had been chaptered regarding support of the senior nutrition program funding. Ms. DeMasters said that the Council agenda needs to include a regular CSL agenda item again.

Laura Silva commented that as new people get appointed to the Council, they will have different levels of understanding of how bills work in the system, so it might be beneficial to offer a training or workshop in how the legislation process works. Mr. Turner agreed with that idea. He said has a flow chart describing the flow of a bill as it wends its way through the legislation process. It was decided this should be put on a future agenda.

Mr. Turner said his goal for Kings and Tulare Counties is to get out and meet with the area legislature member and make sure they know which bills the CSL is backing. Ms. DeMasters said that she will start copying Mr. Turner on information she receives from the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and bills that they are supporting.

On a separate topic, Council member Cheri Taylor commented regarding insurance liability on a borrowed van, saying that an insurance rider needs to indicate that although the van belongs to one entity, the insurance liability is the responsibility of the organization using the vehicle. This was mentioned in relation to CSET's inquiry about borrowing vehicles from other organizations in an attempt to help solve transportation problems for events. Mr. Cendejas said that one of the CSET nutrition vehicle drivers is getting the class of license required to drive bus type vehicles.

Ms. Taylor said the Tulare County Association of Government (TCAG) grants may be another possibility for additional transportation options. This option could be pursued, especially when there is a need to cross city boundaries, which city bus transportation often does not do.

At this point, a Transportation Committee was formed (see above) to include Albert Cendejas, Cheri Taylor, Sharon DeMasters, Dick Johnson, Don Turner, and Laura Silva. Ms. Taylor will serve as Chair. Ms. Taylor said the committee should meet with the City and County transportation departments, and take their plea to TCAG meetings. She said, after meeting with the City and the County individually, TCAG needs to be approached to present the issue to find out if there is any grant help available, especially concerning liability insurance and special event transportation - emphasizing that the seniors in the community need the support. She noted that often the size of the organization and its ridership impacts (grant) eligibility – a larger ridership impacts favorably the probability of a grant award. Ms. DeMasters said when there is an opening on the TCAG Committee, someone from the Council needs to be appointed to that committee. (Ms. Taylor has submitted her name as a candidate to act as a senior spokesperson to represent the senior population. However, she has received no response). Ms. Taylor previously served on TCAG for 5 years.

Dick Johnson said that when requesting a vehicle from an organization it should be a written request that indicates the distance (locations), the number of persons being transported, the time needed, the driver's identification, etc. Then an insurance rider can be written to cover the duration of the time that the vehicle is in possession of the borrowing party. He said he will talk to the Tulare Police Department regarding a bus he believes they are in possession of that they cannot operate, due to not having a driver for it.

Mr. Turner said he was interested in finding a solution that could be done legislatively; for instance, one which might give incentive to groups that loan their busses, and that would protect the loaning party from liability. Ms. Taylor said she believes the borrowing organization's insurance can take the responsibility off the shoulders of the lending organization. This will be an issue the Transportation Committee will try to find out.

7. **Tour of the Porterville Senior Center** – Albert Cendejas and Mary Garcia, Site Manager of the Porterville Senior Center, took the Council on a tour of the newly remodeled building, with computer room, (including a large new printer,) exercise area, and craft area. Ms. Garcia explained some of the activities that take place, including an upcoming double-elimination Ping-Pong tournament, dances, etc. The center is now open M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. She said that they are in partnership with the local Food Bank, which makes periodic donations of food. Participating seniors said they loved the convenience of the new location. It was noted that the expanded hours were very beneficial for encouraging participation.
8. **Staff Reports** – K/T AAA is required by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to keep a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) on record for its Council members. Christine Tidwell requested those that have not submitted the Form 700 for 2014, to please complete it.
9. **Annual Awards and Membership Celebration** – This meeting is the annual celebration of membership. The Council recognized Sharon Lamagno for her nine years on the Council with a certificate of appreciation, and thanked her for her dedication to the work of the Council. Cake and ice cream was served.
10. **Additional Member Comments** – Cheri Taylor said that the Porterville Adult Day Services (PADS) wished to recognize its Board member Sharon DeMasters for her 24 years of service as a PADS Board member. Ms. DeMasters was presented with an award from PADS.
11. **Meeting Adjourned**

NEXT:

Governing Board Meeting

July 21, 2014

10:00 a.m.

Tulare County Human Resources & Development

Testing Room

2900 W. Burrel

Visalia, CA 93291

Advisory Council

October 20, 2014

Lindsay Senior Center

911 North Parkside

Lindsay, CA 93247