



Commission on Aging
George Porter, Chair
Richard Castrillon, Commission Secretary

COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis St.
Berkeley, CA 94703

Wednesday, February 20, 2019
1:00 p.m.

Preliminary Matters

1. Roll Call
2. Public Comments
The public may comment about any item not on the agenda. Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker. Public comments regarding agenda items will be heard while the Commission is discussing the item.
3. Approval of minutes from January 16, 2019. (Attachment A)

Presentations

4. Subcommittee on the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities event- *Arvin Hariri*
5. Aging Services Manager update- *Tanya Bustamante*

Action Items

The Commission may take action related to any subject listed on the Agenda. Public comments regarding agenda items will be heard while the Commission is discussing the item. Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker.

6. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission on Aging
7. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan follow-up discussion (Attachment B)
8. Commission liaisons- Reports & Updates (Attachment C)

Discussion Items

9. Berkeley Unified School District proposes budget cuts- *George Porter*
10. Pedestrian Safety- *George Porter & Ethel Murphy*

Future Agenda Items

Information/ Update Items

- a. Redevelopment of West Berkeley Service Center- letter to City Council (Attachment D)
- b. Electric Scooter Share Pilot Program- letter to the Transportation Commission (Attachment E)

Announcements (5 minutes)

Adjournment

Communications

Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Richard Castrillon at 981-7777 (V) or 981-6903 (TDD) at least five business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

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Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the North Berkeley Senior Center located at 1901 Hearst Avenue, during regular business hours. The Commission Agenda and Minutes may be viewed on the City of Berkeley website: <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/commissions>.

Secretary:

Richard Castrillon
Health, Housing & Community Services Department
(510) 981-7777
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Mailing Address:

Commission on Aging/HHCS
Richard Castrillon
1901 Hearst Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94709



Health, Housing & Community
Services Department
Commission on Aging

COMMISSION ON AGING DRAFT Minutes

ATTACHMENT A

South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis Street
Berkeley, CA 94710

Wednesday, January 16, 2019
1:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: (5) Gordon; Young; Porter; Schechner; Murphy

Absent: (0)

Excused Absent: (1) Candau

Staff Present: (4) Richard Castrillon, Tanya Bustamante, Keith May, Mary Triston

Public: (1) Steve Lustig

2. Public Comment

3. Approval of November 21, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes.

M/S: Porter/ Murphy

Ayes: Porter, Murphy, Gordon, Young, (Schechner not present)

Noes: None

Abstain: None

4. Plans for the West Berkeley Service Center- *Presented by Steve Lustig.*

Discussed and voted for the commission to draft a letter to City Council in support of the Request for Proposal for the development of the West Berkeley Service Center.

M/S: Porter/ Gordon

Ayes: Porter, Murphy, Gordon, Young, Schechner

Noes: None

Abstain: None

5. Paratransit Plan- *Presented by Mary Triston.*

Discussion; no action taken

6. Commission liaisons- Reports & Updates.

Discussed George Porter's letter to be submitted to the Transportation Commission concerning the Electric Scooter Share Pilot Program

M/S: Porter/ Schechner

Ayes: Porter, Murphy, Gordon, Young, Schechner

Noes: None

Abstain: None

7. Future Agenda Items

- a) Women's Daytime Drop-In Center- *Ethel Murphy*
- b) Berkeley Unified School District proposes budget cuts- *George Porter*
- c) Pedestrian Safety- *George Porter*

Commissioners adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved on:

Richard Castrillon, Commission Secretary

Disaster Mitigation comments and concerns - from CoA chair

1) Communication and Evacuation Plans (especially as regards Senior) as disaster mitigation:

The CoA strongly feels that loss of life or severe injury during a large-scale catastrophic event is the greatest disaster of all and should be a top priority for the Disaster Mitigation Plan.

To be more specific, we believe that the development of a communication system to warn and inform citizens (ESPECIALLY the more vulnerable and less “tech-savvy” which includes much of the elder population) before and during a catastrophic event is a form of mitigation and should be funded accordingly. Though we understand that education in the use of the communication system and any practice drills are excluded from that funding stream, the enabling infrastructure (electronic devices in the home, the broadcast equipment, etc.) should be included in it. We feel the same is true as regards evacuation - the plans and any equipment necessary to aid in evacuation needs to be funded as mitigation even if developing the functional community awareness of these requires different resources.

Put more simply, though we on the CoA realize this is a somewhat of a gray area regarding the definition of “mitigation”, we strongly feel that an infrastructure (both soft and hard) for warning and evacuation SPECIFIC to large-scale disasters (earthquake, wild-fire, large toxic releases, etc.) and geared towards the more vulnerable needs to be in place and should be funded through that stream.

2) Excess vegetation removal:

A number of properties in Berkeley suffer from severely overgrown vegetation - a condition that can present public safety issues, particularly in the Fire Zone - and a portion of these are owned by seniors who no longer have the physical and economic capacities to correct the problems. The CoA feels that a measure of funding needs to be put aside to aid such property owners. We also feel that neighborhood organizations have a part to play in this and that some

“seed money” (or services) needs to be sent their way encourage this public safety goal.

3) Go Bags:

The CoA is aware of - and applauds - the local, not-for-profit, organizations that have taken on the task of Disaster Mitigation in whole or in part as their goal and have gotten together reasonably priced “Go Bags” to that end. That said, we feel that a lighter, more senior appropriate product needs to be developed and simply given (perhaps associated with some modicum of training) to economically marginalized elders and the disabled. Our concern is that even a minute of time spent gathering simple essentials (medications, copies of needed documents, a small amount of supplies - some water, etc.) could prove a life and death matter in some circumstances. If we want and need to get our citizen out the door as quickly as possible, this is a prudent investment.

4) Under-grounding of Utilities:

Though under-grounding of utilities has become the most popularized method of for dealing with disaster mitigation regarding our electrical supply, it is also extremely costly and - even if that bill doesn't come due till the effected property is sold - could prove a serious burden for fixed-income elders who are relying on the equity in their home to get them through later-life expenses. The CoA is interested in knowing if the much less expensive (though less aesthetically pleasing) moderately high-voltage, aerial bundled-cable system which uses existing poles and is very much less likely to spark a wildfire would be a more appropriate solution for electrical distribution to our residential areas, particularly in our steep, hilly neighborhoods where wildfire is highest. The smaller bill and the shorter time line for having the project done would better serves the needs of the need of elder homeowners.

<u>Commission:</u>	<u>Liaison:</u>	<u>Meeting dates & locations:</u>
Disaster and Fire Safety Commission	Gordon	4 th Wednesday @7:00 pm -Fire Dept. Training Facility 997 Cedar St.
Parks and Waterfront Commission	Gordon	2 nd Wednesday @7:00 pm -Frances Albrier Community Center 2800 Park St.
Transportation Commission	Murphy, Porter	3 rd Thursday @ 7:00 pm -North Berkeley Senior Center 1901 Hearst Ave.
Board of Library Trustees		1 st Wednesday @6:30 pm -South Branch Library 1901 Russell St.
Planning Commission		1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays @7:00 pm -North Berkeley Senior Center 1901 Hearst Ave.

ATTACHMENT C

Homeless Commission	Schechner	2 nd Wednesday @7:00pm -North Berkeley Senior Center 1901 Hearst Ave.
Animal Care Commission	Schechner	3 rd Wednesday @7:00 pm -Berkeley Animal Shelter 1 Bolivar Dr.
Human Welfare and Community Action Commission	Howard	3 rd Wednesday @7:00 pm -South Berkeley Senior Center 2939 Ellis St.
Commission on Disability	Candau	1 st Wednesday @6:30 pm -North Berkeley Senior Center 1901 Hearst Ave.
Housing Advisory Commission	Candau, Young	1 st Thursday @7:00 pm -South Berkeley Senior Center 2939 Ellis St.
Community Health Commission	Young	4 th Thursday @6:30 pm

ATTACHMENT C

		-South Berkeley Senior Center 2939 Ellis St.
Mental Health Commission		4 th Thursday @7:00 pm -North Berkeley Senior Center 1901 Hearst Ave.
Peace and Justice Commission		1 st Monday @7:00 pm -North Berkeley Senior Center 1901 Hearst Ave.



Health, Housing &
Community Services Department
Commission on Aging

February 1, 2019

To: City Council
From: The Commission on Aging

Redevelopment of West Berkeley Senior Center site - we support, but with a couple of contingencies.

Honorable Councilmembers,

Though the plan to redevelop the West Berkeley Senior Center site has only recently come to the Commission on Aging's (CoA) attention, commission members strongly support it, but with a couple of contingencies.

In general, the CoA unanimously applauds the development of affordable Senior Housing (particularly those with supportive, communal spaces), but has not had the time to examine in depth whether or not this particular project is the most efficient use of Municipal resources to that end. That said, we were informed that a number of political and economic forces have come together at this moment (a condition that may or may not last) that could allow this project to get up and running relatively quickly and we've no intention of looking this gift horse in the mouth - though the 6th St. and Hearst location may not be perfect, it nonetheless has many, many pluses for elder citizens (walkable streets, access to public transportation, vibrant and close by business districts, etc.).

Our contingencies are relatively minor:

1.) We request that you, the more well-informed Council, reassure yourselves that the opportunity at hand justifies such quick action.

2.) We request that the CoA be kept "in the loop" and invited to make comment at critical points in the planning and construction process.

Other than that, the CoA simply wishes to wholeheartedly thank the Council for continuing to bear in mind the well-being of Berkeley's rapidly growing, elder population.

A Vibrant and Healthy Berkeley for All

Name of Addressee
Subject of the letter
Date
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Sincerely,

Commission on Aging

George Porter, Chair 1/28/19

Richard Castrillon, Director, North Berkeley Senior Center
Commission on Aging Secretary



Health, Housing &
Community Services Department
Commission on Aging

January 18, 2019

Transportation Commission
Farid Javandel, Secretary
Transportation Division
1947 Center Street – 4th Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704

RE: Ongoing concerns regarding Scooter Share Pilot

Honorable Transportation Commissioners,

The Commission on Aging (CoA) very much appreciates your taking into consideration the various concerns about the Scooter Share Pilot program we have presented to you in the past. That said, we still have a number of concerns that we feel need to be addressed before public safety and equal access to our “commons” can be assured. We strongly feel that the concerns listed here are important to all Berkeley citizens (including scooter riders) and particularly to our rapidly growing elder population. Here’s our list:

1.) No-riding zones (Downtown and other areas):

The CoA continues to feel that, for public safety, certain areas and streets around town - already congested and commercial - need to simply be off-limits for scooter riding during the pilot period.

The most critical of these is Downtown. Here’s our definition of that area:

Hearst to the North. Bancroft to the South. Oxford to the East. Milvia to the West. Scooters will be allowed on Hearst, Bancroft and Milvia but not on Oxford, cross campus route to be developed in coordination with UC.

Other Areas of concern:

North Shattuck to Rose St.

The area near the intersection of Monterey and Hopkins.

Solano Ave to the Albany border.

A Vibrant and Healthy Berkeley for All

College Ave from Russel to Webster.

4th St. from University to Virginia.

2.) The problem of Berkeley High Students:

Though riders are required to be at least 18 years old, this is difficult to enforce and there are a number of students at BHS that are over that age. Though Scooters should prove very useful for older students getting to and from school, we are concerned about recreational use during lunch breaks and after school, particularly since non-riding age students might have scooters shared with them by a riding-aged friend. Policy coordination with BUSD is needed before Scooter Share program is launched.

3.) Night-time riding:

Road lighting on scooters is marginal at this point, particularly rear lighting. In the latter case, it is too near to ground to be readily visible and this height level does not conform with the vehicle code. At this point there is no way to place rear lights higher up on the scooter and, though certainly the rider could wear a light on his or her back, this requires proactive ridership which is questionable. Given this, we feel riding should be terminated at dusk until the mounting issue can be resolved and there is better guidance at the State level from the DMV.

4.) Inclement weather:

Inclement weather critically compromises the safety of Scooter riding - even the Scooter share companies recommend that these EPTVs aren't ridden in rain or more severe conditions. Indeed, it is well documented that even wet pavement can be hazardous. We feel that policies need to be made regarding use during inclement weather before the Scooter Share Pilot is launched.

5.) Riding on hills:

Though the speed is limited on scooters, on downhill slopes various models are capable of appreciably exceeding that top speed putting both riders and anyone or anything in the way at increased risk of accident. We feel that policies need to be made regarding use on hills and that the scooters used should not be able to exceed top speed in any circumstances. (There have also been problems with the scooters' brakes as well.)

6.) Concerns about insurance:

According to many Scooter Rental contracts, company liability becomes limited when operators use them in violation of the stated conditions. We are concerned that this could leave Berkeley citizens at risk of needing to pay bills for damages and injuries that are not their fault unless they can get compensation from the rider his or herself. If this is the case, it's untenable.

Name of Addressee
Subject of the letter
Date
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7.) Waiting until guidance from DMV:

In general, the CoA feels that not only the Scooter Share pilot but also any adoption of E-Bike rental should be put on hold till there is more guidance from the DMV. Helmets, lighting, the question of whether e-bikes should ride with the general traffic or be in bike lanes are just a few of the issues that need clarity at State level. The list goes on and the CoA suggests that the City of Berkeley take these concerns to our local state representatives and also coordinate with Alameda County as a whole to develop effective policies. At heart, there is no real reason for our municipality to rush forward at this point and doing so will inevitably compromise public safety.

Thanks in advance for taking our concerns into consideration,
Commission on Aging

Sincerely,
George Porter, Chair for the Commission on Aging

Richard Castrillon, Director, North Berkeley Senior Center
Commission on Aging Secretary