



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, March 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 February 20, 2019. (Attachment A)

## **Presentations**

4. Age Friendly Update- *Steve Lustig* (Attachment B)
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. Intern for Age Friendly Plan
7. Commission liaisons- Reports, updates & review the list. (Attachment C)

## **Discussion Items**

8. Electric Scooter Share Program
9. Pedestrian Safety

## **Future Agenda Items**

## **Information/ Update Items**

- a. Disaster Mitigation Plan Concerns (Attachment D)

## **Announcements (5 minutes)**

## **Adjournment**

## **Communications**

**Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.**

### **COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION**

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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:**

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Health, Housing & Community  
Services Department  
**Commission on Aging**

## COMMISSION ON AGING DRAFT Minutes

South Berkeley Senior Center  
2939 Ellis Street  
Berkeley, CA 94710

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

### 1. Roll Call

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

Absent: (0)

Excused Absent: (2) Candau; Young

Staff Present: (2) Richard Castrillon, Tanya Bustamante

Public: (1) Gloria Beck

### 2. Public Comment

### 3. Approval of January 16, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes with an addition of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Presentation.

M/S: Porter/ Schechner

Ayes: Porter, Murphy, Gordon, Schechner, Baker

Noes: None

Abstain: None

### 4. Aging Services Manager update- *Tanya Bustamante*.

Discussion; no action taken

### 5. Election of Chair of the Commission on Aging: George Porter.

M/S: Porter/ Schechner

Ayes: Porter, Murphy, Gordon, Baker, Schechner

Noes: None

Abstain: None

### 6. Election of Vice-Chair of the Commission on Aging: Ethel Murphy.

M/S: Porter/ Gordon

Ayes: Porter, Murphy, Gordon, Baker, Schechner

Noes: None

Abstain: None

### 7. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan follow-up discussion.

Discussion; no action taken

### 8. Commission liaisons- Reports & Updates.

Discussed George Porter's letter submitted to the Transportation Commission concerning the Electric Scooter Share Pilot Program and the letter submitted to City Council concerning the Redevelopment of the West Berkeley Service Center.

**9. Berkeley Unified School District proposes budget cuts**

Discussion; no action taken

**10. Pedestrian Safety**

Discussion; the Secretary to the Commission on Aging will be reaching out to the Berkeley Police Department to obtain statistics of pedestrian accidents at major crosswalks.

**11. Future Agenda Items**

**Commissioners adjourned at 3:00 p.m.**

Minutes Approved on:

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Richard Castrillon, Commission Secretary

## Findings and Priority Areas

There are many programs and services in Berkeley that support an active and healthy community for people of all ages. The recommendations from this Action Plan are designed to build on what is already occurring, improve impact, and address gaps. Given the rapidly changing landscape and the pace of developing technology, we see this action plan as a living document, open to enhancement.

Several themes cut across the plan's recommendations and actions. These include the need to:

- **create complete neighborhoods** that have a mix of housing types and land uses, affordable housing and transportation options, and access to healthy foods, schools, retail, employment, community services, parks and recreation options
- **foster ongoing collaborations** within large organizations, such as municipal entities, and across sectors and community organizations, as these are key to implementing policy and programs
- **leverage existing resources** to support, expand and coordinate a system of services and supports for aging in community
- **capture emergent opportunities** and leverage innovations in both technology and care/service delivery to support community-based living
- **strengthen intergenerational relationships** because while programs abound, they are mostly age-specific
- **work with other regional jurisdictions** and Age-Friendly cities to address overlapping issues and services and to find solutions to common challenges.

After reviewing community responses and promising local efforts already underway, this Action Plan identified four priority areas:<sup>15</sup>

### Housing and Economic Security

### Transportation and Mobility

### Health and Wellness

### Social Participation and Civic Engagement

Within each of these 4 areas, recommendations fell into 3 categories:

#### Equity and Inclusion

#### Information

#### Infrastructure and Policy

These priority areas and recommendations are summarized in the following pages along with local programs and policies already in development. Detailed information for all 8 domains can be found in *Appendix B*.

<sup>15</sup> Detailed information for all 8 domains is included in Appendix B where each domain includes relevant resources, current efforts that are in process, survey results and information from focus groups, GIS maps, and information from the 2016 Alameda County Plan for Older Adults and the Berkeley Age-Friendly Continuum needs assessment.

# Implementation Plan

Year 1

**Infrastructure**  
Designate the City of Berkeley Health, Housing, and Community Services, Aging Services Division as the Backbone Agency and obtain funding to support the Aging Services Manager in coordinating the initiatives

**Solidify Action Teams**  
Use the potential partners list (page 22) to identify regional, city, and community based team members for each priority area

**Form a Leadership Team**  
consisting of 5-7 champions from relevant sectors (the City, local residents, health, transportation, business, etc.) to guide implementation of the action plan

**Create Communication Network**  
Identify City staff to be contacts for work within the City. All City Departments will be responsible for the Action Plan recommendations.



**Commit to the Action Plan & Work on Year 1 Goals**  
Community partners and city staff coordinate Year 1 activities for each priority area  
Leadership team finalizes funding needs and plans strategies to support year 2-3 recommendations



**Develop Shared Metrics**  
Action and Leadership team members identify and agree on high level indicators and set up a framework using Results Based Accountability to measure progress in years 2-3



**Communicate Results of Year 1**  
Develop an online dashboard using the Age Friendly website to inform the public and track progress  
Ensure that the Commission on Aging is continually updated and consulted



**Prioritize and begin work**  
the remaining recommendations in collaboration with City and community partners



**Work on Year 2-3 Initiatives**  
Community partners and City staff work toward Year 2-3 targets



**Monitor & Improve**  
Monitor progress and continually improve processes using the Results Based Accountability framework



**Communicate Results of Year 2-3**  
Use the online dashboard on the Age-Friendly Berkeley website to inform the public and track progress

Year 2-3

## Potential City & Community Partnerships

A critical goal for Year 1 Implementation (see Plan on page 21) will be to solidify the teams that will address goals in each priority area. Partners come from City of Berkeley departments, local community organizations, county and regional entities, as well as other cities with Age Friendly initiatives. Below is a table with city departments, a partial list of relevant local organizations, and some regional linkages that can help address broad areas such as housing, health and transportation.

	Regional	City of Berkeley	Local Community
Housing & Economic Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing Authority of Alameda County</li> <li>BACS (Bay Area Community Services)</li> <li>SAHA (Satellite Affordable Housing Associates)</li> <li>RCD (Resources for Community Development)</li> <li>Covia</li> <li>Rebuilding Together</li> <li>Habitat for Humanity</li> <li>ASSETS</li> <li>Encore, Inc.</li> <li>East Bay Works</li> </ul>	<p><b>Health Housing &amp; Community Services:</b> Housing Services</p> <p><b>City Manager's Office:</b> Office of Economic Development</p> <p><b>Health, Housing, &amp; Community Services:</b> Community Services &amp; Administration</p> <p><b>Planning &amp; Development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ashby Village</li> <li>BOSS (Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency)</li> <li>UC Retirement Center</li> <li>Legal Assistance for Seniors</li> <li>Berkeley Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>
Transportation & Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AC Transit</li> <li>BART</li> <li>East Bay Paratransit</li> </ul>	<p><b>Health, Housing and Community Services:</b> Aging Services Division</p> <p><b>Public Works:</b> Transportation Division</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senior Center Shuttles</li> <li>CIL Shuttles</li> <li>CEI Shuttles</li> <li>UC Berkeley SafeTREC</li> <li>Ride share companies</li> </ul>
Health & Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alameda County Health Care Services Agency</li> <li>IHSS (In-Home Supportive Services)</li> <li>Lifelong Medical Care</li> <li>CEI (Center for Elders' Independence)</li> <li>Alzheimer's Services of the East Bay</li> <li>Alta Bates Medical Center</li> <li>Sutter Health</li> <li>Kaiser Permanente</li> <li>Alameda County IHSS Program</li> <li>CIL (Center for Independent Living)</li> <li>Legal assistance for seniors</li> </ul>	<p><b>Health, Housing, &amp; Community Services:</b> Public Health Division Community Services &amp; Administration Aging Services Division</p> <p><b>CARE Team</b></p> <p><b>Berkeley Fire Department</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SIPP (Senior Injury Prevention Program)</li> <li>Lifelong Over 60 Health Center</li> <li>YMCA</li> <li>Jewish Family Services</li> <li>Berkeley Continuum</li> </ul>
Social Participation & Civic Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>California Department of Aging</li> <li>CEI (Center for Elders' Independence)</li> <li>CIL (Center for Independent Living)</li> <li>Covia Well Connected</li> <li>Jewish Community Center of the East Bay</li> <li>University of California Retirement Center</li> <li>Forget Me Not</li> <li>Lavender Seniors</li> <li>Gray Panthers</li> <li>East Bay Regional Park District</li> <li>BORP (Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program)</li> <li>Eden I &amp; R (2-1-1)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Health, Housing &amp; Community Services:</b> Aging Services Division</p> <p><b>Public Works:</b> Disability Compliance Program</p> <p><b>Parks, Recreation, &amp; Waterfront Department</b></p> <p><b>Information Technology</b></p> <p><b>Planning &amp; Development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ashby Village</li> <li>Alta Bates Tele-Care</li> <li>UC Botanical Garden</li> <li>Tilden Regional Park</li> <li>UC Berkeley Center for Technology &amp; Aging</li> <li>Berkeleyside</li> <li>Berkeley Public Libraries</li> <li>J-Sea</li> <li>UC Berkeley Osher Lifelong Learning Institute</li> <li>UC Berkeley Bears for Elder Welfare</li> <li>Berkeley Student Co-op</li> <li>Elder Action</li> </ul>

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



## ATTACHMENT C

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

## ATTACHMENT C

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



Health, Housing &  
Community Services Department  
**Commission on Aging**

February 27, 2019

### **Draft Disaster Mitigation Plan Concerns**

The CoA has carefully examined and discussed the Draft Disaster Mitigation Plan and have identified 4 areas of concern from the point of view of the safety and well-being of our elder population.

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

The CoA strongly feels that loss of life or serious 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, in light of the recent Camp Fire it has become clear that greater attention needs to be paid to developing evacuation infrastructure, especially for the older population - the great majority of those who perished in that fire were 65+.

To address this in Berkeley, we believe that the Draft Mitigation Plan should put strong emphasis on 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. The infrastructure to support this (providing simple to use electronic devices for the home, the broadcast equipment, etc.) should be funded as mitigation. We also feel the same is true as regards evacuation itself - though the City has put considerable effort into evacuation planning in the past, as the risk of wildfire grows and grows more attention needs be paid to evacuation planning in the fire-zone as well as to the acquisition of any equipment necessary to aid in this. This, too, should be funded as mitigation.

As regards funding in general, we on the CoA are well aware that the municipality has little control of the terms on which external funding for disaster mitigation is granted and realize that the costs of developing the public awareness required and actual training in the use of this mitigating infrastructure falls into a gray area. That said, we strongly feel

***A Vibrant and Healthy Berkeley for All***

*Name of Addressee*  
*Subject of the letter*  
*Date*  
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that at the very least this increased development of the evacuation infrastructure itself which is SPECIFIC to large-scale disasters and particularly geared towards the more vulnerable needs to be in place and should clearly be funded through the mitigation stream.

We also strongly feel that the current draft of the Disaster Mitigation Plan fails to address this issue to the extent required to provide a reasonable level of public safety and should be amended to correct this.

## 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 means 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) Pathways:

The Draft Mitigation Plan makes much ado about the pedestrian pathways that run through our hills (and less so through the flats) as an asset to our means of evacuation. This is certainly true and the CoA sincerely applauds the paths and their maintenance for this and various other reasons, but is very concerned that their usefulness for purposes of evacuation - especially in the hills - has been somewhat exaggerated.

Very few of these traverse the hillsides, but are simply up/down and more often than not very steep. Even if well maintained, many of the elderly - as well as the disabled and young children - would find using these extremely difficult, particularly in the tension of an evacuation. The CoA strongly feels that these limitations be seriously taken into consideration.

## 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 arrangements can be made so the bill doesn't come due till the effected property is sold - this 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. Not only is this unfair to those in that position, but it could prove very difficult to get the buy-in needed from that demographic for such a project to move forward in an efficient manner.

In addition, as presented in the draft of the Disaster Mitigation Plan, it would seem our municipality has two options - underground the utilities or do nothing. Though this

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issue is outside the expertise of the CoA, we have a hard time accepting this limitation, especially in a city with such varied terrain and where in some areas undergrounding simply is unwise - areas near the bay prone to flooding, areas in the hills with moving soils, etc. On top of this, a major earthquake is a likelihood that could result in landslides or other major shifts in the soils as well as levels of liquefaction that might render an underground system all but useless in its wake.

Clearly, we believe, at this point in the 21st century and given that many other municipalities face similar problems, there must be more options out there by now. Aren't there ways in which the existing overhead line and pole system can be upgraded or replaced where appropriate? For example, to our limited understanding there are aerial bundled cable systems easily capable of carrying the voltage service required for our residential communities that are much less prone to the damage that could spark a wild fire, are much safer for repair and maintenance workers, have a much shorter installation time line, are easier to get up and running again after a disaster, and - importantly - much, much less expensive than under grounding.

The CoA applauds undergrounding where appropriate and, again, this is not the CoA's expertise and this particular system may not work in Berkeley. That said, so far we're humbly not convinced this one-size fits all solution the plan seems to suggest is reflective of technological reality or wise policy.

Thank you for taking our concerns into consideration,

Commission on Aging

George Porter, Chair

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