

Commission on Aging
Gabriella Castello-Kramer, Chair
Richard Castrillon, Commission Secretary

COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94709

Wednesday, July 19, 2017
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 June 21, 2017.

Updates/ 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.

4. Pacific Theological Union Project Senior Development- Discussion
5. Review of previous communication to City Council to recommend that City Council members meet with their appointed commissioners annually.
6. Review of role of Commission on Aging (Attachment D).
7. Future Agenda Items

Information Items

8. Correspondence to City Council to request that City Council seek alternatives to web input for "Berkeley Considers."
9. Berkeleyside Article: "Opinion: With the number of older residents growing, Berkeley must design for their well-being."

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 Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the commission secretary for further information.

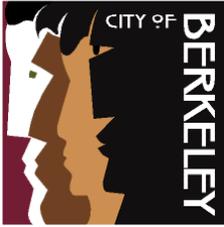
Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the North Berkeley Senior Center located at 1901 Hearst Avenue, during regular business hours. The Commission Agenda and Minutes may be viewed on the City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

Secretary:

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Health, Housing & Community Services Department
(510) 981-7777
E-mail: rcastrillon@CityofBerkeley.info

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

North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94709

Wednesday, June 21, 2017
1:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: (7) Castello-Kramer; Porter; Schechner; Gordon, Murphy, Candau

Absent: Howard (1)

Excused Absent: None

Staff Present: Leah Talley; Richard Castrillon

Public: 15 attendees

2. Approval of May 17, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Minutes were approved as submitted.

M/S: Candau/ Gordon

Ayes: Murphy, Schechner, Gordon, Castello-Kramer, Candau, Porter

Noes: None

3. Presentation: Renaming the South Berkeley Senior Center to the Henry Ramsey Jr. South Berkeley Senior Center. *Talia Stender, Office of Councilmember Ben Bartlett.*

Public Comment: Nine members of the public spoke to the commission and provided testimony about their support for renaming the South Berkeley Senior Center in honor of Judge Henry Ramsey Jr.

- Eleanor Ramsey: Spoke in favor of renaming the South Berkeley Senior Center in honor of Judge Henry Ramsey Jr.
- James W. Sweeney: Spoke in favor of renaming the South Berkeley Senior Center in honor of Judge Henry Ramsey Jr.
- Simone Stevens: Spoke in favor of renaming the South Berkeley Senior Center in honor of Judge Henry Ramsey Jr.
- Charles T. Ramsey: Spoke in favor of renaming the South Berkeley Senior Center in honor of Judge Henry Ramsey Jr.
- G. Ramsey: Spoke in favor of renaming the South Berkeley Senior Center in honor of Judge Henry Ramsey Jr.
- Reginald Terrell: Spoke in favor of renaming the South Berkeley Senior Center in honor of Judge Henry Ramsey Jr.
- Lisa Blackwell: Spoke in favor of renaming the South Berkeley Senior Center in honor of Judge Henry Ramsey Jr.
- Adrian Ramsey: Spoke in favor of renaming the South Berkeley Senior

- Center in honor of Judge Henry Ramsey Jr.
- Gregory Harper: Spoke in favor of renaming the South Berkeley Senior Center in honor of Judge Henry Ramsey Jr.

The Commission on Aging took the following actions:

To recommend to City Council and the Public Work Commission to fully support the renaming of the South Berkeley Senior Center as they are truly convinced and moved that a man of such import and stature would be recognized by renaming the South Berkeley Senior Center to the Henry Ramsey Jr. South Berkeley Senior Center.

M/S: Porter/ Murphy

Ayes: Porter, Castello-Kramer, Murphy, Schechner, Gordon, Candau

Noes: None

To modify the original recommendation to add “Judge” to the recommended new name for South Berkeley Senior Center, the final recommendation being: The Judge Henry Ramsey Jr. South Berkeley Senior Center.

M/S: Castello-Kramer / Candau

Ayes: Porter, Castello-Kramer, Murphy, Schechner, Gordon, Candau

Noes: None

Abstain: Gordon

4. Review and approval of correspondence to City Council to request that City Council seek alternatives to web input for “Berkeley Considers.”

The Commission on Aging moved to submit to letter City Council regarding “Berkeley Considers” as submitted.

(Motion-Porter/Second-Schechner)

Ayes: Castello-Kramer, Candau, Porter, Murphy, Gordon, Schechner

Noes: None

Abstain: None

5. Review of Housing Trust Fund Priorities Memorandum and development of feedback to provide the Housing Advisory Commission.

Discussion and action taken:

The Commission moved to provide feedback to Amy Davidson that this Commission values housing seniors, low income, and disabled communities; values housing in proximity to public transportation; and values the re-use of under-utilized property (as affordable senior housing) such as vacant businesses, closed schools and vacant city property.

M/S: Castello-Kramer/Porter

Ayes: Porter, Castello-Kramer, Murphy, Schechner, Gordon, Candau
Noes: None

6. Review of previous communication to City Council to recommend that City Council members meet with their appointed commissioners annually.

Moved to next month's agenda.

7. Review of role of Commission on Aging.

Moved to next month's agenda.

8. Future Agenda Items

- a. Contact Berkeley Historical Society for presentation on oral histories.

Commissioners adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved on:

Richard Castrillon, Commission Secretary



Commission on Aging

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 26, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Commission on Aging
 Submitted by: Josephine Ratnam, Chair, Commission on Aging
 Subject: Annual Meetings of Commission Appointees

RECOMMENDATION

That all City Council members and the Mayor hold annual "working" meetings that gather together their appointed Commission members. The purpose of the meetings would be for personal contact, information sharing and networking.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The City will incur minimal costs in the implementation of this recommendation.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Currently there is very little established policy, either formal or informal, regarding face-to-face contact between Council members, the Mayor and their appointees to the various City Commissions and none addressing any such contact between a Councilmember (and the Mayor) and his or her full group of commissioners.

As things stand, since appointment to commissions are in general for four (4) years and often overlap Councilmember's (and the Mayor's) terms, if a given district seat changes hands, on occasion new Council members (and Mayor) and their inherited commissioners have never met in person. In addition to this, since reappointment of commissioners to a second term is often a routine matter, it is possible that eight (8) years can pass with little or no direct contact between a Councilmember (or the Mayor) and his or her appointee.

As far as contact between a Councilmember's (or the Mayor's) group of commissioners goes, there is no consistent policy and to the Commission on Aging's (CoA) observation in many, many cases commissioners have no idea of even the name of their counterparts on other commissions much less any understanding of who these people might be and how best to work with them towards common goals. Indeed, though some commissions are in constant contact with one another, since there is little established policy encouraging broad based communication between commissions, the simple fact that shared interests exist is far too often missed.

BACKGROUND

Over the past couple of years outreach and communication to other commissions has been part of the CoA work plan. A few individual commissioners have sat in on other commissions' meetings, introduced themselves, tried to establish lines of communication and then reported back to the CoA, especially as regards issue relating to the aging population. This has proved moderately fruitful, but time consuming and very hit or miss. During that same time period one commissioner had an appointing council member that held annual commissioner meetings and reported back. This practice seemed much more useful and a couple of other commissioners who had had similar experiences before this period confirmed this which started us down the road that led to this action item.

To the best of the CoA's discovery, in the past various Council members (and Mayor) have come up with individual ways of establishing lines of communications with their commissioners and between them. Though the CoA fully appreciates Council members' (and the Mayor's) need for latitude in determining these relationships, the end results are often uneven and sporadic. In the case of the annual commissioners meeting, over the years some Council members have always held such meetings, others only on occasion and some not at all. Over those same years the individual commissions have had memberships with widely varying exposure to and understanding of the broad set of Municipal concerns that affect their work and much of the time in meetings can be spent bringing everyone up to date regarding these.

The CoA voted at its regular meeting of January 21, 2015 to recommend that City Council members (and the Mayor) hold annual "working" meetings that gather together their appointed Commission members. The purpose of the meetings would be for personal contact, information sharing and networking. (M/S/C) Jacquilin/Hallberg; Ayes: Castello-Kramer, Hallberg, Jacquilin, Lazaris, Porter, Ratnam, Schechner, Stross; Noes: None; Abstain: None

The CoA requested support from all City Commissions and the following have informed the CoA of positions taken on this recommendation:

Commission on Disability at its March 18, 2015 meeting, the Commission on Disability unanimously passed the following motion: "Support the Commission on Aging's recommendation urging council members and the Mayor to pledge to hold annual meetings with their commission appointees." (M/S/C) Murray/Singer
Ayes: Trahan, Murray, Kwong, Singer, Graham; Noes: none; Absent: Weiss, Walsh, Leeder

Energy Commission at its February 25, 2015 meeting passed a motion that City Council members (and the Mayor) hold annual "working" meetings that gather together their appointed Commission members. The purpose of the meetings would be for personal contact, information sharing and networking. (M/S/C) James/Gallardo; Ayes:

Bell, Gallardo, Lee, Murray, Wang; Noes: Schlachter; Abstentions: James; Absent: Constantine.

Housing Advisory Commission at its March 5, 2015 meeting passed a motion to support the Commission on Aging's recommendation for all City Council members and the Mayor to hold annual working meetings that gather together their appointed Commission members. (M/S/C): Tregub/Wolfe. Ayes: Abramson, Magofna, Skjerping, Tregub, and Wolfe; Noes: None; Abstain: Abramson, Darrow, Drake, and Gordon; Absent: None.

Human Welfare and Community Action Commission at its March 12, 2015 meeting passed a motion to support the recommendation of the Commission on Aging but also requests that the Commission on Aging consider including the following:

1. A group meeting with the Mayor and council members that includes all commissioners.
2. Extend the invitation to elected commissioners.

(M/S/C): Sood/McMullan; Ayes – Davila, Sood, McMullan, Browne, Omodele, Trigueros, Cross; Noes: None; Abstain: Dunner; Absent: Luu, Flanders

Commission on Labor at its March 18, 2015 meeting the motion to endorse the Commission on Aging recommendation to City Council failed. (M/S/F) Fillingim/Frankel Ayes: Frankel, Yu, Fillingim; Noes: Kessler, Bloom, Dixon; Abstention: Teter

Personnel Board at its March 2, 2015 meeting voted to table the item and not consider it at this time. The Board did not feel it was necessary to create this formal mandatory meeting because they already communicate with their Council Members. (M/S/C): Dixon/Huynh. Ayes: Dixon, Huynh, Kidd, Murray, Roter; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Vizas, Wenk

Police Review Commission at its March 11, 2015 meeting passed a motion to "Strongly urge that Councilmembers hold annual meetings with their Commissioners at their discretion" (M/S/C) (Lippman/Vicente) Ayes: Bartlett, Finley, Lippman, Lowhurst, Perezvelez, Rogers, Sherman and Vicente; Noes: none; Abstain: Bernstein; Absent: Allen.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The CoA feels that Council members (and the Mayor) establishing the habit of an annual commissioners meeting is a very simple and cost effective way of both addressing the concerns expressed above and of opening doors to new opportunities insofar as:

1. It ensures a basic level of the needed personal contact between Council members and their commissioners.
2. For all attendees it puts a "human face" on the work of the various commissions and creates the sense of a broader community effort, the value of which should not be underestimated.
3. A well run meeting where each commissioner has a chance to briefly recap the last year's work of the commission he or she sits on establishes a baseline of information regarding Municipal concerns.
4. It encourages greater communication between the commissions which will result in:
 - a) Greater appreciation of one another's work
 - b) Greater awareness of the current scope of one another's work
 - c) Greater appreciation of the complexity of the Council's work
 - d) More efficient use of time in commission meetings
 - e) Equal opportunity for all commissioners for access to useful information
 - f) The recognition of and better cooperation in achieving shared goals
 - g) More efficient sharing of resources
 - h) Increased transparency between commissions
5. In general, it will enliven the working relationship between Berkeley's elected officials and its citizen commissions and help ensure that our investment in this cooperative effort will yield greater returns.

Again, the CoA's suggestion here is that these be casual and friendly working meetings, not just social events. Though we fully appreciate that Council members (and the Mayor) already carry a heavy load, the CoA strongly feels that these yearly meetings will be of so much value to the municipality that we unanimously urge individual Council members (and the Mayor) to take this additional, small burden upon themselves.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The CoA had considered that holding the meetings should be done on good faith, that they need not be an official requirement but instead should take the form of a pledge to "do his or her best to hold such yearly events". After further consideration, that language was removed from the recommendation and the accompanying background of the report.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's report.

CONTACT PERSON

Leah Talley, Commission Secretary, HHCS, 981-5178

Chapter 3.16 COMMISSION ON AGING

Sections:

- [3.16.010](#) Established--Number of members--Appointments and vacancy filling.
- 3.16.030 Repealed by Ord. 7027-NS
- [3.16.040](#) Liaison representatives to other City entities--Functions.
- [3.16.050](#) Organization, meetings, rules and procedures.
- [3.16.060](#) Functions.

3.16.010 Established--Number of members--Appointments and vacancy filling.

A Commission on Aging is established. Said commission shall consist of nine members. Appointments to the commission shall be made by councilmembers, and vacancies on the commission shall be filled by councilmembers in accordance with the provisions of Sections [2.04.030](#) through [2.04.130](#) of this code, enacted as Ordinance 4780-NS by the voters of the City. (Ord. 6036-NS § 1, 1991: Ord. 4811-NS § 1 (part), 1975: Ord. 4492-NS § 1, 1970)

3.16.040 Liaison representatives to other City entities--Functions.

Subject to the approval of the council in each case, the commission may designate one of its members to act as a liaison representative to any other board, commission or committee of the City. The functions of such liaison representatives are to attend meetings of such other board, commission or committee; advise this commission of the background, attitudes and reasons behind the actions of such other board, commission or committee; and, on request of any member of such other board, commission or committee, to advise such other board, commission or committee of policy, procedures and decisions of this commission that may bear upon matters under discussion by such other board, commission or committee. Such liaison representative shall have no power to vote. (Ord. 4492-NS § 8, 1970)

3.16.050 Organization, meetings, rules and procedures.

- A. The commission shall elect one of its members president and one of its members vice-president.
- B. An officer or employee of the City designated by the City Manager shall serve as secretary of the commission.
- C. The commission shall establish a regular place and time for meeting. All meetings shall be noticed as required by law and shall be scheduled in a way to allow for maximum input from the public. The frequency of

meetings shall be as determined by City Council resolution. The scheduling of special meetings in addition to those established by City Council resolution, except special meetings that take the place of cancelled regular meetings, shall be subject to approval by the City Council. A request for a special meeting shall include the reason for the proposed meeting and should be expedited on the City Council' s agenda, or in the alternative, placed before the Agenda Committee for approval.

D. The commission may make and alter rules governing its organization and procedures which are not inconsistent with this chapter or any other applicable ordinance of the City.

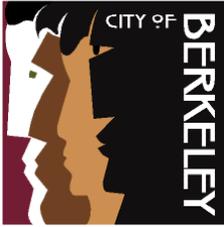
E. A majority of the members appointed to the commission shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed is required to take any action. The commission shall keep an accurate record of its proceedings and transactions and shall submit an annual report to the City Council with a copy to the City Manager. (Ord. 6891-NS § 1, 2006: Ord. 5367-NS § 1, 1981: Ord. 4811-NS § 1 (part), 1975: Ord. 4492-NS § 9, 1970)

3.16.060 Functions.

A. The functions of the commission shall be to:

1. Identify the needs of the aging of the community and create a citizen awareness of these needs;
2. Encourage improved standards of services to the aging and encourage establishment of needed new services for the aging, both public and private, and in so doing, encourage coordination among organizations providing services to the aging in the community and provide advice and assistance thereto; in cooperation with other agencies collect, maintain and interpret information and statistics on the aging for the use of citizens and organizations in the City; encourage preparation of publications and results of study and research pertaining to the aging;
3. Advise the City Council on all matters affecting the aging in the community;
4. Render advice and assistance to other City boards and commissions, to City departments and to private agencies on matters affecting the aging;
5. Perform such other functions and duties as may be directed by the City Council.

B. In prescribing the above duties and functions of the commission it is not the intent of this council to duplicate or overlap the functions, duties or responsibilities heretofore or hereafter assigned to any other City board or commission or to a City department. As to such functions or responsibilities above set forth which are partially or wholly the responsibilities of another board or commission or of a department of the City, the commission will render assistance and advice to such board, commission or department as may be requested.
(Ord. 4492-NS § 10, 1970)



Health, Housing &
Community Services Department
Commission on Aging

July 19, 2017

Mayor and City Council
City of Berkeley
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Subject: Commission Action at June 21, 2017 Regular Meeting on “Berkeley Considers” recommendation.

At the regular meeting of June 21, 2017 the Commission on Aging took the following action to submit the attached communication to the City Council:

The Commission on Aging moved to submit letter to City Council regarding “Berkeley Considers” as submitted.

(Motion-Porter/Second-Schechner)

Ayes: Castello-Kramer, Candau, Porter, Murphy, Gordon, Schechner

Noes: None

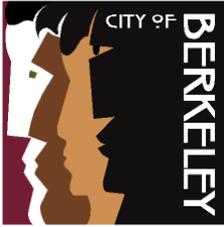
Abstain: None

Sincerely,

Richard Castrillon
Secretary, Commission on Aging

Attachment: Letter from Commission on Aging

A Vibrant and Healthy Berkeley for All



Health, Housing &
Community Services Department
Commission on Aging

July 19, 2017

Mayor and City Council
City of Berkeley
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Subject: Berkeley Considers Recommendation

The City of Berkeley's Commission on Aging strongly supports the creation of "Berkeley Considers." It is a fine idea! But it comes with a problem. Many residents of Berkeley are likely either to not have an on-line computer or have access to an on-line computer. Others are likely to be unable to use an on-line computer because they don't know how, are not computer literate as the expression goes; or are scared by the technology, and shy away.

We suggest a phone line accompany "Berkeley Considers." We suggest it be posted wherever "Berkeley Considers" is posted or publicized, including the "Berkeley Considers" website. The phone line should take brief messages that should be transcribed and posted on line. In this way an important group will be able to join all Berkeley residents in this important civic conversation.

Sincerely,

Gabriela Castello-Kramer
Chair, City of Berkeley Commission on Aging

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Opinion: With the number of older residents growing, Berkeley must design for their well-being

There are steps Berkeley can take – like increasing the pedestrian signal time at intersections –that will make it a more amenable place for older residents.



By Guest contributor July 12, 2017, 11 a.m.

By Marie Jobling, Cathy Spensley and Susanne Stadler

Marie Jobling is the executive director of Community Living Campaign, Cathy Spensley is the director of the senior division of the Felton Institute, and Susanne Stadler is the executive director of At Home With Growing Older.

You've heard it before: the world is on the brink of a demographic milestone. While today roughly one in seven Americans is age 65 or older, this population will double by 2060 and California has the most elders of any state. By 2050, the number of centenarians—those age 100+—will have increased 1000%.

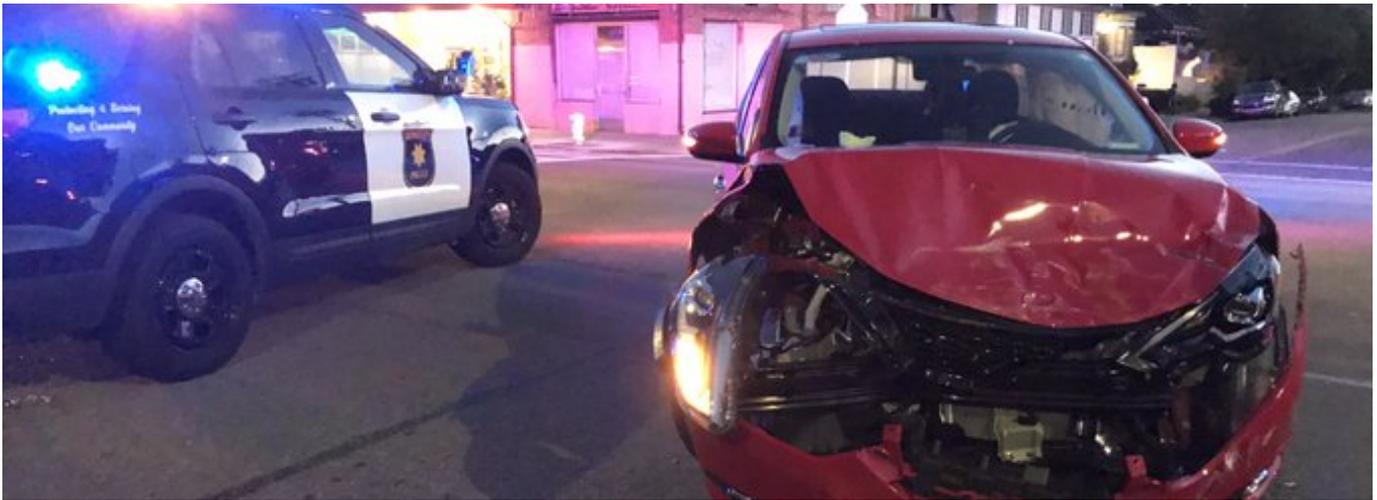
The Bay Area's senior moment(um). Older adults are the fastest-growing segment of the population in the Bay Area, growing 14% in three years (2x more than any other age group). In Berkeley, people 65 and older were the only growing segment of Berkeley's population from 2000 to 2010, the latest census available census data. The number of older adults grew from 10.2 % of the population in 2000 to 11.7% in 2010.

Berkeley, the birthplace of the Independent Living movement has the chance to become a leader again. Without Berkeley, we might not have the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). Berkeley should step up and become again a leader in a movement that promotes an inclusive and accessible environment for people of all ages and abilities.

Cities must be our allies as we age. Berkeley has challenges—hills, walk-ups, limited accessible housing stock. We must design cities, homes, and workplaces to be adaptable to changing personal needs. “Don't just design for aging populations and their survival; design for their thrival,” said Chris Luebke, ARUP Fellow/Global Director of Foresight, Research + Innovation, ARUP, in a recent presentation at the invitation of the nonprofit *AtHomeWithGrowingOlder* at IDEO.

Our imperative: From July 23-27, the [21st World Congress on Gerontology & Geriatrics](#) will come to San Francisco. More than 6,000 professionals from around the world who work in, advocate for, and research aging will gather. Since this conference is held in the U.S. only once every 32 years, now is the time to join our movement and share your thoughts on **how to future-proof our cities and ourselves** with local startups, political representatives, and organizations. Here are some ideas:

- 1. Ensure accessibility is about more than crossing streets.** Kudos to SF for stretching the pedestrian signal time from 4.0 feet per second to 2.5. That allows people who walk more slowly enough time to cross a busy intersection. We need to do more. Now. While we often think about accessibility when it comes to building and other built spaces, what about the accessibility of services, natural resources, and more? What do you want Berkeley to do to ensure its built spaces, services, and natural resources are accessible, regardless of age, ability, or economic situation?
- 2. Strengthen the new *social* security.** Loneliness is a worldwide epidemic that disproportionately affects older adults. Yet, having stronger social ties is linked with better longevity as well as better cognitive and physical health. Many older Berkeley residents live isolated in their long-term homes in the Berkeley Hills. Moving in Berkeley is expensive. Zoning laws make private initiatives for community living difficult. What do you want to see Berkeley do to help us find and refresh social networks in our later years?
- 3. Be prepared for the potential consequences of climate change:** In the summer of 2003, Europe faced a dramatic heatwave resulting in 15,000-19,000 deaths in France alone—primarily older adults. In the Bay Area, our climate is changing, too. San Francisco typically has 12 days over 80 degrees, expected to increase to 32-46 days by 2050. What emergency preparedness plans do you want to see in place?



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• *Peter Sussman*

The most effective age-friendly measures we can take are often the most obvious, albeit costly. The greatest challenge for me — as a senior who has balance and mobility problems and often uses a wheelchair — is the sorry condition of our sidewalks. Seniors in wheelchairs shouldn't have to “pop wheelies” over raised sidewalk plates several times a block, as I do, especially on such major arteries as College Avenue. (I hasten to add that the same obstructions also trip up walkers, the sight-impaired and even children on skateboards or bikes or just skipping along the sidewalk. I have met one couple whose family member was hospitalized for a serious fall on the same stretch of sidewalk in my neighborhood that bedevils me.)

I recognize the problems with maintaining sidewalks that are constantly in flux due to growing tree roots (see accompanying photo for just one example of a sidewalk that appears to have been newly poured but constitutes a major hazard:

<https://uploads.disquscdn.com/images/54dd0e895a859e83c2898a486ad380fb78e4f8c9d9bdf57f78e143>

I have taken many other such photos within a block of my house.) We all love street trees, but many of those long-established trees in Berkeley do not coexist easily with urban sidewalks.

Until we devise solutions for such problems, perhaps through such innovative techniques as experimenting with expandable substrata or new types of sidewalk surfaces or other experimental ways that Berkeley has the intellectual firepower to devise, the public thoroughfares will remain a serious hazard to our citizens, young and, especially, old.

- *Lois Silverstein*

Sidewalks in Berkeley are my nemesis. So long as I don't talk or think or look at anything but the ground, there's a chance I won't fall. A good Zen practice and. I'm a lively Berkeley Senior. Without more repaving from the city, I don't have a fair chance. Hey, dearest City: forget the plastic straw issue and keep us walking And talking.

- *Watson Ladd*

As seniors age driving becomes harder. We need to work to improve access to businesses by walking so that they can retain their independence for longer.

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