

SENIOR ACTION MEETING MINUTES FOR October 7th, 2025

In attendance: Co-Chairs Hon. Walter T. Alexander and Hon. Vanessa J. Caughman, Hon. Pat Caldwell, Hon. Lydia Gerson, Hon. Pat Watler-Johnson, Hon. Liz Eastman, Hon. Francina Wearing, Hon. Teresa Cole-Reagan, William Haggis (George Bruce Library), Public Member Mr. Tony Gonzales, Via Zoom: Madison Ayala (Dept. of Aging) and Heather Jason.
Excused: Hon. Clotilde Monguya

I-Call to Order -11:05am

II-Discussion

- District Needs Assessment Planning

Identify community needs in two categories: capital (construction, building, repairs) and expense (operational costs, programming, etc.)

Discussed the need to review and vote on FY26 budget, which will be brought up at the general board meeting.

- Potential meeting locations

George Bruce Library (possible time constraints)

Hamilton Grange Library (concerns regarding steps and accessibility)

- Rotating meetings to senior centers within the community

The group agreed to consider having some meetings at senior centers to better engage with the community

- Senior Produce Access Initiative

The committee discussed the possibility of providing fresh produce to homebound seniors during winter months

Explored options included possible partnerships with organizations like Westside Campaign for Hunger, Meals on Wheels, and God's Love We Deliver

The group agreed to first survey seniors about needs and current services provided
They plan to create flyers to distribute in the community to gather input from seniors who don't attend senior centers.

The committee will then reach out to city agencies to explore funding possibilities for these initiatives.

- Senior Community Support Services

The group discussed the need for dedicated staff to address specific needs of the senior population within the community.

They explored potential solutions, including the possibility of adjusting meeting times at the library and providing better access to technology and mental health services for seniors, particularly those with dementia.

The conversation also touched on the availability of computer classes and resources for visually impaired seniors, with a recommendation to utilize specialized services at the Andrew High School Library for those with specific needs.

- Senior Center Visits Planning

The group discussed visiting senior centers and agreed to hold meetings at different centers every other month, starting with Lily in November.

The importance of establishing communication with appropriate staff at each center before scheduling meetings was discussed.

The group also considered inviting representatives from organizations like Lily to speak at their general board meetings to share information about their services.

- Elderly Community Engagement Strategies

The meeting focused on addressing the diverse needs of different communities, particularly the elderly, and the importance of understanding and responding to these needs without imposing agendas.

- Cybersecurity Training and Awareness Discussion

The group discussed cybersecurity training and awareness

A detailed discussion followed about ransomware protection and infection prevention,

The group agreed to create educational materials about cybersecurity for senior centers, potentially during next year's senior fair

- Need to reschedule November's Senior Action Committee Meeting

The group also discussed scheduling conflicts with upcoming events, including Election Day and Veterans Day, and decided to tentatively hold the next meeting on November 18th; with date and location confirmation to be sent by email

Old Business

Continue to discuss District Needs Assessments for FY 26

III-Meeting adjourned at 12:37pm. Next meeting will be November 18, 2025