

Colorado Springs Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2019 3:00 – 5:00 pm | City Hall, 107 N. Nevada Ave., 80903

In attendance: Carrie Schillinger (Chair), Lorri Orwig (Co-chair), Lindsey Baker, Caedryn Carter, Aubrey Day, Cleasther Marchman, Connie Johnson, Mittie Pedraza, CJ Moore, Kelsie Heermans, David McKeown, | Excused: Elisa Santos, Vanessa Obetz, Claire Anderson | Absent: Sara Vaas | Guests: Melissa Marts, David Geislinger Staff: Carly Hoff

Call to Order 3:00 pm

Welcome & Introductions

Approval of minutes – Motion: Connie, Second: Lorri, approved unanimously

Citizen Comment – none

Presentation by Mike Mazzola, Energy Resource Center

ERC is a non-profit construction company making homes more efficient to improve lives for Coloradans. Now in their 40th year, they service approximately 2000 homes per year. Sixty percent of their clientele are seniors. Services are free based on income qualification. Funding comes from a mix of the federal government, Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU), private donation and full-cost service revenue stream.

Once a home is audited for its energy needs and efficiency, measures are performed to improve energy efficiency in the home and save owners/renters money on their utility bill. In some cases, the improvements can result in up to a 25% savings on utility bills. CSU funds the program in the interest of demand-side management and the well-being of rate payers who may otherwise have to choose some other expense over their utilities.

Discussion: Mention of how the work preserves affordable housing units. Connie spoke up that she had paid ERC to do an audit on their home and replace units, was very happy with the service and happy to have contributed to the revenue stream for ERC. Most of the work is on furnaces and closing up air gaps in the home. Replacing windows is the least cost-effective way to improve a home's energy efficiency, so ERC doesn't do that work.

Action: None

Presentation by Max Kronstadt and Elam Bocckvar-Klein, Colorado Springs Pro-housing Partnership

PHP is a coalition advocating for policies to address the issue of the affordable housing crisis in Colorado Springs. Greater than half of all renters and more than 30% of homeowners are housing cost burdened in our city (spending more than 30% of their income on housing.) A quarter of our population is spending 50% or more of their income on housing. The supply is not meeting the demand. We can

increase supply by decreasing barriers to development and density, but it is difficult to increase development in R1 zones, which make up a large portion of our area. The city continues to expand outward as a result, perpetuating residential segregation.

PlanCOS calls for infill and allowing more types of housing in more places. One example would be accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Some justification for ADUs for the aging population:

- 94% of residents 60+ want to retire here
- Cost is an issue
- ADUs allow you to monetize your property
- They increase socialization
 - Social isolation increases the risk of dying early by up to 50% (equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day)

The current attempt to allow ADUs in R1 zones is receiving backlash. PHP is working to demonstrate support for ADUs in response. Have had success at the two open houses re: ADUs.

Discussion: If the ordinance passes, next steps include finding funding for ADUs and integrating ADUs into the Chapter 7 rewrite. Commission on Aging submitted formal support to Council for ADUs. Some members are planning to further express their support, though not on behalf of the Commission.

Action: None

New Commission Member Introductions

City Council will formally vote on new Commission members on November 12th First official meeting on December 4th Welcome!

Mittie Pedraza (3 year term) Elisa Santos (Alternate) Vanessa Obetz (Alternate – 3 year term) David McKeown (2 year term) Kelsie Heermans (2 year term)

Discussion: None

Action: None

New Commission Member Introductions

David McKeown and Kelsie Heermans were present for their first meeting as members. They had an opportunity to tell their fellow commissioners more about themselves and vice versa.

Discussion: None

Action: None

Brainstorming Session

Chair Schillinger initiated a discussion to understand, from commissioners' perspective, how the group might be most effective in 2020.

Discussion:

- Meeting locations and outreach – discussed having one meeting per quarter out in the community, meeting people where they're at (Senior Center, Savvy Seniors) as well as commissioners attending events outside of meetings
- Regarding whether or not the focus on the aging population is keeping us from being successful – work to create a more collective voice with other groups to amplify our ideas and concerns (because they directly overlap with so many other groups.)
- Consider issuing some policy briefs in 2020 specific to the areas of concern that we hear about most often. Keep them broad and include examples of what other communities are doing. Then if Council champions any of the ideas, they can give direction about how to focus recommendations.

Action: None

Note that the January meeting has been rescheduled since the first Wednesday falls on New Years Day.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 2019, 3:00 – 5:00 pm at City Hall, 107 N. Nevada Ave., Pikes Peak Conference Room on second floor

Adjournment 4:30 pm