



# MINUTES

## IRVINE SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

**May 18, 2023**  
**Lakeview Senior Center**  
20 Lake Road  
Irvine, CA 92604

### CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Irvine Senior Citizens Council (Senior Council) was called to order at 9 a.m. on May 18, 2023, in the Homer Guimond Studio, Lakeview Senior Center, 20 Lake Road, Irvine, California; Chair Sandlin presiding.

### ROLL CALL

Present:	7	Senior Council Member	Amal Baradehi
		Senior Council Member	Greta Jacobs
		Senior Council Member	Patti Ragland
		Senior Council Member	Zainab Saadi, MD*
		Senior Council Member	Myung Suh
		Vice Chair	Rachel Owens
		Chair	Bill Sandlin

*\*arrived at 9:20 a.m.*

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Senior Council Member Jacobs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PARTICIPATION IN SENIOR COUNCIL MEETING

Athena Martinez, Recording Secretary, provided instructions on how to participate in the Senior Council meeting for those attending via Zoom or in person.

### INTRODUCTIONS

Amber Castrey, Community Services Supervisor, made the following introductions:

- Chris Slama, Director of Community Services
- Kim Ryan, Office Assistant I PT at Trabuco Center and Rancho Senior Center

Denise Bennett-Arabatzis, Community Services Supervisor, introduced Yareli Carranza, Outreach Assistant I EPT for Outreach Services.

## **1. PRESENTATION**

### ***1.1 Distinguished Service Award***

Chair Sandlin presented this award to Bob Johnson for his dedicated volunteerism of over 20 years, supporting Keen Center for Senior Resources and the English Mentoring program.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS – NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS**

There were no public comments.

## **STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Supervisor Bennett-Arabatzis made the following announcements:

- 350 Volunteers provided 21,417 hours of volunteer services for calendar year 2022. The value of a volunteer hour is estimated to be \$31.80, which equates to \$681,060 in volunteer hours for 2022.
- The City will celebrate Pride in Irvine on May 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Civic Center Piazza in honor of Harvey Milk Day and June Pride Month. Attendees will have opportunities to explore programs provided by local advocacy and support organizations, enjoy refreshments and activities, learn about valuable resources, make connections, and celebrate Pride at this free event.
- The Northwood Memorial Candle Lighting Ceremony will begin at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 28 at the Northwood Gratitude and Honor Memorial. This event is presented in partnership with the Northwood Memorial Committee in remembrance of those who gave their lives while defending our nation. It is recommended that attendees bring lawn chairs and or blankets for seating.
- The City will host its annual Memorial Day Ceremony in the Bill Barber Park Formal Garden on Monday, May 29 at 10 a.m. Event memorializes sacrifices made by local service men and women, Gold Star family recognitions, and honoring of the nation's military branches.
- The 29<sup>th</sup> annual Studio Arts Festival will be held on June 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Irvine Fine Arts Center. This annual festival showcases local artists and the original works of art in ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, painting, photography, fiber, and glass.
- Join the fun at the Senior Services Billiards Tournament Wednesday, June 7. The tournament will be eight ball, no last pocket. Light refreshments served. Register in-person or at [yourirvine.org](http://yourirvine.org).

## **SENIOR COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES**

Vice Chair Owens made the following announcements:

- Encouraged participation in the City's districting process over the coming months as described in the summer issue of Inside Irvine magazine.

- The Ryan Lemmon Foundation will present the annual Senior Baseball Showcase on May 19 and 20 at the Ryan Lemmon Stadium. Event is open to the public and admission is \$15.

Chair Sandlin encouraged participation in the Memorial Day events scheduled for May 28 and 29.

## **2. COMMITTEE/GROUP/AGENCY REPORTS**

### **2.1 Senior Services Support/Interest Groups**

#### **2.1.1 Ektaa Center: South Asian Senior Association (SASA)**

Preeti Singh, Chair, reported the following:

- SASA continues to offer regular monthly socials such as the Mother's Day Celebration in May.
- Approximately 60 SASA members attended the Senior Services Strategic Plan Community Forum on April 28.
- SASA offering two new classes at Trabuco Center and Lakeview Senior Center.
- Alzheimer's Association will provide an education seminar on May 26.

#### **2.1.2 Friends of Outreach (FOO)**

Kathleen Pfeiffer, President, reported the following:

- FOO selling tickets for an opportunity drawing for June 30 Independence Day-themed luncheon in the Rose Garden Café. Tickets are \$3 for one or two for \$5 and items available are blankets and patriotic scarves made by International Crafters.
- Bingo program continues to grow.
- Bingo volunteer will be donating funds to purchase a new corner banner.
- International Crafters group growing, and a new sewing group has been formed.
- A \$90 check has been received for the El Pollo Loco restaurant fundraiser.

#### **2.1.3 Irvine Adult Day Health Services, Inc. (IADHS)**

Kimberly Beeson, Executive Director, reported the following:

- Continued challenges post-pandemic are being addressed; IADHS in continued communications with the City.
- Program not at capacity of 50 participants; current enrollment is 42, and waitlist of 100 interested individuals being worked through.
- Census increases each month; seven admissions were made in April.
- The OCTA driver strike that began on May 3 has impacted participation; working with Keen Center for Senior Resources to arrange taxi rides for participants to attend program.

**2.1.4 Irvine Evergreen Chinese Senior Association (IECSA)**

Christine Chung, Director, reported the following:

- All classes and activities are going well.
- A Mother's Day Celebration will be held on May 20.
- Would like to donate a commercial sewing machine to International Crafter's new sewing club.

**2.1.5 Irvine Korean Adult League – No report.**

**2.1.6 NEDA-Association of Iranian American Seniors (NEDA)**

Behnaz Banisadr, NEDA Representative, reported the following:

- Friendly gatherings are held each Thursday from 2 to 5 p.m.
- The monthly membership social is held the third Thursday of each month from 5 to 9 p.m.
- NEDA offers a Bingo program on the first Thursday of each month, and volunteers from within NEDA's membership serve the program.

**2.2 Orange County Senior Citizens Advisory Council-Affiliated Committees**

**2.2.1 Orange County Senior Citizens Advisory Council (SCAC)**

Vice Chair Owens reported a presentation on Parkinson's in south county was provided.

**2.2.2 Wellbeing Reimagined**

Vice Chair Owens reported the following committee goal updates from the April 12 meeting:

- Continued focus on expanding circulation of the new Answers publication.
- Survey of types of technology training offered at senior centers throughout the county.

Vice Chair Owens reported the following from the May 17 meeting:

- A presentation was given by Elder Law and Disability Center about low-cost legal services.
- County has \$4 million (allocated in 2022 and administered by Mercy House) in funding from Home Safe legislation to be used to help individuals remain safe in their own housing.
- Changes to Medi-Cal requirements for nursing home benefits increased to \$130,000 in 2022 and will be eliminated in 2024.

**2.2.3 Housing/Transportation – No report.**

**2.2.4 Senior Citizens Engagement**

Chair Sandlin reported the following:

- Senior Rally Day was held on May 2.
- Many senior assembly bills are on hold in Sacramento due to limited funding.
- Office on Aging provided an update on technology programs.
- New scam on the rise, seniors being enticed to order prescriptions from Mexico due to lower costs, but formulas causing rise in overdose incidents.

**2.3 Senior Citizens Council Committees**

**2.3.1 Facilities Subcommittee**

Senior Council Member Suh provided a handout with updates to facility projects.

**2.3.2 Nutrition Subcommittee** – No report.

**2.3.3 Strategic Plan for Aging Subcommittee** – No report.

**ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

There were no additions or deletions.

**3. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**3.1 MINUTES**


**ACTION: Moved by Senior Council Member Jacobs, seconded by Senior Council Member Baradehi, and unanimously carried by those members present to approve the minutes of the Irvine Senior Citizens Council regular meeting held April 20, 2023.**

**END OF COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Vice Chair Owens, seconded by Senior Council Member Jacobs, and unanimously carried to adjourn the regular Senior Council meeting at 9:58 a.m.

  
 Athena Martinez  
 Recording Secretary

  
 CHAIR  
 June 15, 2023  
 Date Approved