

:Presentation of Senior Advisory Committee to City Council 6 February 2024

First, we would like to thank Council for their appointments. The Senior Advisory Committee is working well together. We would also like to recognize Ron Smith for his coordination of the Senior Info/Expo and thank Library and City staff for their assistance with this event. Angela Howell and Craig Ward were most helpful at the Library. For the City staff, Brenda Campbell, Nick Brooks, Kelly Keleman, Travis Orian, and Marlene Pearce were particularly helpful. This event was put together on short notice and everyone stepped up to make it successful. Depending on who you ask, we had between 350 and 500 participants.

Next, we request that Council and Staff add three high-priority items to their Futures Planning:

1. A new, larger Community Center/Senior Center. There are estimated between 9,000 and 16,000 seniors in our city. The current Community Center is reaching capacity for many of their programs and needs to be enlarged to meet demand and provide new services. In the Senior Center, we need rooms for larger groups and space to have card games, handicrafts, and other activities going on at the same time. All of these activities help seniors to socialize and to meet new friends. We shouldn't have to sacrifice one activity in order to accommodate the others. The Community Center/Senior Center should be a destination, not an after-thought. I have discussed this with Chance Love, the Community Center Director and he would like to remain connected to or affiliated with the Senior Center. With a new, larger Center, we would be able to provide services, not currently available, such as hot meals and Meals on Wheels. These services are currently being provided by PGCSA because we don't have the capability to meet the needs of the seniors in Maricopa.
2. Improve the MET and Dial-a-ride systems. This is a much-needed service, but it is very limited and inconsistent. We need a more consistent and improved system that can meet the needs of the seniors in our city. A dispatcher to answer the phone would be a big step in making this service available to the seniors in the City and could assist in providing rides for those needing transportation.
3. We had help from the City staff this year for the Senior Info/Expo and would like to see that continue and even expand the City involvement for next year and continuing, especially in the areas of promoting the event, facilitating event sponsorship, transportation to the event, and processing all financial transactions. This event requires a partnership between the City and the Senior Advisory Committee in order to be successful.

Let's future-proof by building a Senior Center that you on the City Council can be proud of, and by providing a way to get there.

Last, in your packet you have a list of Senior Advisory Committee Goals. These are based on the goals which you presented to us in Res 23-52. These changes and adjustments were formulated by the Committee over a period of about three months. To run through them quickly, (a), (b), (c), and (d) remain the same as previously passed.

We have modified (e) to read “Be available to partner with community organizations to educate, inform, and improve the quality of life for seniors.”

We deleted (g) “Assist with volunteer recruitment for organizations in the City...” as the Community Center is already doing this, and we combined (h), (i), and (j) under “Work with and support existing senior programs.”

We added: Advocate for senior transportation services within the City of Maricopa. This is a critical issue for seniors. We have heard from many seniors that they would like to participate in various activities but are unable to get a ride. We would like to be involved with trying to find a solution to this problem.

in Section 4, item (c) of your Resolution 23-52 we request that it be amended to: “Any member who is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings or is absent to any three(3) meetings over a four(4)-month period, without contacting the chairperson, shall be considered as having resigned his/her position.”

Six months is too long for us to have a non-productive person on the Committee.

We believe that these changes will help us to meet the Committee Goals stated in Resolution 23-52: “The Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) shall act in an advisory capacity to City Council in the development and continuing review of ways to enrich and enhance the quality of life for seniors in the City.”