

Commission on Aging
Odile Lavault, Chair
Darlene Bronson, Commission Secretary

COMMISSION ON AGING DRAFT AGENDA

Wednesday, April 16, 2025
North Berkeley Senior Center
Gooseberry Room
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order by Chair, Lavault
2. Roll Call by Secretary, Bronson
3. 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.

4. Approval of minutes from March 2025 (Attachment A)
5. Approval of order of agenda

The Commission may discuss 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.

Presentation

None

Staff report

None

Discussion / Action Items

1. Letter regarding implementation of Measure FF funds Recommendations for Measure FF letter-discussed that sidewalk funding, working group by Porter/Collins/Newberry. (Attachment B & C)
2. Commission on Aging work plan 2025 review, Lavault

Commissioner reports

Alzheimer's Day of Action March 5th, Orrick

Information Items

**Please submit all agenda items by Friday, May 9th to the Commission Secretary, for the May 21st meeting only.

Items for Ongoing Discussion

1. Safety & identify homebound seniors in Berkeley
2. Berkeley Rides for Seniors and Disabled waitlist
3. Older drivers' safety and DMV policies

Adjournment

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.

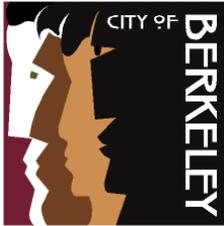
Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the North Berkeley Senior Center located at 1901 Hearst Avenue, during regular business hours. The Commission Agenda and Minutes may be viewed on the City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

Secretary:

Darlene Bronson
Health, Housing & Community Services Department
(510) 981-5194
E-mail: dbronson@berkeleyca.gov

Mailing Address:

Commission on Aging/HHCS
Darlene Bronson
1901 Hearst Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94709



Health, Housing & Community
Services Department
Commission on Aging

COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
1:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: (6) Yamaguchi, Orrick, Lavault, Collins, Porter, Newberry

Absent:

Excused Absence: Cochran, Evans

Staff Present: (2) Darlene Bronson, Donnaracia Scurry

Public: (8)

2. Public Comment (9)

Presentation

Aligning Street Safety and Emergency Response in the Berkeley Hills-This work reveals that the current status quo may be dangerous for people living in the Berkeley Hills, especially for those over the age of 60 who make up a high proportion of the area's residents. Morgan Elizabeth Cunneen-Franco, Lisa Schroer, Esteban Villaseñor Masters of City Planning Student at UC Berkeley

Staff Report

Action Items

1. Motion to include approval of order of agenda

M/S: Yamaguchi/Orrick

Ayes: Collins, Porter, Lavault

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion passed.

2. Motion to move the discussion on newly passed Measure FF and schedule a presentation on FF to a future meeting after March

M/S: Orrick / Yamaguchi

Ayes: Collins, Porter, Newberry, Lavault

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion passed.

3. Motion to modify Measure FF implementation recommendation letter working group (Porter/Collins/Newberry)

M/S: Porter/Yamaguchi

Ayes: Lavault

Abstain: None

Motion passed.

4. Motion to move Commission on Aging Workplan review to April

M/S: Orrick/Newberry

Ayes: Collins, Porter, Lavault, Yamaguchi

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion passed.

5. Motion to move COA meeting to Gooseberry room

M/S: Porter/Lavault

Ayes: Collins, Orrick, Yamaguchi, Newberry

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion passed.

6. Motion to move BRSD presentation by Mary Triston, rescheduled to a later date: TBA

M/S: Orrick/Lavault

Ayes: Collins, Porter, Yamaguchi, Newberry

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion passed.

Discussion Items

1. Introduction of new Commissioner on Aging, Sheila Newberry
2. Alzheimer's Day of Action March 5th, Orrick

Commissioners adjourned at 3:30p.m.

Minutes Approved on:

Darlene Bronson, Commission Secretary

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,

A short while before our Feb.19 meeting we, the Commission on Aging, were informed of the Feb 6 dated letter the local citizen group BAROW (Berkeleyans for Accessible Rights-of-Way) had sent to the Mayor and Council. We would like here to thank the group for their clear and sincere concern for the well being of Berkeley's Disabled and Elder communities and to urge you to take their comments seriously.

As far as the six recommendations contained within goes, the commission is in general agreement with the well meaning goals of each of these. That said, we haven't yet had time to carefully examine the specificities in the manner needed to give our full support.

Importantly, though, we strongly support BAROW's overarching intention with these recommendations - to ensure that these two large and growing "stake-holder" demographics (elders and the disabled) have a seat at the table in effectively honing the uses of the funding as well as the prioritization of the projects provided for by Measure FF .

We are especially supportive of recommendation in #5 that some person or persons who have considerable knowledge regarding Disabled and Elder rights and needs in the context of use of the public right of way MUST sit on the SSCOC or have a formal, working relationship with it.

That knowable voice must be heard and we urge the Mayor and Council to stipulate its inclusion to the full extent possible.

Beyond that, again, there are many details in Barrow's letter that the Commission on Aging would need to better understand before making comment one way or another on the full proposal. For now, we encourage Council to take the group's recommendations seriously and to offer the commission's assistance by requesting the matter be formally referred to us. .

To the City Council:

April 9, 2025

The Committee on Aging received a letter and testimony from concerned citizens on February 13, 2025 about difficulties for the elderly, including those with disabilities, in getting around town. The concerns focus on aging infrastructure and newly built infrastructure (both of which may create barriers of access and may cause needless accidents) in the context of using the voter-approved funds made available through Measure FF (2024).

We focus here on the concerns raised by them about mobility without a car, which encompasses “active travel” (non-motorized mobility), such as walking and biking, and the use of motorized wheelchairs or mobility carts.

This commission supports the recommendations of the concerned citizens for the city of Berkeley to incorporate ADA-mandated curb ramps and other ADA Title II traffic safety measures into pedestrian and bicycle projects going forward, since these will help make it safer for older people and those with disabilities to move about the city.

For example, we endorse the goal of eliminating sidewalk repair backlog, which Measure FF funding is intended to help prioritize, and recognize that this is consistent with the Measure’s stipulation that funding levels provided by Measure FF will be over and above the current annual amount of 15M for street maintenance from other sources.

We further endorse the recommendation to ensure that bike lanes and cycle tracks not impose barriers of access for people with disabilities — in fact, we see no necessary contradiction here between facilitating the development of bike lanes and ensuring compliance with the ADA. In the Bay Area, there are good local examples of protected bikeways where disability advocates were deeply integrated into the design process, including the Walnut Avenue project in Fremont and Mission Boulevard in Hayward. We see no reason why this cannot be emulated here in Berkeley.

Where such barriers currently exist, there should be prompt redress. For example: One commissioner recently rode her bike up to the ADA accessible First Congregational Church to examine the new two-lane bicycle track, which creates a barrier of access to the church for anyone being dropped off by car in a wheelchair. To our knowledge, the church is otherwise ADA compliant. We agree that this problem — and others like it — can and should be fixed and lie within the goals set forth in Measure FF.

To this end, we urge that the formation of the Safe Streets Citizen Oversight Committee be comprised not only of those with experience in civil engineering,

transportation engineering, infrastructure program management and implementation of municipal bond management (as stipulated in Measure FF), but that the Committee should include expertise in ADA compliance, or that such expertise be made available to that Committee on a consulting basis. That the expertise is needed, we take as given.

Moreover, we urge city staff to make a special effort to publicize widely (e.g., with notices to Berkeley’s senior centers) the time and date of the public workshops to be organized by city staff (as stipulated by Measure FF) so that people who know their neighborhood best can provide details about specific problem areas, sidewalks known to be especially dangerous to the aged, etc. For example, if *before* a given workshop is held, citizens were specifically encouraged to access the document “City of Berkeley Street Repair Plan: FY2024–FY2028” (see attached), or this document were distributed to them, they might be better prepared to provide site-specific knowledge of relevance to the city’s efforts to coordinate re-paving and sidewalk rehabilitation projects.

Finally we call attention to the difficulties mentioned by the concerned citizens that private construction sites can impose on seniors and those with disabilities, especially sites involving the construction of large buildings which require rerouting of bike lanes and pedestrian walkways. We’re concerned that proper signage and safe alternative passageways are too often lacking, and urge the city, as part of its routine permitting process, to ensure compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

Commission on Aging