



AGENDA REPORT

DATE: December 14, 2010
TO: City of Los Altos City Council
FROM: Los Altos/Los Altos Hills Senior Committee
SUBJECT: SENIOR COMMITTEE SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

Receive Senior Committee Second Quarterly Report.

BACKGROUND

The Senior Committee's Charter states that the Committee shall provide a quarterly report to the Council. This report is intended to demonstrate the Senior Committee's quarterly accomplishments. (See Attachment.)

DISCUSSION

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ALTERNATIVES

Request additional information.

Attachment:
Senior Committee Second Quarterly Report



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REVIEW OF ROLE AND MISSION

Role:

The Senior Committee is an advisory body to the City of Los Altos and Town of Los Altos Hills on matters pertaining to seniors.

Charter:

The charter of the joint Los Altos/Los Altos Hills (LA/LAH) Senior Committee is to promote and enhance the quality of life and well-being of senior citizens in both communities.

To accomplish this the Senior Committee shall:

1. Advise both City Councils on Senior needs and issues;
2. Make recommendations about programs and resources that pertain to Seniors;
3. Gather information from the Senior community;
4. Invite community stakeholders currently serving Seniors to collaborate and share information;
5. Assist in identifying funding agencies and sources, and in applying for grants;
6. Define opportunities for Seniors to make significant contributions to the community;
7. Meet monthly and conduct business as required; and
8. Provide a quarterly written report to each Council and be available to meet with each Council at least once a year.

MEMBERSHIP

Appointed by the City of Los Altos:

Karen Jenney
K. Gabrielle Tiemann
Anabel Pelham
Kathy Seddiqui
Tanya DeMare
William Palmer

Appointed by the Town of Los Altos Hills:

Diane Brauch

Alexander (Al) J. Traficanti

Catherine Long Popell

Staff Liaisons: Candace Bates, City of Los Altos Staff and Sarah Gualtieri, Town of Los Altos Hills Staff

COMMITTEE PROGRESS

The Committee continues to meet the first Monday of every month at 4:30 PM in Hillview Room 11.

Senior Committee member, Gabrielle Tiemann, was recommended to the Los Altos City Council to be appointed as the Los Altos representative for the Silicon Valley Advisory Council of the Council on Aging. The recommendation was approved. Her primary responsibility will be to serve as the liaison between the City of Los Altos and the Council on Aging.

The Committee created a senior questionnaire to be sent to those residents in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills who are 55+. This questionnaire will assist the Committee in meeting its four basic directives of the Charter. There are 21 questions and there will be ample room for additional comments if desired. There are 4479 mailing addresses in the 94022 and 94024 zip code areas for residents 55 and over. The questionnaires will be sent to these addresses in early January, 2011. Analysis of the returned data will begin February 1, 2011. This information will be the basis of “advising both City Councils on Senior needs and issues, making recommendations about programs and resources that pertain to Seniors, gathering information from the Senior community and defining opportunities for Seniors to make significant contributions to the community.” The items in quotes are all goals of the Committee Charter. The cost to print and distribute these questionnaires is approximately \$3000. The questionnaire and requests for funding were presented to the Town of Los Altos Hills Council on October 21, 2010 and to the City of Los Altos Council on October 26, 2010. Both Councils approved the questionnaire and are sharing the funding of the distribution. The Town of Los Altos Hills is contributing \$1000 and the City of Los Altos is contributing \$2000. If further funds are needed, the Committee will obtain them from other community philanthropic organizations which will require additional Council approval. There will be publicity in the *Town Crier* and on fliers prior to the distribution to alert seniors that the questionnaire is coming. Continued publicity will occur during the month of January to encourage residents to participate.

A list of basic senior resources has been compiled. A booklet containing the detailed list will be made available for use at the Senior Center and hopefully at the library. The Committee is working with the Chamber of Commerce to create a Senior Resources section in next year’s annual booklet. Having one source would help seniors and/or their caregivers find the information they need to be less tedious and time consuming.

The Committee is discussing the possibility of presenting a proposal to both Councils to become the first Age Friendly City in California. This is under the auspices of a global Age Friendly Network, sponsored by the World Health Organization. If this occurs, both Los Altos and Los Altos Hills would enjoy access to international best practice ideas, event planning and external support for grant funding for a variety of projects.

In response to the Los Altos City Council's request on September 28, 2010 to inquire into the senior lunch cost increases and resulting non-participation, Committee members have met with those seniors affected. Members attended two luncheons in October and asked the attendees to answer a few questions concerning the luncheons and programming. The Committee will continue to consult with the senior participants and make a recommendation to the Council in January.

The Committee is working on having an article in the *Town Crier* in each of the Senior Lifestyle editions. Committee members believe that the existence of the Committee needs to be made known, along with any projects in process. An article, "Demography is Destiny: Senior Committee Promotes Charter," was published in the October 19, 2010 issue of the *Town Crier*.

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