



EAST PALO ALTO SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 6:00 PM

City Hall

2415 University Ave Second Floor

East Palo Alto, CA 94303

NOTICE

This meeting will be held virtually and in-person at the Council Chambers located on 2415 University Ave, First Floor East Palo Alto, CA 94303. The virtual portion of this Senior Advisory Committee Meeting will be conducted in accordance with City of East Palo Alto Resolution adopted pursuant to Assembly Bill 361.

The public may participate in the Senior Advisory Committee Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 2415 University Ave, First Floor East Palo Alto, CA 94303. Community members may provide comments by emailing mbaker@cityofepa.org, submitting a speaker card at the meeting, or using the **RAISE HAND** feature when the Community Services representative or Committee Chair call for public comment. Emailed comments should include the specific agenda item on which you are commenting.

Please click this URL to join

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88014583089>

Meeting ID: 880 1458 3089

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Join instructions

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/88014583089/invitations?signature=dRKFD-LW5ikMwelleUScTSY9kwQC7BaeMiEs2-GDSOk>

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - 3.1 **Senior Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 9.2.26**
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. OLD BUSINESS
 1. Senior Services Task Force (September, October, November) (PH, IS, CS, QS)
 2. Mitchell Dempsey Recognition Planning (PH, MB)
 3. Summer Park Activation Field Trip Round Table - Select date (PH, MB)
6. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Senior Services Strategic Plan (PH)
7. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 1. Transportation Subcommittee Report (CS, MTF, QS)
 2. Communication & Social Participation Subcommittee (DR, PYR, SLL, RC)
8. STAFF REPORTS
 1. Senior Services Assessment
9. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming meetings:

November 4, 2026	Senior Advisory Committee Meeting	6pm
January 6, 2026	Senior Advisory Committee Meeting	6pm
February 3, 2026	Senior Advisory Committee Meeting	6pm

This AGENDA is posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a)

This Notice of Availability of Public Records: All public records relating to an open session item which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act, that are distributed to the majority of the City Council will be available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the City Council. Such documents may also be available on the East Palo Alto website www.cityofepa.org subject to staff's ability to post the documents prior to the meeting. Information may be obtained by calling (650) 853-3100.

The City Council meeting packet may be reviewed by the public in the Library or the City Clerk's Office. Any writings or documents pertaining to an open session item provided to a majority of the City Council less than 72 hours prior to the meeting, shall be made available for public inspection at the front counter at the City Clerk's Office, 2ND Floor, City Hall, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, California 94303 during normal business hours. Information distributed to the Council at the Council meeting becomes part of the public record. A copy of written material, pictures, etc. should be provided for this purpose.

East Palo Alto City Council Chambers is ADA compliant. Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations, aids or services may be made by a person with a disability to the City Clerk's office at (650) 853-3127 no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof.

DECLARATION OF POSTING

This Notice is posted in accordance with Government Code §54954.2(a) or §54956. Members of the public can view electronic agendas and staff reports by accessing the City website. Under penalty of perjury, this Agenda was posted to the public at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

POSTED: (9/23/26)

ATTEST:

Maurice Baker
Community Services Manager



CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 2, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
EPA Government Center
City Council Chamber
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Paris Hill at 6:01pm

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Paris Hill	Chair	Present	
Ruth Cossey	Vice-Chair	Present	
Maria Teresa Fernandez	Committee Member	Present	
Pearlie Young Rainer	Committee Member	Present	
Donna Rutherford	Committee Member	Present	
Isaac Stevenson Jr.	Committee Member	Present	
Q. Smith	Committee Member		6:05pm
Court Skinner	Committee Member	Present	
Sui-Lin Li	Committee Member	Present	

Committee Member Donna Rutherford made a motion to approve the July minutes, Committee Member Maria Teresa Fernandez seconded, all were in favor. Committee Member Court Skinner moved to approve the agenda, Committee Member Donna Rutherford seconded, all were in favor.

Public Comment

No Public comment

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Senior Services Task Force** (September, October, & November)

Committee Member Maria Teresa Fernandez arrived at the August Task Force meeting and gave an update. They talked about how we can communicate better (specifically around field trips) that was the most important element.

Staff shared that there was a request to have a round table to discuss field trips, we won't move away from digital registrations but will work to support those that need it. There was a discussion to utilize the computer room at the Senior Center with AsKevin providing support (instead of renting space at the YMCA). There

was a discussion surrounding events in public spaces and ensuring Senior Center Inc. is aware of the events. Senior Prom was also discussed, specifically how to ensure everyone feels welcome at the event, a prize giveaway, and need based tickets (a process was created on this front). East Palo Alto Academy companionship program wants to build a deeper relationship with the Senior Center so they can continue companionship walks in the park (led by Vice-Mayor Ruben Abrica and community member Dyanne Ladine). A Senior Services Strategic Assessment update was also given at the task force. It was noted that staff has a draft of the findings, and this will be revealed confidentially to members of Senior Advisory Committee and Senior Center Inc. with the item going to City Council in November. It was noted that the Senior Center will develop a public parking lot policy for events day.

All Senior Services Task Force meetings are on Fridays at 1:30pm and are held at the Senior Center. It was decided that Committee Member Isaac Stevenson would attend September 18, Committee Member Court Skinner would attend October 16, and Committee Member Q Smith would attend November 20.

2. **Senior Prom:** The Senior Ball is September 25, it is named Evening Without Borders and it was noted we want to be inclusive. An update on the tickets were given - 112 tickets have been sold on Eventbrite; Senior Center has sold 18 tickets; 16 tickets have been purchased via a sponsorship table from Supervisor Lisa Gauthier and AsKevin. It was noted that some of the entertainment has requested tickets in lieu of payment so we will need to hold tickets for those entertainers (specifically the Chinese Dancers will receive tickets). Staff member Vincent Amelio is keeping track of these tickets. It was noted by Committee Member Ruth Cossey that the photobooth is available. The tickets are sold online and can be accessed via the QR code on the flier or on eventbrite. It was noted the ticket price was reduced to \$50 with an additional minor service fee (around \$5).
3. **Mitchell Dempsey Recognition:** It was recommended to honor Mitchell Dempsey in a similar fashion as the celebration for Ola Augoman. His tenure of twenty years with the Ravenswood City School District, twenty years with the City of East Palo Alto, and his military career were noted as valuable to include and recognize. It is recommended to have a conversation at the Senior Services Task Force meeting on how to honor him. The city will do a resolution, and it was recommended the Senior Advisory Committee do a resolution; staff wants the event to be well attended. The city will be supporting this event financially; it could occur at the Community Room or Cooley Landing. Committee Member Donna Rutherford recommended a subcommittee to plan the event, day and time for the celebration and recognition. Committee Member Donna Rutherford, Committee Member Isaac Stevenson, Committee Member Maria Teresa Fernandez, and Chair Paris Hill volunteered to be on this planning committee.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. **November Potluck:** Chair Paris Hill recommended doing a potluck for the Senior Advisory Committee November meeting. This would be something festive and open to everyone who wanted to attend. Committee Member Donna Rutherford recommended a subcommittee to plan the event. There was a consensus of the body that it should occur. Chair Paris Hill volunteered to lead the subcommittee to plan the event.
2. **December Hiatus:** Chair Paris Hill recommended not to have a December meeting. Staff noted the City Manager has requested the Senior Advisory Committee to have a workplan to present to city council for the following year; the City Manager would like to see the plan before January. There was a recommendation for the October meeting to be a working meeting to create the workplan. It was noted that a workplan was created in the past in 2024. There was a request for an example workplan and staff stated they will send it. There was a vote for the Senior Advisory Committee to take a December hiatus – all members voted unanimously in favor of having a December hiatus.
3. **Summer Park Activation Field Trip Round Table:** A flow sheet of what the registration process and cancellation process are for future trips was shared. Staff noted there is a plan to have a round table with snacks to hear from everyone in an environment that isn't in a publicly recorded and available platform.

Public Comment – community member Karen Williams spoke and stated she participated in the last two trips and had a grand time. She shared she had time to walk around; they rode a ferry which was a nice, beautiful ride, she would like to do it again, they took photos, and saw Alcatraz (which she'd never seen before). She noted the trip to the aquarium was great, they ate afterwards and she loved it (everyone got along well). Community Member Sandra Green shared she had the blessing to be on most of trips, everything was well organized, she reconnected with people she hadn't seen in decades, and she shared appreciation for Chair Paris Hill, staff Maurice Baker and the City. Committee Member Donna Rutherford noted she enjoyed the trips they've gone on; she requested to share the trips via word of mouth, she also noted the 50-passenger tour bus was full most of the time. Chair Paris Hill noted whenever she curates the trips, she is looking at the cost and tries to have two high end trips based on the budget. She also noted that even though they may have 55 passenger bus they try to keep the capacity at no more than 40 because of safety reasons. Her goal is to expand and do year-round programming, but we need more support. She noted it was the 6th year of this programming. She noted that the registration process is digital because the city needs to track the data for the program. There was another public comment, Mary, she went on all the trips and enjoyed them, there is a lot of seniors who don't drive so it's good for those folks. Brigitte Grant with the East Palo Alto Senior Center stated that Chair Paris Hill is doing an awesome job, she thanked Chair Paris Hill and staff. Another community

member, Margaret, a resident of East Palo Alto for 48 years shared she is grateful to Chair Paris Hill and noted the trips were beautiful (she went to Pier 39). Margaret stated that although the trip was full, Chair Paris Hill communicated that she would call her if a spot opened, a spot opened, Chair Paris Hill called her, and she was able to attend the trip. Another community member, on behalf of the attendees of the Senior Center, thanked the Senior Advisory Committee as they enjoyed the trips and had fun. Community Member, Sherri Bundi provided some support to one of the trips to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and stated the seniors were so excited and happy. Sherri admired Chair Paris Hill's ability to remain calm under pressure, as there were registration difficulties and folks who didn't speak English and she did everything to accommodate everyone. Another community member, Mrs. Mae said thank you for helping the seniors and a special thank you to staff Maurice Baker. Chair Paris Hill stated a challenge - people would sign-up and then cancel at the last minute, she gave an example and requested people be mindful of this issue due to budget restrictions and recommended some type of deposit for events in the future to prevent this issue. Committee Member Maria Teresa Fernandez wanted to mention the trips were great, and from what people tell her, the Spanish speaking people enjoyed the trips as well. She noted that she will often provide translation support during the trips so the Spanish speaking attendees understand everything. She noted one challenge when one field trip was cancelled some folks weren't notified and it impacted those people. There was a discussion of when to hold the in-person round table- Chair Paris Hill Committee, Committee Member Isaac Stevenson, and Committee Member Donna Rutherford said evening works for them; Committee Member Ruth Cossey, Committee Member Sui-Lin Li, Committee Member Court Skinner, Committee Member Pearlie Young-Rainer, Committee Member Maria Teresa Fernandez, and Committee Member Q Smith are open to anytime. It was noted that only four committee members can attend the meeting due to the Brown Act. Committee Member Maria Teresa Fernandez, Chair Paris Hill, Committee Member Ruth Cossey, Committee Member Isaac Stevenson all expressed interest in attending.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Transportation Subcommittee:** There has not been a transportation sub-committee meeting. There was a suggestion for the City to help schedule the meeting and follow-up with committee members to keep them on track. Staff noted both vans are operable, but we only have one shuttle driver, and we are going to recruitment for a second van driver. The city is working to have more weekend and grocery trips for seniors.
2. **Communication & Social Subcommittee:** Committee Member Sui-Lin Li, Committee Member Pearlie Young-Rainer, and Committee Member Ruth Cossey met and discussed gathering data for who and where the seniors are in this community. They are trying to obtain information on people who are

homebound. They will continue to meet on the second Friday of the month at 11am on Zoom.

V. STAFF REPORTS

1. **Senior Services Assessment** – staff noted there is a 41-page draft report that talks about city managed programs- senior services staff (nutrition & transportation); Senior Center, Senior Center Inc., and Senior Advisory Committee. It was noted that not all the outside organizations and non-profits that also support seniors in the city is in the report. Staff will release the report to the Senior Advisory Committee and Senior Center Inc. There will be time to review it in October in Senior Services Task Force meeting. Afterwards the report will go to City Council in November. Then City Council will make a recommendation of what they want to see for Senior Services in the City of East Palo Alto.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee Member Donna Rutherford shared information about the Drew Health Foundation's Family and Friends BBQ, Saturday September 19th from 12pm-4pm, she stated you must RSVP and she will follow-up with staff Maurice Baker to distribute flier. Chair Paris Hill will be holding the last event for Summer Park Activation, on the west side, it will be a Jamba Juice tasting event with raffle prizes at Boom Pop Park.

Public Comment: Brigitte Grant informed everyone regarding the event- Seniors on the Move, coordinated by Supervisor Jackie Spears. Brigitte stated registration is online; there will be a bus leaving the Senior Center at 8am to take the participants to the San Mateo County Fairgrounds from 9am-3pm. There was a request for the flier to be sent to staff so it can be distributed. Community member Daniel wanted to thank everyone who does their job for the community and noted that most of the community speaks Spanish and would appreciate all the information in Spanish. There was another public comment, the community member had a question regarding senior prom tickets, specifically they bought their ticket online for around \$45 dollars each due to the online service fee and they were unaware it could be bought in cash at the Senior Center without the service fee. The community member asked why there was a price difference. Staff stated they were unaware of the online service fee and if people are seeking a refund for the \$5 fee to reach out to city staff. Brigitte stated she will sell the tickets with the service fee moving forward. Chair Paris Hill emphasized that the Senior Center needs to share the list of names of people who bought tickets in cash with city staff so there can be one cohesive guest list for the event.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Paris Hill adjourned the meeting at 7:19pm.