November 12, 2016

TO: AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities

On behalf of the City of Winnemucca and Humboldt County, I am excited to submit our letter in support of our Community to be considered as an age-friendly City. We are very aware of the demography of our area and the role that our senior citizens have within our County. We know that we have a very active and vibrant senior community and it has been a priority to address their needs. We are pro-active in our resolve to provide viable services to meet the needs of our seniors.

In September 2015, we hosted a Dementia and Driving Town Hall meeting. The Winnemucca Age-Friendly team (consisting of representatives from the senior center, the Humboldt General Hospital staff, AARP, the City Police Department, volunteers, and myself) began monthly meetings to discuss and implement items to make our community the best fit for seniors.

To date, we have moved through the eight categories of age-friendly communities, focusing on the key topics that affect our city. Our initial actions include:

- analyzing outdoor spaces for accessibility to determine where we need improvement;
- adding a concierge service on the senior bus on Tuesdays to provide extra assistance for those in need;
- celebrating the addition of a second senior apartment complex next to the Senior Center creating a senior campus atmosphere and offering sliding scale pricing;
- organizing a list of social activities and services for seniors – in fact all ages;
- studying the many health care services provided by HGH and the Pleasant Senior Center and discussing ways to inform more people of the services;

WINNEMUCCA, PROUD OF IT!
- reviewing the assets of HGH to offer full health coverage from birth through all stages of life including visiting physicians, medical residents, walk-in-clinic and long term care including a new Alzheimer’s care facility;
- created additional handicap parking in the downtown shopping area which included accommodations for the senior bus;
- communicated news of our progress through our second Age-Friendly and Dementia-Friendly Town Hall meeting held in September of this year and received feedback from attendees.

The City of Winnemucca, including Humboldt County, has made great progress this first year and we have a positive direction for our second year using our research, the Town Hall meetings and our community feedback.

I, personally, feel that Winnemucca is geared to be one of the prime rural locations for senior retirement. We are broadening our senior housing, medical community and enhancing the social and recreational opportunities to our older residents. We are and will continue to be committed to having an outstanding quality of life for our seniors and all residents of Winnemucca.

Sincerely,

Di An Putnam
Mayor