

SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

March 3, 2009

Members Present: Hope Newsom, Sharda Khilnani, Deborah Bordeaux, Sarah Bridges, Bonita Sharpee, Don Daria, Mark Roberts, Cindy Bright, Wanda Mukherjee, and Mayor Vivian Jones..

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Susan Simpson, Parks & Recreation
Carol Battle, Resources For Seniors
Leah Simmons, Resources For Seniors
Miranda Strider-Allen, Resources For Seniors

Guest Present: Charles Sebastian, Senior
Matthew Daw, Troop 318.

CALL TO ORDER

Hope Newsom called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

MINUTES

ACTION: Bonita Sharpee mad a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Sarah Bridges seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS

The board welcomed Mark Roberts and Deborah Bordeaux to the board. Each member introduced themselves and told how long they had been on the board.

ITEMS FOR AGENDA FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Don Daria gave a growth report. He and Leah Simmons have been working together to capture numbers for these reports. They have been looking at memberships sine June, 2007. It was determined that capacity for the building was 900. In 2008, the membership was 1079 with new members totaling 138. The projection for 2009 is 1301 with 172 new members. Fifty new Senior Center Advisory Board

March 3, 2009

members have signed up since the first of the year. Membership is on the increase and the projections have been accurate to date. Mr. Daria said that he and Ms. Simmons are going to begin to use additional measures to gain additional information concerning how long participants stay at the center.

Ms. Simpson gave a brief report on expansion. She included the second and third phases of expansion in the Town of Wake Forest Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). Phase II is set for 2011-12 and Phase III follows in 2012-13. Mayor Jones informed the board that she has included these expansion phases in a list for stimulus money. She will also be meeting with Congressman Brad Miller next week.

Carol Battle gave a brief overview of what the National Certification process involves for the benefit of the new members. She informed the board that staff has had to postpone their efforts at National Certification because of budget constraints. She said that a lot of good information has come from the core team members. Ms. Battle and Ms. Strider-Allen did let the board know that their State certification was extended from 3 to 5 years. Ms. Strider-Allen told the board that Resources For Seniors has cut centers by 9%. For the new members, the Center was the 1st in the state to receive State certification in 2000 and they also have the "Center of Excellence" distinction. Wanda Mukherjee asked Ms. Battle about the National Exercise program that she and the center were involved in? Ms. Battle said that the Center was selected as #3 in the Nation to have the program. She also mentioned the "Strong & Fit" program which is funded by the CDC and Arthritis Foundation. Ms. Battle has been traveling around North Carolina and Illinois as a National Trainer. They received 2 grants, won a State award and won Honorable Mention in the Nation. All the members talked about how fortunate Wake Forest is to have this staff and center.

Wanda Mukherjee asked if the staff from the new Rex Wellness Center had been to talk with the seniors about their pool/center? Ms. Battle said that they had and that she looks at them as an addition and not a competition.

The next item of business was a review of Matt Hale's letter to Ms. Simpson which provided a cost estimate for the Phase I expansion. Ms. Simpson mentioned that the Town would bid the project with a base bid and then several alternates. One alternate is lobby renovations and extra office space. This was not part of the original expansion report and is something that can be postponed to another phase. Don Daria asked who approves the bids? Ms. Simpson said that the board of commissioners approve bids.

The last item of old business was further discussion of some type of recognition for longtime board member Thelma Wright. Sharda Khilnani told the board that she attends the Community Council meetings which consists of 22 organizations/clubs. The group decided to give money for something at the Senior Center in honor of Ms. Wright. Staff at the center determined there need of a flat screen TV and a Wii.

Ms. Simpson also told the board that a picture in the hallway of the new expansion with a plaque would be something the Senior Board could provide as recognition.

NEW BUSINESS

The only item of business was a discussion of a possible mission statement for the board. Don Daria had asked for this to be on the agenda. Don Daria and Sharda Khilnani asked the board to decide just how active they want to be. What are there duties or are they just a rubber stamp board. Ms. Simpson said that she had taken the liberty of developing a few for the board to look at. Mr. Daria said that he thought the duties listed in the ordinance could serve as the mission statement. Ms. Simpson explained that a mission statement is a broad/general statement and then you develop goals & objectives. Mr. Daria stated that most of the agenda items are Ms. Simpson or Ms. Battle's. Ms. Simpson explained how advisory boards work. They review policies and programs and advise the Town Board and staff. Ms. Simpson said that it is staff's job to carry out the policy. That is why she and Ms. Battle report on most of the items on the agenda. Mayor Jones explained that the role of the advisory board is to see things and recommend them to the Town Board. This may be things like times of use for the center, staffing issues, and expansion. Wanda Mukherjee asked if our board operates like most of the other boards? Ms. Simpson said that she is the staff liaison to three advisory boards and each operate the same. Mr. Daria asked if the board members would think about the mission statements presented and what might add value to the board and being more active or not and continue this discussion at our next meeting.

Senior Center Advisory Board
March 3, 2009
Minutes
Page 5

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Simpson

Hope Newsom, Chairperson