

SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

September 1, 2009

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

Members Absent: Bonita Sharpee, and Cindy Bright.

Staff Present: Susan Simpson, Parks & Recreation
Carol Battle, Resources For Seniors
Rachelle Friedman, Resources For Seniors

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

ACTION: Mark Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Sarah Bridges seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

ITEMS FOR AGENDA FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Don Daria gave a growth report. The membership total through the end of July is 1311. This is an 11.2% growth for the year. The projection for the end of the year (2009) was 1301. Mr. Daria shared with the board that the average sign in for 2008 through July was 75.5 and the average sign in for the same time this year was 110.2 which is an increase of 45.9%. He also looked at the average activity hours for the same time period. In 2008 the average was 224.8 and in 2009, 267.3. This amounts to an increase of 18.9%. Several board members stated that these are significant increases. Hope Newsom asked if seniors came for multiple activities did they sign in more than once? Ms. Battle stated "no" but they are counted in the activity hours. She indicated that they capture about 95% of participants.

The next item of business was a report by Ms. Simpson on the Phase I expansion. The framing, and roof and shingles are complete. Landmark is working on the ceiling grid, insulation, and duct work for the room. All the colors have been selected for the walls, ceiling, tiles, etc. The completion is set for early November. Ms. Simpson stated that the Town would like to have an Open House to celebrate the expansion. It would probably be on a Sunday afternoon. Ms. Simpson will keep the group updated on any plans.

NEW BUSINESS

The first item of new business was a staff report from Carol Battle. She introduced the new Program Assistant, Rachelle Friedman. She has a degree in Parks & Recreation from ECU and worked part-time with the City of Raleigh Parks & Recreation in their senior division.

Ms. Battle passed out the "Senior Sampler" newsletter. The newsletter lists classes, programs, special events that the Center offers. Activities range from teas, picnics, card games, yoga, dance, walking challenges, to sing-a-longs. She also mentioned some grants that the Center receives to offer new activities. Mr. Daria asked how those work? Ms. Battle used the example of the "Fit & Strong" grant that the Center won to offer that program. Sometimes when they don't win the grants, staff finds out who won and then gets training from their staff. Many of the grants are offered by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Wanda Mukherjee asked if the seniors win any prizes for the walking challenge. Ms. Battle said they have a few prizes but the main one is "good health." Deborah Bordeaux asked if the Center would be getting the swine flu shots? Ms. Battle said that she hopes to get them, but knows they are in short supply. Sarah Bridges asked if the Town and Center had any plans to deal with the swine flu? Ms. Simpson stated that the Town was taking the normal precautions, i.e. hand washing, employees staying home when sick, etc. Ms. Battle said they are following the same precautions. Ms. Bordeaux said that she could provide masks if Ms. Battle would like them. Wanda Mukherjee told the board that the swine flu is affecting more 14-28 year olds than any other group.

Ms. Simpson reported that the Town had changed cleaning companies as of September 1. The new company is Southern Building Maintenance. She anticipates that the cleaning will drastically improve. The company will be concentrating on bathrooms initially and getting them clean and sanitized.

Sharda Khilnani mentioned that Wake Tech had been sponsoring Spanish classes at the Center and due to budget constraints had cut these classes back. She wondered if anyone knew someone who might be interested in teaching. Hope Newsom said that one of the Young at Heart members was a former Spanish teacher and she would have her get in touch with Carol Battle. Mr. Roberts said he knew someone at Wake Tech and would make a call if need be. Mayor Vivian Jones said that the State had cut the funds at the Community Colleges and there wasn't much that could be done. Ms. Mukherjee said that she knew a Latino band that might come and play at the center.

The last item of business was a mention of the Center's anniversary party. The date is November 4 at 10 a.m. with the Gregg Gelb Jazz Quartet provided the music. Ms. Simpson invited all the board to attend.

Senior Center Advisory Board
September 1, 2009
Minutes
Page 4

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Simpson, Secretary

Hope Newsom, Chairperson