

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the August 1, 2016 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. in the meeting room of the Oak Ridge Senior Center by Chairperson Elizabeth Batchelor.

ECAB members present: Pat Gengozian, Gene Dunaway, Delores Moyer, Elizabeth Batchelor, Susan Asbury, Hal Schmitt, Marty Adler-Jasny, Wendy Williams, and Robert Smallridge.

ECAB members absent: Al Skyberg

Also present: Linda McGhee, Recreation Manager, Oak Ridge Senior Center
Mark Watson Oak Ridge City Manager and Recreation and Parks Director Jon Hetrick.

VISITORS:

MINUTES APPROVAL: There was not a quorum for the July 11th meeting.

APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS

None

REPORTS

SENIOR CENTER RECREATION MANAGER REPORT

Linda McGhee reported the following:

- 1.) The August Calendar of Activities was distributed.
- 2.) The AARP Drivers Training class will be held this week on the 3rd and 4th from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The cost for the class is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Space is available, call the Senior Center front desk for more information.
- 3.) This Wednesday is our Day Trip to the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga. We will be leaving at 9:00 a.m. and returning around 5:00 p.m. Lunch will be on your own in downtown Chattanooga. Cost is \$35 to cover the cost of admission, gas, and parking.
- 4.) There will be 3 lunch and learns this month. August 17th at noon will be "Wound Care: What is it?" sponsored by MMC. August 24th at noon will be the "MORE² Program for City Residents". The lunch for this program will be sponsored by Greenfield of Oak Ridge. Also on the 31st Brookdale of Oak Ridge will be sponsoring the lunch on Stroke Prevention. There is not cost for these programs but you must sign up in the office to be counted for lunch.
- 5.) The Walking Group will meet at Emory Valley Greenway at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 16th to walk for about an hour, weather permitting.

RECENT ACTIONS OF CITY COUNCIL

None

OAK RIDGE SENIOR FOUNDATION REPORT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Manager Mark Watson spoke to the board about progress in the process to build a new Senior Center. Mr. Watson reported that Anderson County Government had officially hired Michael Brady Incorporated, an architectural firm, to study the feasibility of moving the County Session Court to the Daniel Arthur Rehabilitation Center Building when the lease on their current space in June 2017. There had been discussion by County Commission to move the court back to Clinton when the lease expired but there was enough support to keep it in Oak Ridge.

Mr. Watson also mentioned that the City of Oak Ridge is currently in the process of interviewing architectural firms to provide services including but not limited to the design of a New Senior Center at the Civic Center site. He said that first on the agenda of the firm that is picked will be moving the Recreation and Parks offices currently located at the site to the old Recording for the Blind building on Badger Avenue. This would free up space at that site for the Senior Center to use in the interim if Anderson County does decide that the space currently rented by the Senior Center will need to be used for the general sessions court. The Senior Center's lease with the county will be expiring in May of 2017. He also mentioned that he would recommend a debt issue to build the new senior center addition in relation to the amount of space used for the new built Karns Senior Center.

Several Board members had questions or made statements in support of the new senior center at the civic center. Board member Pat Gengozian made the statement that even in the interim getting people in and out of the space must be a priority. Many seniors would have a very hard time entering and exiting the space at the Civic Center without some accommodations. Board Vice Chairperson Robert Smallridge also made the statement that the interim space at the Civic Center would not be sufficient to support Senior Center programs over the long term. Board member Hal Schmitt asked the Mr. Watson what was needed from the board to help move the process along. He replied that feedback and information about programming and scheduling was the most pressing at this time. Pat Gengozian also mentioned that at the May City Council Budget work session most city council members present were very supportive of the project. Before Mr. Watson had to leave for another meeting, he spoke about how things are looking up for the City in general with the start of the Main Street Oak Ridge project and housing with the MORE² TVA Grant to help older Oak Ridge house become more energy efficient.

The board then took a few more minutes discussing programming and how it will be affected by an interim move to the Civic Center. Board member Gene Dunaway mentioned that we should make sure we consider other community use options if there isn't enough room at the Civic Center in the interim before our new building is finished.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made to remove the Oak Ridge Senior Foundation report from the monthly agenda and replace it with a guest speaker line. The motion was passed unanimously by members present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Submitted by



Linda McGhee, Recreation Manager



Elizabeth Batchelor, Board Chairperson