

DRAFT

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the February 3, 2014 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 in the meeting room of the Oak Ridge Senior Center by Chairperson Elizabeth Batchelor.

ECAB members present: Elizabeth Batchelor, Lynne Burchell, Gene Dunaway, Barbara Gunn, LeRoy Gilliam, Dave McCoy, William Pryor, Alfred Skyberg, Robert Smallridge, and Wendy Williams.

ECAB members absent: James Gillespie.

Also present: Linda McGhee, Recreation Manager, Oak Ridge Senior Center.

VISITORS: Stan Boling, Phil Longhurst, Lynne Parris, Anne Garcia Garland, Cherrie Phillips, Janice Johnson and Ann Stuck.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Minutes of the January 14, 2013 meeting were approved.

APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS

There were no citizens to bring items not on the agenda.

REPORTS

SENIOR CENTER RECREATION MANAGER REPORT

Linda McGhee reported the following:

1. Copies of the Senior Center February Calendar of events were distributed and reviewed. The Senior Center will be closed on February 17th for Presidents Day.
2. An AARP Drivers Safety Class is scheduled for February 5th and 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Spots are still available, sign up in the office.
3. Our 2nd Annual Valentine's Day Party will be held on February 13th from 3:30 – 5:00. There will be an ice cream and toppings provided and our Guitar players will play Romantic Music. We are holding it in the gym this year and hope to have a bigger turn out. There is no cost for this activity but we do need you to sign up in the office so we know how many we are feeding.
4. This month's Lunch and Learn will be held on February 28th at noon. We will have Charlotte Bowers from Habitat for Humanity speaking on ways to volunteer and help them. The Lunch will be provided by Chick-fil-a and the Senior Center.
5. AARP Tax Assistance continues each Monday through April 14th. Call the Senior Center front desk at 425-3999 to make an appointment.

6. We have found a new instructor for the Zumba Gold class. The cost will be \$4 per class and will begin in March on Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6:15-7:15 and Saturday mornings from 11:00 to Noon.

RECENT ACTIONS OF CITY COUNCIL

No recent actions were reported.

OAK RIDGE SENIOR FOUNDATION REPORT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Elizabeth Batchelor said that the Senior Advisory Board would send a report to Council asking to amend by laws to fill temporary spots on the board.

Elizabeth Batchelor also told the board that we should first assume that the Senior Center is going to be moved and second should try to determine where it will move. She mentioned that we should be looking for a place before we are moved without a say so. Dave McCoy said that the Board had tried for 5 years or more to get a move made and had looked at every empty building in Oak Ridge at that time. Someone mentioned the rumor of moving the Senior Center to the Civic Center. Elizabeth Batchelor mentioned that the county might be willing to extend the lease or they may be willing to make this a county senior center.

LeRoy Gilliam said that sometimes you have to back people into a corner to get things done. He mentioned the condition of the Clinton Community Center restrooms and how he was able to them refurbished.

Wendy Williams asked for a list of available buildings in town for a starting spot.

Elizabeth Batchelor mentioned that she believed that a move to the Civic Center was a big mistake for many reasons. One of which would be the loss of the ETHRA Nutrition Program.

William Pryor added the parking was already bad at the Civic Center and that handicapped entrance was nearly impossible.

Barbara Gunn said she wanted to go on record as saying that a separate senior center was needed in Oak Ridge.

Robert Smallridge said that maybe we should have a special meeting to talk about options with the City Manager.

Anne Garcia Garland thanked the board for working on this issue. She mentioned several things the board could be doing right now. One was to accumulate reasons why the senior center is an asset. Another was to find out what other places are available. Find out what the current operating budget is for the Senior Center to know what there is to work with. She also said that we need

something that says Oak Ridge cares about its senior citizens as much as other nearby communities.

Gene Dunaway asked if we should make this a more political issue since this is an elections year.

Dave McCoy spoke about the monetary divide in seniors and how that affects the view for a need for a senior center.

Elizabeth Batchelor asked for everyone to come up with at least one reason a senior center is needed with a story for back up if possible.

Phil Longhurst spoke up and said that a problem we have is that we focus on how and why we can't do something and we need to change our focus.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stan Mitchell will be speaking on writing at the February AARP meeting here at the senior center.

Retired Teachers will meet on the second Monday at 2 p.m. and the speaker will be Ron Pendergrass the Executive Director of Tennessee Retired Teachers Association.

Elder Watch will be meeting on the 20th at 10:00 am in Oak Ridge and the topic will be Banking Issues for Seniors.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Submitted by


Linda McGhee, Recreation Manager