

ELDER CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the March 4, 2013 Meeting

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

Minutes of the February 4, 2013 meeting were approved.

ECAB members present: Elizabeth Batchelor, Gene Dunaway, James Gillespie, LeRoy Gilliam, Margaret Gottshall, Barbara Gunn, William Pryor, Alfred Skyberg .

ECAB members absent: David McCoy and Robert Smallridge.

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

Visitors: Horace Friedman, Anne Garcia-Garland, Charlie Hensley, Lynne Parris, Mark Stallard CUB, Jack Suggs Oak Ridge Electric Department, and Marlene Whitt Oak Ridge Utilities Business Office.

SENIOR CENTER RECREATION MANAGER REPORT: Linda Jackson reported the following:

1. Copies of the Senior Center March calendar of events were distributed and reviewed. The Center will be closed for the Easter Holiday on March 29th and 30th.
2. There is a Shopping Trip to West Town Mall scheduled for March 11th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$2 and space is limited.
3. There are luncheon meetings for both the AARP on March 21st and Senior Citizens Club on March 26th.
4. Income Tax Assistance continues with the last day for appointments on April 15th.
5. The next Driver Safety class will be April 3rd and 4th. There are plenty of spaces available.

ORGANIZATION REPORTS

AARP – (Barbara Gunn) Mrs. Gunn reported that the past month's meeting on "When a Death Occurs" was very informative. The next month's meeting would be entertainment by Steve Sammons for the March luncheon meeting. The April meeting will have a representative from St. Stephens Church that will speak about helping to get clean water to 3rd world countries with a simple \$50 water purifier.

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB – (Margaret Gottshall) Mrs. Gottshall reported that there has been many people in their group suffering from illness lately and they needed players for bridge. She also mentioned the luncheon meeting scheduled for March 26th.

NARFE – (Bill Pryor) The next meeting would be a luncheon meeting on March 19th at the Double Tree Hotel.

OR RETIRED TEACHERS – (Robert Smallridge) No Report.

43 CLUB – (James Gillespie) Mr Gillespie reported that the spring meeting would be on April 20th.

CORRE – (LeRoy Gilliam) No report at this time. He mentioned that he would have information regarding ADA issues at the next meeting.

ADULT SAFETY COALITION AND ELDERWATCH – (Liz Batchelor) Mrs. Batchelor reported that there would be a Regional Listening forum on the needs of the Elderly on March 7th at the O'Connor Center in Knoxville.

COUNCIL ON AGING – () No Report.

COMMUNITY-AT-LARGE (Alfred Skyberg) No Report.
(Gene Dunaway) Gene Dunaway introduced himself as the newest member of the ECAB. He said that he had been trying to get on the board for 3 years and was very happy to be a part of the board.
(David McCoy) No Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Representatives of both Clinton and Oak Ridge Utility Departments were on hand to discuss issues related to Senior Citizens. Mark Stallard, Customer Service Manager for CUB began the discussion by giving some general information about the policies and procedures for their department. He spoke about the budget billing program that can help keep someone who is on a fixed income with a consistent bill amount. He also mentioned help that is available from sources such as ETHRA, Anderson County Community Action, ADFAC, etc. He also spoke about Automatic bank draft that can help payments not be late. He also mentioned courtesy phone calls and door knockers that are made to customers.

Also present were Jack Suggs, Electric Department director for the City of Oak Ridge and Marlene Whitt UBO representative. Mr. Suggs spoke about many of the same programs that Mr. Stallard talked about for Clinton. One main difference was that if the balanced budget billing program left a customer with a large balance to be paid, it could be spread over the next year's bill.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Barbara Gunn mentioned that she wanted to make sure that outreach was being made to the community to let people know what is available at the Senior Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cherie Phillips of the Anderson County Office on Aging announced that ETHRA is taking applications for Emergency Energy Assistance and people can reapply after July 1st.

April 27th at 9:00 a.m. the Clinton Church of God will be giving out food to anyone who needs it.

Councilman Charlie Hensley spoke about the main reason for the increase in water and sewer rates is the EPA mandate for the City. The City Council is trying to get the EPA to cut some slack on fines, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Submitted by

Linda Jackson, Recreation Manager