

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the March 1, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. in the AB room of the Oak Ridge Senior Center by Chairperson Pat Gengozian.

SAB members present: Marty Adler-Jasny, Pat Gengozian, Gene Dunaway, Robert Smallridge, Brandy Sales, Lindsey McElvy, Steven Barker, and Elaine Bunick.

SAB members absent: Jackie Nichols, Lisa Plante, David Vudragovich.

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

VISITORS: Art Asmanes.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Minutes of the November 6, 2020 meeting were approved.

APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS

None.

REPORTS

SENIOR CENTER RECREATION MANAGER REPORT

Linda McGhee reported the following:

- 1.) The Senior Center continues with phase 1 reopening plans. The only change has an increase in the maximum allowable participants in the Recreation Room from 6 to 10 per hour. Being that we are the only Senior Center in our area that is currently open, we have had an influx of ping pong players which seemed to be the cause of the need to increase participation limits. The total number of unduplicated participants for the entire center since the November 3rd reopening is currently 68. We have an average of about 5 people per day use our exercise room and have had as many as 8 during a day. In the Recreation room we average about 10-12 per day and we have had up to 15 during a day.
- 2.) The Senior Center continues to work with the ETHRA Senior Nutrition program to provide frozen meals to those in need on Mondays. We are giving out about 48 boxes per week at this time. This program is helping to replace the congregate meal program since it has been put on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.) The Senior Center has been providing support to help get our area seniors vaccinated by working with Munsey Pharmacy, the Oak Ridge Fire Department and board member and physician, Elaine Bunick. This topic was discussed in more detail by board member Elaine Bunick. Dr. Bunick mentioned that she had been volunteering at Munsey Pharmacy helping to give COVID-19 vaccinations. With the help of Dr. Bunick, Jim Munsey, and Governor Randy McNally and the Oak Ridge Senior Center, we were able to get approximately 170 people over the age of 70 vaccinated.

RECENT ACTIONS OF CITY COUNCIL

None

NEW BUSINESS

Board Chairperson Pat Gengozian began the meeting by recognizing our newly elected board members and having everyone introduce himself or herself. The new board members were Steven Barker, Lindsey McElvy, and Brandy Sales. Each discussed their reasons for wanting to join the Senior Advisory Board as did the current board members as well.

Chairperson Gengozian then moved on to the Election of Offices for the current year. Board member Marty Adler-Jasny nominated Pat Gengozian to continue on as Chairperson for the coming year. The nomination was seconded by Robert Smallridge and passed unanimously by those members present. Current Vice Chairperson Robert Smallridge mentioned that he would like to step down and nominated board member Jackie Nichols for the Vice Chairperson position. This was seconded by Gene Dunaway and also passed by unanimous vote of members present.

The board then reviewed the 2020 goals and voted to adopt them same goals for this year since the pandemic had kept the board from working on these goals. There was some discussion and clarification and then the following goals were accepted by the board for the 2021 calendar year.

Senior Center Goals for 2021

1. Senior Center
 - a. Publicize the Senior Center to retain and attract a diverse group of participants 50 and older.
 - b. Develop new programs, including transportation and COVID-19 adaptations, as well as funding sources to retain and attract a diverse group of participants.
 - c. Assist with implementation of software system to measure current use and participation in the Senior Center programs.
2. Develop committees to facilitate the Senior Advisory Board's goals.
3. Respond to requests from the City Council.

Board member Gene Dunaway discussed several draft motions with the board which he would like to see passed. One of these motions involved commending Pat Gengozian, Mark Watson, and Lt. Governor Randy McNally in helping senior living facilities get vaccinations for their residents Another motion involved commending the senior center manager and staff on their work during the pandemic and the final motion was to acknowledge the passing of longtime board member Alfred Skyberg. After some discussion on wording and how to publicize these motions, it was decided by the board to send them to the Oak Ridger as a letter to the editor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The board revisited the discussion of forming committees to help move these goals forward in the coming year. Although committees had been formed before the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided since there were 3 new members it should be looked again. The formation and assignment of committees was tabled until the April meeting so that new members had time to think about what committees they would be interested in serving on.

The board also discussed issues involving transportation for seniors and brought the new board members up to speed on options that have been used in the past such as the Taxi Coupon program that ended in 2018 and the My Ride Program that was tried through a grant program with the East Tennessee Human Resources Agency. The first program was stopped due to changes in grant reporting procedures and the second was stopped both due to issues with the grant from ETHRA and also the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Board member Elaine Bunick also mentioned during this discussion that the Rotary Club had the possibility of giving a transportation related grant. Information related to the Taxi Cab Company was pushed to the April meeting because board member Jackie Nichols was absent and had the most information on the topic.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Submitted by

Linda McGhee, Recreation Manager

Pat Gengozian, Board Chairperson