

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the May 3, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. in the AB room of the Oak Ridge Senior Center by Chairperson Pat Gengozian.

SAB members present: Marty Adler-Jasny, Elaine Bunick, Gene Dunaway, Pat Gengozian, Brandy Sales, Lindsey McElvy, Jackie Nichols, and Lisa Plante.

SAB members absent: Steven Barker, Robert Smallridge, and David Vudrovich.

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

VISITORS: City Council Member Ellen Smith.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Minutes of the April 5, 2021 meeting were approved.

APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS

None.

REPORTS

SENIOR CENTER RECREATION MANAGER REPORT

Linda McGhee reported the following:

- 1.) The Senior Center is now open from 9 am. to 4 p.m. each day Monday – Friday. Bingo will be restarting slowly this month. We will begin with the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. Participants must sign up ahead of time and it is limited to 26 per day. The Exercise Room is being increased to 4 participants per session. Cards and games will also be starting in a limited capacity. Pinochle will be on Mondays, Bridge on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Mahjong on Thursdays. We are also still working with the library to be able to offer some one on one technology classes. We have been helping to get a survey out to participants to see what is needed both by paper form and on Facebook. The newest number of total participants since reopening is now at 183.
- 2.) Summit Medical Group in Oak Ridge now has access to the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine. A person can call to sign up for a shot even if he or she is not a patient at the practice. The number is 865-483-3172.

RECENT ACTIONS OF CITY COUNCIL

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Programming

Board Chairperson Pat Gengozian began the discussion about programming for the Senior Center by mentioning the list of programs and ideas that was sent out by board member Elaine Bunick. Elaine also mentioned that seniors have a 25% higher death rate because of isolation. Also mentioned was the possibility of a computer recycling program. Board Chairperson Pat Gengozian mentioned that she had previously spoken with a gentleman near the beginning of the pandemic but at that time he was trying to help school children. She said she would try to contact him again. Also discussed at this time were some other general updates involving the public relations committee. Brandy Sales mentioned about getting a free spot for the senior center to have a monthly update on Channel 12. Pat Gengozian mentioned getting information on the Senior Center to the Good Neighbors publication and possibly to the Senior Living publication soon as well.

Transportation

Pat Gengozian spoke with someone she knew that used to own a taxi service in Oak Ridge. He said that the demand in the area was just not enough to support another company to come in. Pat also mentioned using the ETHRA transportation program for her mother and that it was working well but the process of calling for a ride was not very easy. She said that it took a long time and lots of button pushing before you can talk to a real person. She hoped that maybe we could find a way to help ETHRA around this obstacle. Jackie Nichols also spoke about meeting with ORPD officer Karen Jenkins who is working on compliance issues with the current cab service. The process continues and she will update us when she can.

It was also mentioned at this time that all committees should try to meet in the next 2 weeks and report at the next board meeting.

Senior Center Building Sign

Senior Center Manager Linda McGhee reported that the sign for the outside of the building saying "Senior Center" had been approved, ordered and will be installed soon.

Air Purification

Senior Center Manager Linda McGhee reported that Ionizers had been added to all 5 roof top HVAC Units and that smaller room units were being worked on by the Public Works Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Submitted by

Linda McGhee, Recreation Manager

Pat Gengozian, Board Chairperson