

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the October 6, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. in an online format by Chairperson Pat Gengozian. The meeting was recorded and was available for view within 48 hours at <http://orrecparks.oakridgetn.gov/elder-citizens-advisory-board-agendas-and-minutes/>. However, there was a problem with the audio beginning around 30 minutes into the meeting.

SAB members present onsite: Pat Gengozian, Gene Dunaway, Lynda Rose, and Jackie Nichols.

SAB members present online: Marty Adler-Jasny, Elaine Bunick, and Robert Smallridge.

SAB members absent: David Vudragovich, Susan Asbury, Lisa Plante and Al Skyberg.

Also present: Linda McGhee, Recreation Manager, Oak Ridge Senior Center and Tim Cochran Recreation Program Coordinator.

VISITORS: None.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Minutes of the September 22, 2020 meeting were approved.

APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS

No comments were emailed by the Monday, October 5, 2020 deadline.

REPORTS

SENIOR CENTER RECREATION MANAGER REPORT

Linda McGhee reported the following:

- 1.) Governor Lee allowed for the safe reopening of Senior Centers as of October 1, 2020. This was with Executive Order number 63. This order doesn't require immediate reopening but does requiring meeting safety guidelines set forth by the state through the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability (TCAD). Senior center staff will be meeting with the Recreation and Parks Director and City Manager for final approval on a date for reopening. Specific Information from TCAD can be viewed at tn.gov/aging/covid-19-information.html.
- 2.) Planning for virtual programming continues even if there is a soft open of the building. Many seniors will still be wary about attending until a vaccine is available. We have also made a request to our Data Services Department to acquire a specific domain name for the senior center to make it easier for participants to find us on the web. Staff has also been discussing the possibility of hybrid exercise class programs with our volunteer instructors where some people can come into the class and others can join in online.

- 3.) Staff has received training on the new software and it is coming along well. It should be in place for our reopening and will be a valuable asset to help with any contact tracing needs should be have a positive case of COVID-19 after opening.

RECENT ACTIONS OF CITY COUNCIL

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

ORPD Sargent Karen Jenkins spoke with the board about her role regarding the taxi service here in Oak Ridge. She discussed the policies put in place by City Council regarding the operation of taxis here in the City of Oak Ridge and how the police department is charged with enforcing these policies. She also mentioned that at one time, Oak Ridge had seven different taxi companies operating here but now there was only one. That is Morgan Cab Service which is currently under new ownership. Ms. Jenkins also discussed the need for problems to be reported to her so that she could resolve issues. She encouraged those with complaints, problems, and information to send that to her either by phone or by email at kjenkins@oakridgetn.gov. Board members asked questions such as would it be possible to do monthly inspections instead of yearly ones? Ms. Jenkins said that while she wished that she could do monthly, there just was not enough staff to do that. However, she did mention the possibility of an increase to quarterly inspections. Also board members brought up the idea of working with Ms. Jenkins to form some sort of training for taxi drivers to help them better understand the unique needs of seniors.

Board Chairperson Pat Gengozian also discussed the need to get information out to seniors about the taxi service and Board Member Jackie Nichols agreed to help facilitate a press release with the city. Also discussed was the possibility that since the taxi company was under new management, then there might be a chance that they would be willing to help provide the information needed to renew the TDOT grant that was lost a couple of years ago.

Board Member Gene Dunaway asked that the board consider sending a letter to the City Manager and/or Mayor commending the Senior Center staff on doing a good job for area seniors since the shutdown began in March. He also asked that the board consider inviting the various assisted living and skilled nursing facilities to speak about what has worked and not worked at their respective centers during the current pandemic shutdown. He also mentioned that we should like about partnering with the Anderson County Health Department for a possible Flu Vaccination Drive Thru Event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Submitted by

Linda McGhee, Recreation Manager

Pat Gengozian, Board Chairperson