

# SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the November 6, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. in a hybrid in person and 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/>.

SAB members present onsite: Marty Adler-Jasny, Pat Gengozian, Gene Dunaway, and Jackie Nichols.

SAB members present online: Elaine Bunick, Lynda Rose, Lisa Plante, and Robert Smallridge.

SAB members absent: David Vudragovich, Susan Asbury, 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 October 6, 2020 meeting were approved.

## **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**

No comments were emailed by the Thursday, November 5, 2020 deadline.

## **REPORTS**

### SENIOR CENTER RECREATION MANAGER REPORT

Linda McGhee reported the following:

- 1.) Reviewed the new Senior Center schedule and opening procedures. The center is open Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. This allows for a morning session of 9 a.m. to noon and an afternoon session of 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Senior Center staff closes the building and sanitizes all high touch surfaces between noon and 1 p.m. each day. The only 2 areas now open are the Recreation Room and the Exercise Room. Both areas must be called in as scheduled and extra sanitation measures are being taken in both areas. We are also following the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability reopening guidelines and are requiring masks in all areas of the building at all times. We are also temperature checking each person and asking a set of COVID-19 related questions before allowing entrance to the building.
- 2.) The Senior Center is also beginning in person one-on-one help with technology such as how to use zoom, email, etc. The person can call the Senior Center to set up a time.

- 3.) Reported that the busiest day since opening on the November 3<sup>rd</sup> was that day. Over the course of the day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. there were 16 unduplicated participants in building not counting staff. Nine people participated in the Recreation room that day and 7 in the exercise room. We also had one person who was a visitor who was thinking about moving to Oak Ridge and just wanted to look around. The total units of service for the day was 25 because several of the pool players stayed more than just one hour. If there wasn't anyone scheduled in the hour behind them then we allow them to stay longer. It was also reported that on the next day there was one less person over all making the total unduplicated 15 with 9 in the Recreation room, 3 in the Exercise room, and 2 visitors who had moved to the area since the start of the pandemic and just now where able to get out and see the center. The following day, Thursday, there were no Recreation room participants that day but there were 4 Exercise room participants and 4 visitors.
- 4.) All returning participants are required to fill out new informational paperwork that includes a waiver specific to COVID-19 and includes our new mask and social distancing policies.
- 5.) Also the staff is learning cleaning and sanitizing routines that must be followed whether there is one person in the building or there is 16 in the building. The Senior Center did receive and new electrostatic sanitizing sprayer like the one the schools use and although we have only used it once, it did seem to be easy to use and will help to speed up the process at least a little.
- 6.) The Senior Center staff has been learning the new software and entering participant information as new user forms are filled out. As we work with this software we hope it will help to reach out to our seniors.

## RECENT ACTIONS OF CITY COUNCIL

None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Board Chairperson Pat Gengozian talked about board member Jackie Nichols and Senior Center Manager Linda McGhee meeting with Karen Jenkins on the following Monday at 2 p.m. to discuss the taxi service. Pat also said that she had spoken with the City Manager about getting the grant back for the previous taxi coupon program and he said that it was probably not going to be able to happen. He did mention that the East Tennessee Office on Aging and Knox Area Transit have received large sums of money from COVID relief funds and that he has been invited to a meeting to discuss usage of those funds. He also invited Pat to come as well when the meeting gets scheduled. Board member Elaine Bunick asked if the monies were all set aside for transportation projects only and she also discussed the need for other assistance to seniors such as having enough food.

Chairperson Gengozian spoke about reforming the committees that were formed before the COVID-19 closing. Pat will work on finding the list and making sure that everyone knows what committees so that members can be brainstorming and getting some momentum.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairperson Gengozian discussed a list of items from board member Gene Dunaway. The first on the list was to move the green Senior Center sign further down the Oak Ridge Turnpike closer to the Civic Center entrance closest to the Senior Center. Board member Marty Adler-Jasny, who is also on the Traffic Safety Advisory Board, said she would check with Roger Flynn with the city to see if that is a possibility. The second item on the list would be to replace the kitchen window on the new Senior Center with a pass thru window. This was discussed and while it was mentioned that it was a good idea, the cost would most likely prove to be way too much to be feasible. The third item on the list was the possibility of sending a letter to the Governor regarding his closing of Senior Centers. During the discussion it was mentioned that this is now somewhat of a moot point since the Governor is allowing reopening of Senior Centers as of October if adequate safety precautions are taking place. The frustration of having others tell someone who is up sound mind what to do was also acknowledged during the discussion. Ultimately, it was decided that the board would not take action on this item. The fourth and final item on the list was that there are many Zoom classes and activities that could be shared on the Senior Center's Facebook page. Chairperson Gengozian mentioned that she would rather see information posted to a web page instead because some seniors do not use Facebook.

This then lead to a general discussion of items that are in the works for the Senior Center's web page and virtual programming in general. It was also mentioned that the City's IT Department is working on getting several domains for the Senior Center which should help people find our page easier and faster. Pat also mentioned finding ways to get out the web information once it is available. She said that she would like for us to have a big Public Relations push as soon as reasonably possible. Board members continued to discuss options for virtual programs and other ideas to keep seniors connected during this time.

Another point that was mentioned by Chairperson Gengozian was to work on general technological help for seniors. She mentioned a person on Facebook who is taking donations of older computers and refurbishing them for students to use since they are mainly virtual right now. This was discussed as something to think about that could help seniors as well as youth. The board also discussed the possibility of tutoring seniors on how to use technology and also about doing some drive in programs to boost the general morale of our seniors.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board member Gene Dunaway announced that Walmart has the shingles shot for walk ins and that Kroger and Food City have the high dose flu shot.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by

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Linda McGhee, Recreation Manager

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Pat Gengozian, Board Chairperson