



MINUTES

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD
Monday, November 17, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

Rowlett Community Centre
*5300 Main Street, Room D * Rowlett, Texas*

Present: Bobbie Jo Kelly, Bobby Wright, Bob Landrum, Clarence James, Fred Cares, Janet Loper, Ruth James, Stan Grubaugh, Ceaser Hancock

Guests: Larry & Gaylyn Beckham, Marvin Overstreet, Jerry Barshop (Facilities Bond Subcommittee, Donna Davis (Facilities Bond Subcommittee), Debra Shinder, Chair of the Facilities Bond Subcommittee), Jessica Lennon (DART), Lawrence Meshack (DART)

Staff: Katie Corder, Assistant City Manager; Sandy Beffa, Recreation Coordinator; Dianne Zachary, Sr. Administrative Assistant

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Bobbie Jo Kelly, Chair.
2. A quorum was present.
3. The minutes from the October 20, 2008 meeting were read by Dianne Zachary, Board Secretary, and unanimously approved after a motion by Bobby Wright to accept the minutes as read that was seconded by Janet Loper.
4. Jessica Lennon, Manager of Community/Education Outreach Program for DART and Lawrence Meschack, Sr. Manager of Community Affairs spoke to the board regarding services available to seniors in Rowlett through DART. (handout attached)

Ms. Lennon shared information about outreach services and trips through DART the seniors might want to utilize. They have on-sight presentations for school, adult, chamber, senior and Leadership Rowlett group programs available to help them learn how to best use DART services. They will attend special events with a DART booth.

For groups of 20 or more, DART will give a 20 minute presentation and then take the group on a hands-on bus and train ride to demonstrate the system. The bus that you ride will be specifically for this group, but the train will have other passengers. Tours are the most popular requested activity. Tours are available weekdays from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm.

Lawrence Meshack addressed the board concerning DART On-Call service. He announced a new Flex Route 887 that will begin in February 2009, and will have a service planner come out to speak with the Senior Advisory Board in the near future to try to develop service to the Rowlett Community Centre and to determine if they will be able to go outside the present boundaries of service to provide on-call service to seniors. If you live in East Rowlett in Rockwall County, DART on-call will still pick you up, according to Mr. Meschack.

The entire construction project usually takes 8-10 years. We are now in the bidding process, which will take place between now and January 2009. It is estimated that by December of 2012, Rowlett will have rail service.

5. Deb Shinder, chair of the City of Rowlett Facilities Subcommittee for the bond election, explained that she, Donna Davis and Terry Barshop would like to know of any "facility needs" the board could suggest be included on the bond election package. This subcommittee will make recommendations to City Council based on input from groups like the Senior Advisory Board. The Council will decide what will be put on the ballot, and the citizens will have the final decision in the process in November 2009.

The Board presented Mrs. Shinder with a list of Senior Center Requirements that was put together by a subcommittee of the Senior Advisory Board. The following suggestions were made by board members:

- Stan Grubaugh mentioned that the facility should be ADA friendly, in addition to ADA compliant.
- The seniors do not have a dedicated space in the RCC at this time where they can schedule their activities.
- Fred Care mentioned that all area towns have senior activity centers, but Rowlett does not have anything for the seniors on a permanent basis.
- There are several thousand seniors in Rowlett and 884 seniors who pay dues at the RCC.
- Janet Loper suggested regarding a new senior center, "If you build it, they will come".
- Bobby Wright felt that attendance would quadruple if a center was available for seniors.
- Deb Shinder suggested getting the word out to the seniors before the bond election and sell the idea.
- Janet Loper will look into grants through her resources. Eastfield Community College can teach a grant writing class for the seniors as well.
- Stan informed the board that every grant must be granted to an organized 501C3, and the first thing the seniors need to do is get organized either as the "Rowlett Rockers" or another organization.

- Katie Corder explained the purpose of the bond subcommittees is to bring the needs of the citizenry to the City Council for the purpose of consideration in the bond package.

The board express their appreciation to the members of the facilities subcommittee for coming to the meeting and hearing their thoughts regarding a Senior Center for Rowlett.

6. Sandy Beffa, Recreation Coordinator for the Rowlett Community Centre, told the board she received the list of programs and activities the seniors prepared for her and is working on instructors to implement those programs. Since we don't yet have dedicated space, she wanted to look at expanding what we are currently offering the seniors in the way of programming. An example, what day of the week and what hours would you want to have a room at the community centre, taking into consideration that rentals would supercede senior activities if an opportunity arose. Sandy distributed a survey to the board asking for their input, and will also distribute the survey at other senior activities.


She mentioned that senior activities now receive a full page in the *Lakeside Leisure* magazine that comes out three times per year. Our goal is to get more seniors coming to the centre. She programs well in advance of the printing of the class program magazine, so if she knows in advance, she can schedule a room for the activity or class. There is no charge for a room if it for a scheduled program.

At the request of some board members suggesting that seniors are being disrespected and not being heard by the City, Katie Corder will check on a date for the seniors to address the City Council. In addition, the standardization of the age at which a citizen is considered a "senior" in Rowlett is being researched by Jennifer Gomez and Katie Corder.

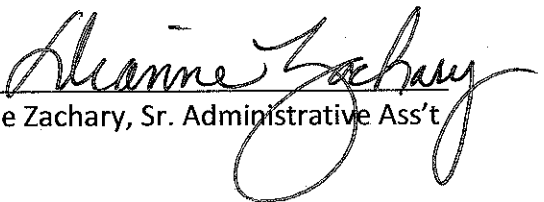
7. Public Announcement. Members of the Board and/or staff may make announcements of local civic events. No member of the board or commission may discuss nor take any action with regard to the announcements.
 - a. On December 2, from 8am-10am, seniors can go to breakfast at TARGET and also get a discount for shopping.
 - b. Main Street Holiday Parade will be November 22 at 9am. Seniors are asked to hose a table in front of the library at which kids can write Christmas cards to soldiers.
 - c. Senior Holiday Meal at the RCC will be on Tuesday, December 9th at 11:30 a.m. and the fee is \$4.00 per person.
 - d. Clarence & Ruth James will attend the Council Meeting on December 2 on behalf of the Senior Advisory Board.
 - e. Katie will check to see if we can have an "Open Issues" section on our agenda for unanswered questions.

8. Members of the board may request topics for future agenda meetings. No member of the board or commission may discuss any of the requested subjects until such matter has been properly placed on a posted agenda.
 - a. Invite a DART service planner to the December meeting to discuss On-Call services for seniors in Rowlett and possible new routing.
 - b. VNA representative to discuss Meals On Wheels for Rowlett. (Janet Loper)

9. A motion was made by Bob Landrum to adjourn and was seconded by Janet Loper. The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 12:00 noon.



Bobbie Jo Kelly, Chair



Dianne Zachary, Sr. Administrative Ass't