



SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Monday, February 20, 2017
City Hall Conference Room
4000 Main Street
Rowlett, TX 75088

Present: Pamela Bell, Susan Bell, Michael Britt, Della Vickers, Rob Rose, Brownie Sherrill
Absent: Charles Gaugler, Jerome Grossie
Visitors: Larry Beckham, Gaylynn Beckham
Staff: Tammy Dana-Bashian, City Council liaison; Jill Beam, Recreation Programmer-Seniors; Shelly Monroe, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant; Angela Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kim Wilson, Finance Director; Elise Bowers, Neighborhood Life

1. The Chair, Pamela Bell, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.
2. Quorum was present.
3. Finance Department.
 - A. Kim Wilson reviewed the different divisions of Finance Department 1) Accounting: General Ledger, GAAP & GASB and audits; 2) Budget is compiled of annual appropriations; 3) Purchasing: Local and State policies, and formal bids; Municipal Court: Disposition of Class C misdemeanors; 4) Utility Billing: Bills and collections of utility payments to include drainage, water, sewer and trash.
 - B. Covered financial transparency and how to access this information on the city website.
 - C. A meter reading upgrade goes live Fall 2017. It will be real time access to meter data such as being able to see hourly reads. Customer alerts, such as daily usage and billing threshold will be an option.
 - D. A question was asked regarding the policy related to waiving utility late fees for charity Organizations. K. Wilson shared the policy will be presented to City Council during their work session February 21, 2017.
4. Citizen City Academy.
 - A. Elise Bowers explained the City Academy is an 11 week course that will be offered annually in the spring. This academy is being produced through the Office of Neighborhood Life located in the City Manager's Office.
 - B. The goal is to educate how a resident's vote for local city government moves through the structure, the various departments of the city and services such as streets and water. The hope is to inspire and encourage people to either volunteer for City Boards and Commissions or run for office. This will also provide city employees the opportunity to hear from residents about how city services are perceived.
 - C. Applications are no cost and due February 20, 2017. The course begins March 2, 2017. The class is limited to 25 persons. If there are more applicants then there will be a drawing for the participants accepted. Most of the seminars will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm with a Saturday morning session on April 22, 2017.
5. Consider action to approve January 23, 2017 minutes.
 - A. Della Vickers motioned to accept as written.
 - B. Michael Britt seconded the motion.
 - C. Approved 5 - 0.

6. Senior program updates and summer programs.
Angela Smith reported there is a trip to the Arboretum scheduled for March. Seniors are having a Mardi Gras party with gumbo and king cake today. A trip to the Arts District is February 21st using DART for transportation. A Hearing seminar will be held and an eye screening in March. Jill Beam, Recreation Programmer for Seniors, was selected to serve as Ms. Senior Texas USA approximately 2 weeks ago. She will compete in Las Vegas in May. She has been deemed a Founding Queen and will be inducted into the Ms. Senior USA/Universe Hall of Fame.
7. Update on Meals on Wheels program held February 14, 2017.
Representatives with the Meals on Wheels Program of Rockwall County provided information to seniors on this home delivered meal service for seniors who are homebound. P. Bell reported there were 23 attendees for this seminar. There was a write up in the Lakeshore Times. There were 2 door prize drawings for attendees.
8. Discuss upcoming programs.
 - A. March 14, 2017 will be Estate Planning presentation. Greg Mitchell, attorney, will be the presenter.
 - B. April 11, 2017 will be the Health Fair. The time is 9:00am - 12:00pm.
9. Follow up with Health Fair planning.
D. Vickers thanked board members for their efforts on contacting vendors and providing timely responses. Vendor letters have been sent. Twenty vendors confirmed for the event. All vendors from last year were contacted and two new vendors were added. Briefly discussed the idea of charging vendors for use of the tables but members continue to support not to charge a fee because vendors are asked to bring incentives or door prizes. Flyers and signs are requested for this event.
10. Update from City Council liaison, Tammy Dana-Bashian.
 - A. The deadline for candidate applications for Council election has passed. Pamela Bell is running for Place 5.
 - B. Council will review the Finance Department policy regarding the payment of penalties by established area assistance programs that assist citizens of Rowlett with utility bills. This will occur during City Council work session February 21, 2017.
 - C. T. Dana-Bashian is working with Salvation Army to set guidelines for the administration of a \$25,000 grant the city is allocating for utility assistance for Rowlett residents. Guidelines were preliminarily determined last week but still need to be presented to City Council. Housing Rehab program is under consideration but not approved at this time.
 - D. Discussed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and how they are allocated to cities to address needs in low-income areas. City Council determines annually how to assist citizens with these funds. There are strict rules for which projects can be done and a large administrative burden to manage CDBG funds.
 - E. Several Councilmembers and city staff went to Austin last week to attend the 85th Legislature Regular Session to meet with Senators and Representatives about certain bills being considered that will affect City of Rowlett. There appears to be a push this year to remove local municipality control and Rowlett opposes legislation that erodes municipal authority in any way, that imposed unfunded mandates, or otherwise approval of any law deemed detrimental to cities or would undermine the City's sovereign immunity and zoning powers, etc. The basic concept of Senate Bill 2 on property taxes was briefly explained incorporating the pros and cons.

- F. Briefly discussed a potential convention center component to be located at Bayside and the reason for the City requesting tax credit consideration with the Legislature. Tax credits will be critical in the determination of if a convention center is built.
 - G. Rowlett Police Department is requesting joint jurisdictions on bridges over Lake Ray Hubbard.
 - H. Funding for I-30 road improvements from Bass Pro Shop towards Hwy 205 has been requested.
11. No senior concerns.
A concern was expressed in regards to AARP tax assistance moving from Rowlett to Garland because of the construction at RCC and inquiry if there is another location in Rowlett. A. Smith explained there are approximately 6 tax agents and this service is not restricted to Rowlett residents. AARP brings all their own equipment and it requires waiting space area too. This is an independent group who makes their own decisions as to the location and services provided. Room A was offered to them but declined. It was expressed for staff to make efforts to ensure AARP will return next year.
12. Public Input or questions.
Inquiry on an update regarding the trailer park property on Chiesa. T. Dana-Bashian explained it is private property and likely the property will be sold. There was a neighborhood meeting in which the developer spoke. Developer still needs to find out if they will receive tax credits.
13. Public announcements
A. Smith brought attention to a rack card for STAR Transit located in their meeting packet. These will be used to help advertise the service. They will go in April or May's utility bill. No charge to the city for these cards being made.
14. No members of the board requested topics for future meetings.
15. Susan Bell motioned for adjournment at 11:25 a.m.
D. Vickers seconded the motion.
Unanimous vote in favor to adjourn.



Pamela Bell, Chair



Angela Smith, Director of Parks & Recreation