



## SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

**Monday, August 17, 2020**  
**City Hall Conference Room**  
**4000 Main Street**  
**Rowlett, TX 75088**

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**Present:** (remotely) Regular members: Chair Rob Rose, Vice-Chair Michael Britt, Patricia Bird, Veda Kull, Virginia Denson, Susan Bell, Alberta Reese  
Alternates: Karen Cosby, Kenneth Williams

**Absent:** Chris Del Regno (alternate)

**Visitors:**

**Staff:** Angela Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation; Pamela Bell, City Council Liaison; Shelly Monroe, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant; Aaron Cleaver, Parks and Recreation Business Manager; Kari Pacheco, Parks and Recreation Operations Manager

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Due to the public health emergency and to conform with the social distancing requirements, the Senior Advisory Board meeting was held via teleconferencing. The public was provided an opportunity to submit comments for a specific agenda item or general comment through citizen email address.

1. The Chair, Rob Rose, called the meeting to order at 10:10am. Quorum present.
2. Consider action to approve July 20, 2020 minutes.
  - A. Alberta Reese made a motion to accept the minutes as written.
  - B. Patricia Bird seconded the motion.
  - C. Approved 7 - 0.
3. Citizens' Input.

No input for this meeting.
4. Discuss AARP Livable Communities survey results and next steps.
  - A. Each member presented survey results for one domain.
    - i. Transportation domain - Alberta Reese  
Areas of importance had to do with getting from place to place safely; Having DART in the area and DART vouchers has helped with transportation situation. The biggest consideration should be sidewalks and crosswalks.
    - ii. Housing domain - Virginia Denson  
Majority of respondents want to remain living in their home, but this means home renovations for ramps, bathrooms, flooring are needed and is an expense. Forty-four percent of participants feel their housing units have accessible entry ways.
    - iii. Respect and Social Inclusion domain - Patricia Bird



Convenient venues had poor scoring. Senior activities were rated poor so may need to be different advertising. Low scoring for senior discounts and diversity. Uncertainty expressed from survey takers about school involvement, as well as volunteer training opportunities. Transportation to and from volunteer opportunities have low rating, as well as flexible job opportunities. Resources rated as fair. Veda Kull feels this domain overlaps with the social participation domain.

iv. Communication and Information - Michael Britt

There were 6 questions and three of them are rated fairly poor. Suggestion of community information with large lettering and other ideas shared on this topic. Veda Kull mentioned some cities offer free access to internet. Most cities have communication issue.

v. Community and Health Services - Rob Rose

Higher percentage of persons feel there are conveniently located emergency care centers. Fifty-eight percent indicated positive feedback on well trained home health care. Fifty-six percent feel there is affordable health and wellness programs, as well as conveniently located health/social services. Veda Kull brought up that one thing not covered in the survey much is mental health and with seniors wanting to stay in their homes there is the question of feeling secure in doing this.

vi. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings - Karen Cosby

Positive responses in relation to the category of well-maintained parks. Spaces being accessible to people are at 32% good. Benches throughout the city were rated mostly at good or fair. Veda Kull mentioned sidewalks are rated poor and streets need to be better lighted, better signage in areas. Bicycle pathways are in the works.

vii. Work and Civic Engagement - Kenneth Williams

Brief info shared and topic covers voting. Kenneth Williams will gather more information and send to Shelly Monroe which can be distributed to all members.


viii. Social Participation - Susan Bell


Definition of social participation and why it is important was shared with the group. Most surveyors report having good contact with family and neighbors. Isolation was indicated by about 49%. Those who do not use the Rowlett Community Centre were at 48%. More volunteer activities and community involvement opportunities for older adults showed a high percentage feeling it is important. Transportation for events and activities rated a little low. Veda Kull believes older individuals may keep their job to interact with others. 70% of the respondents were at least age 60 or older.

B. Discussion followed the presentation of results. Shelly Monroe will resend the City of Dallas AARP Action Plan and it may help define each domain better. Members were reminded while trying to decide on 2 or 3 domains that the action plans will need to be things the city can accomplish. For each domain

Consideration of how to formulate who would be an asset to be included in the work groups, as well as two board members over each domain.

5. Updates from City Council member, Pamela Bell.
  - A. City Council is still working on the 2021 budget. The next meeting will be August 24<sup>th</sup>. City Council is proposing to reduce the tax rate by approximately a penny. There will be two public meetings held on August 18<sup>th</sup> and September 14, 2020 at 7:30pm. These will be held virtually.
  - B. Assistant Deputy City Manager will be leaving City of Rowlett for employment in another city and the Assistant City Manager has already resigned for employment elsewhere. Angela Smith has been appointed as the interim Assistant City Manager starting today and Aaron Cleaver is the interim Parks and Recreation Director.
  - C. City of Rowlett is still operating under the COVID19 restrictions.
  - D. Plans for Movie on Main are being discussed, but staff will know more later this week. Angela Smith was asked about National Night Out in October and she responded this event is still on the calendar although at this time it is uncertain if it will be held.
6. Senior concerns.  
No concerns expressed at this time.
7. Public announcements. Members of the Board and/or staff may make announcements of local civic events.  
No public announcements.
8. Members of the board may request topics for future meetings.  
No topics requested.
9. Adjournment.  
Veda Kull made a motion to adjourn at 11:11am.  
Susan Bell seconded the motion.  
Unanimous by all those present to adjourn.

  
Rob Rose, Chair

  
Aaron Cleaver, Interim Director of Parks & Recreation