

Senior Advisory Board Minutes

February 15, 2007

9:00 a.m.

Rose Park Center Activity Center

The Bi-Annual Meeting of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board was held at Rose Park Senior Activity Center, located at 2625 South 7th. Those in attendance were: Van Boozer, Leroy King, Paul Rehm, Hazel Forkerway, Linda Rutledge Smith, Emory Walton, and Eddie Hodges. Staff members present were Tony Neitzler, Carl Scott and Julie Sartor.

Meeting was called to order and invocation given by Eddie Hodges.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on July 19, 2006 were reviewed. A motion was made by Emory Walton and a second by Paul Rehm to approve minutes. The motion carried.

Participation reports for September, October, and November 2006 were presented to the board by Carl Scott. Carl pointed out that everything was going great. Carl indicated that unfortunately we have had several deaths throughout the months of November 2006 through January 2007, but were continuing to gain new participants, new events and activities. AARP will be at Rose Park Senior Center through April 14 for income tax preparation. Linda Rutledge Smith asked about health checks for seniors such as blood pressure checks and cholesterol checks. Carl indicated that Patty Hanks School of Nursing did various health screenings. Linda asked if we ever utilize TSTC or Cisco. Carl indicated that we haven't, but we like to see nurses here everyday at the center and we would look into it. Eddie Hodges asked about other programs which may include topics like Alzheimer's and also asked about computers and what programs are being utilized by the seniors. Carl indicated that on occasions we do have various groups that will come in and do programs on various topics and seniors do utilize the computers in the computer lab which have a variety of programs including games and e-mail.

Carl updated the board on the Building Renovations and Expansion Project. Carl reminded the board that Ms. Odell Parker was a long time participant of Rose Park and left monies to Rose Park and the center is going to expand the exercise room. Carl told the board that bids have been sent out to contractors for the project and the city is currently working on the specifications for the new equipment. Carl indicated that with a lot of construction going on in Abilene that hopefully this will be good for the center.

Carl informed all of the Park Master Plan. Every ten years there is a new Park Master Plan which will show what we have and what direction will be taken. The Master Plan for our department includes Parks, Recreation and Senior Citizens. With the Master Plan we will look at facilities and programming. We will meet with groups and individuals to get input. This will be done through public meetings and surveys. The information gathered from these meeting and surveys will help us on what direction and planning. Eddie Hodges wanted to know what or how this helps with funding. Carl explained that you can apply for grants through Texas Parks and Wildlife. These are matching funds and awarded by a point system and in order to earn more points you have to have a Park Master Plan. Some of park improvements made with obtaining grant money are Sears Park and Kirby Lake Park.

Carl talked about recent and upcoming events. Carl talked about Senior Day at the Capitol which was on February 13, 2007. This was a bus chartered trip for the day. We opened participation up to all counties and did have some seniors from Jones County that went with the group. Overall we had approximately 35 seniors and staff in attendance. Hazel Forkerway who

attended the trip said that it was a wonderful trip, which included listening to the speakers on the steps of the State Capitol. Hazel said that some of the speakers included Walter Graham, Bob Lilly, and some good entertainment as well. After we attended the program at the Capitol the group also visited the LBJ Museum.

The next upcoming events will be "Live Long and Love It" which will be held on March 1, 2007 at the Abilene Civic Center. This is sponsored by several groups and we will be taking names and a transportation list for this event through February 19th. Also there will be a Rose Park sponsored trip to Granbury on March 31, 2007 for a performance at Granbury Live. This trip usually fills-up quickly.

The meeting was adjourned.