

## Senior Advisory Board Minutes

January 16, 2008

9:30 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 7<sup>th</sup>. Those in attendance were: Leroy King, Paul Rehm, Hazel Forkerway, Linda Rutledge Smith, John Goode, Eddie Hodges, and Emory Walton. Staff members present were: Tony Neitzler, Carl Scott and Julie Sartor.

Board Members absent: Cynthia Cooke and Harriet Connor

Minutes of the previous meeting held on August 8, 2008 were reviewed. A motion was made by Emory Walton a second by Paul Rehm to approve minutes. The motion carried.

Participation: Participation reports were presented to the board by Carl Scott. Carl pointed out that everything was going good even though numbers are down. Carl indicated how numbers usually decline during November and December due to the holidays and inclement weather. Senior Advocate numbers (transportation for medical appointment) were also down during these months, but are picking up new clients.

Mr. Scott informed the board on the new program that was implemented in December for counting and reporting meal counts. This is a scanner system that each participant will have an identification card with their picture on it and as they go through the line they will scan their card. This helps with accuracy on reporting and helps to speed up the line. This system will only be at Rose Park Center. It can not be used at the other centers because of dial-up modems for the internet. Mr. Hodges inquired if the main reason was entry through the line and financial accounting. Mr. Scott indicated that the only reason for the system was for the accuracy of number of participants that eat daily and that all donations are still confidential.

Upcoming Activities: Mr. Scott updated the board on upcoming activities which will include a Valentine Day Celebration at the center and the Senior Jamboree that is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Abilene Civic Center.

Exercise Room: Mr. Scott told the board of the plaque that was displayed in the exercise room in honor of Mrs. Black who donated the funds to renovate the exercise room which was completed last year. Carl indicated that some increase in participation has been the increase in the number of participants using the exercise room and the exercise room is open for evening hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays during dance times. Mr. Rehm wanted to know if people were taking advantage of this and Mr. Scott responded to the question with a yes and further indicating people are using it more so that they will not have to pay a monthly fee to a gym.

Parks Master Plan: Mr. Hodges wanted to know if a copy of the Parks Master Plan could be purchased. Mr. Scott said they are not completed at this time. The Master Plan is complimentary on current senior programs, but recommends for senior facilities the following things.

1. New facility on the north side
2. Renovate Sears
3. Do away with programs at Cobb and Chavez – have buildings as rentals
4. G.V. Daniels as a multi-culture center
5. Build a large recreation facility in Rose Park

Mr. Neitzler in response to some of the recommendations indicated with the successes at this facility (Rose) has set the tone for future centers. We have recreation facilities that were never designed as senior citizens centers but at this time we do know that we need another facility in the community. Mr. Scott also indicated the Parks Master Plan recommends construction of a pool for therapy at Rose Park and Stevenson pool would be replaced with a facility with ground sprays which would be low maintenance and no lifeguards. Odessa, Texas has two of these types of low maintenance water facilities and the neighborhoods really like them. Mr. Neitzler indicated participation is down at the pools because people want more things to do.

Mr. Hodges indicated how pleased he is with the work that has been done in the preparation of the Parks Master Plan and the ideas and recommendation and especially to Mr. Neitzler for keeping up with all that is going on.

The meeting was adjourned.