

## Senior Advisory Board Minutes

July 15, 2009

9:30 a.m.

Rose Park Senior 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 Smith, Myrle Goode, Cynthia Cooke, Harriet Connor, Eddie Hodges, and Emory Walton. Staff members present were: Tony Neitzler, Carl Scott and Julie Sartor.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on January 21, 2009 were reviewed. A motion was made by Harriet Conner a second by Linda Smith to approve minutes. The motion carried.

Eddie Hodges noted in reference to the minutes and the information about the exercise room that he had been here exercising, not enough, but had been here yesterday and KRBC was here interviewing seniors about crime and this is always positive for the center when news stations come and interview seniors.

Mr. Hodges asked Carl Scott about the budget process and funding for the program. Mr. Scott responded with the basic timeline of the budget process for the city. First step which starts in March is the revenue budget, then the expense budget. These are submitted to the Director of Community Services for changes and corrections and then to Finance, City Manager and then final step City Council. Mr. Scott also added that in addition to city funding we receive funds from AAA, CDBG, and of course our donations. Mr. Hodges asked about the difference in AAA and CDBG funds and Mr. Scott told the board that AAA is state funds and CDBG is federal. We make requests each year and then wait for approval. CDBG funds have decreased over the past several years. Paul Rhem asked about Food Bank and if they were used. Mr. Scott indicated that we use to use the Food Bank for our bingo prizes, but with times the Food Bank is running short of items, we now purchase small nutritional prizes for bingo. We do not use any Food Banks items for the kitchen, because most of the items do not meet with our needs. Harriet Connor wanted to know how our center compared to others and Emory Walton told of man that was passing through Abilene from Chicago and had been visiting other Senior Centers and as he had indicated to Mr. Walton that no other centers in the five states he had already been even compared to how nice our facility is.

Mr. Hodges commented on how bad the economy is in California and glad we are not in that bad of shape. Cynthia Cooke wanted to know if we can expect any impact from the City of Abilene's budget shortfall. Mr. Scott said that he was not sure at this time.

Carl Scott introduced our newest board member, Myrle Goode. Ms. Goode has been coming and participating in the center since 1983.

Senior Jamboree: The Senior Citizens Division has held the "Senior Jamboree" annually in May for several years. This has been held at the Civic Center with vendor booths until noon and a luncheon with a guest speaker. The last few years the number of vendors has been declining as well as the attendance for the luncheon. We want to combine our event with that of the Area

Agency on Aging and their Senior Fitness Event. They usually have their event the week after ours and usually have the same vendors. We are considering moving this event here in our own facility at no charge and combine our event with AAA. This would allow us to showcase our facility as well as provide information to seniors from the various vendors and promote senior fitness. Linda Rutledge Smith said as of one of the Senior Jamboree vendor participants every year they would still purchase a vendor booth, but at a smaller fee with possibly extending the time instead of ending at noon. Mr. Rehm suggested that we could have door greeters to take people through the center. Ms. Connor wanted to know if the expense for this would be less. Mr. Scott indicated that it would be considerably less and we do not want to leave the Civic Center because of anything that they have done. It would be more cost effective to do it here and not have to transport all of the equipment we need as well as transporting the lunch. Mr. Scott indicated that we go ahead and pursue this change to move Jamboree to the center.

Participation: Mr. Scott indicated that numbers for evening activities has been increasing and some of this increase has been to the addition of summer dances. The exercise continues to grow with use of the expanded facilities. The number of exercise releases has increased from 300 to 594 during this year.

Upcoming Events: Mr. Scott said that summer months are slower and some grandkids have been coming to the center with their grandparents. We have Senior Day at the Fair coming up on September 16<sup>th</sup> and our Family Holiday Festival in December. The Festival is our annual family fun event with dinner and a dance. The funds from this event go in the building fund. Linda Rutledge Smith wanted to know if the senior calendar is online. Mr. Scott informed the board that the menu and the daily activity calendar are online.

The meeting was adjourned.