

Senior Citizens Advisory Committee on Aging
Monday, November 18, 2013
Gulfport Senior Center - 8:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mary Stull, Audrey Hallmark, Gerry O'Reagan, Anne Hayes, Margo Scannel, Karean Dorn, and Dotty Bellefleur.

City Staff: Rachel Cataldo

Excused: Jerrryanne Hindman, Delia Saavedra

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the October 21, 2013 meeting were approved as read.

First motion: Audrey Hallmark

Second motion: Margo Scannell

Old Business

A discussion of the Sunshine Law and how it affects our committee was discussed. The committee accepts the ruling by Mr. Salzman (City attorney) that our committee falls under its jurisdiction.

It was suggested that the Social Services Supervisor makes any new committee member aware of the Sunshine Law at the time of induction.

Regarding the article, *The future of active-aging adult centers*, comments by each member are as follows:

We need to get rid of the word "senior" in the name / it won't matter how we change the name if people don't feel welcome / we need to concentrate on the senior "senior" people / need more things that will appeal to a younger adult: games, crafts, garden out front / need to be more active in the "Senior Games" / become aware of regional, statewide senior activities that we can participate in / front desk volunteers need training on activities, information, welcoming persona / a name change can push older people away and push younger people away / We are already doing many, most of the things listed in the article / "golf cart" type of transportation to transport people from the Senior Center to the Library, Scout Hall, the Neighborhood Center, etc. / build partnership with Eckerd / a progressive dinner at local restaurants.

Rachel Cataldo feels that a focus on activities is more important than a name change. She has already successfully added activities to regular "parties" (such as Birthday Bash 10/9/2013) to get people up and moving after eating. The problematic concerns for adding activities for adults age 50-65 is time. Classes will need to be added in the evening when their work day is over, even then, they might be too tired to come back out. The City of Gulfport currently seems to offer weekend events that fill those needs.

Rachel asked the committee to provide ideas of activities and events as well as possible instructors that the Senior Center can add to the calendar to accommodate the 50 – 65 year old generation. The Senior Center has space and time to add classes and events. The need is finding instructors to provide the activity.

New Business

The Winter Holiday dinners and follies will be Wednesday, December 18. 12p.m. lunch and show at 1:30. \$5 for the show, \$7 for the dinner or a combo ticket for \$10. Serving Prime rib. Volunteers are needed for serving, taking tickets, decorating and clean up.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Chairperson, *Dotty Bellefleur*