

CITY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA

Senior Citizens' Advisory Committee on Aging

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

8:00 am

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center – 5501 27th Avenue South, Gulfport, FL 33707

MINUTES

Call to Order: Jerryanne Hindman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Roll Call: Roz Barbieri, Mary Stull, Margo Scannell, Audrey Hallmark, Jerryanne Hindman and Roger Bell (SAC Candidate). Karean Dorn was on vacation and Rachel Cataldo was ill.

Public Comment: There were no public attendees.

Senior Center Supervisor Report: With Rachel Cataldo absent due to illness, this report will be deferred until our February meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Audrey Hallmark made a motion to approve the December 2014 minutes. Margo Scannell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Old Business:

A. 3-5 Most Important Goals for Senior Center/City of Gulfport Seniors

a. Update on background research of income eligible housing

Roz Barbieri brought to the Council an article on Home Sharing and how it benefits Senior Citizens. She explained that each person had their own bedroom and shared the kitchen, living room, dining area and bathroom. There is a housekeeper who comes in daily to prepare lunch and shop for the tenants needs. The cost was \$400/month for room and board. Discussion ensued resulting in the agreement that this idea is one that needs to be considered when deciding on income eligible housing.

b. Update on crosswalks

Jerryanne Hindman reported that she had met with Don Sopak, Director of Public Works, and he agreed to put down a crosswalk on 59th Street, at the Chatham

Building, by the handicap access. Her discussion with Don Sopak also covered the intersection of 58th Street and 28th Avenue where the Council felt there was a need for a caution light, another crosswalk etc. Don explained that there had not been enough traffic incidents to warrant a caution light per federal guidelines. So at the present time, he could offer us no assistance. Margo Scannell suggested Jerryanne ask him about painting the current crosswalk another color, i.e. yellow, to increase visibility. Jerryanne agreed to pursue that.

c. Update on No Smoking at Senior Center entrances.

Since this task was Rachel's, it was deferred to the next meeting where she can relay the status.

d. Update on Senior Center activities that focus on men.

Since this task was also Rachel's, it was deferred to the next meeting where she can relay the status.

New Business

A. Communities for a Life-Time

Jennifer Salmon, Ph.D., Aging Research Group, came to our meeting to advise us on our approach to successfully achieve our goal of income eligible housing for Seniors in Gulfport. Jennifer was originally on the Community for a Life-Time Team and much involved in its' creation.

Jennifer asked the Council several questions as to what we would like to see for housing, i.e., shared, studio apartments, high rise, single family home, what services we would want, etc. She stated that decision would be our biggest challenge.

Discussion continued with Jennifer explaining that when Seniors have to leave Gulfport, it isn't just a personal loss, but a loss of the "Brain Trust". These people who have to move have been volunteering at the Senior Center, working at the Library, etc. and now the City will be losing that human benefit.

Once we have proven there is a need for this type of housing and the City agrees, they will then takeover and complete the job working with the County/Contractor. Discussion continued resulting in Jennifer's recommendations on how to achieve our goal.

The tasks include:

1. Jerryanne meet with Jim O'Reilly, City Manager, accompanied by Rachel Cataldo, Senior Center Supervisor. We will present statistics showing Gulfport's need for income eligible housing as well as what our goals are.
2. Research Pinellas County Housing Authority and their affordable housing grants.
3. Keep an eye out for available property to recommend down the road.
4. Talk to friends at local churches to see if they are already working in the affordable housing direction or introduce the idea to them.
5. Take to Mayor Henderson and relay what we are working on and trying to achieve.
6. Research BOA branch building to determine its' status for availability.
7. Talk it up with your friends to promote interest and a "buzz" in the community.
8. Research HUD housing and how they might help us.
9. Talk to other Non-Profit organizations to see if they might assist us.

B. Most Important Goal Review/ Suggestions

a. Virtual Village/Audrey

Audrey withdrew this option for consideration.

C. Terms of Membership

Three members are up for membership renewal. They are Margo Scannell, Roz Barbieri and Karean Dorn. Margo Scannell and Roz Barbieri agreed to continue for another term of 3 years. Karean Dorn was on vacation and will be asked in our February meeting.

Other Comments

No additional comments were brought up.

Adjournment

Audrey Hallmark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Margo Scannell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 16, 2015 at 8:00 am

