



SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Monday, December 16th, 2013

City Hall Conference Room
4000 Main Street
Rowlett, TX 75088

Present: Pamela Bell, Jerome Grossie, Della Vickers, Susan Bell, Fred Cares, Darrell Test, Mike Britt, Harold Kless, Pauline Dedrick

Absent: Bobbie Jo Kelly, Jennifer Morales

Visitors: Larry and Gaylyn Beckham, Linda Mackey

Staff: Shelly Monroe, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant; Jermel Stevenson, Director of Parks and Recreation Department; Tammy Dana-Bashian, City Council member.

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
2. Quorum was present.
3. Consider approving the minutes from November 28, 2013.
 - a. Tammy Dana-Bashian requested a correction on page 3 regarding a dollar amount that was noted.
 - b. Jerome G. motioned to accept the November 18, 2013 minutes with the one correction. Darrell T. seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor to approve minutes by all those members present.
4. Speaker from Public Works Department, Tim Rogers and Robbin Webber.
 - a. Tim R. began reviewing that Public Works entails streets, traffic, signs, waste water, capital improvement projects, etc. This department is on call 24 hours seven days a week. The department does have an engineering section.
 - b. Recently the ice storm was a major issue. Crews were on 12 hour shift rotations. The main two issues were the ice on the streets and the power outages. The power outages affected the lift stations which process the flow of sewage therefore generators and man power had to keep this running. Power outages also affected the traffic lights therefore stop signs and such had to be placed out. Robbin W. showed examples of the material used for icy roads and explained how each material works. He continued to explain that the most expensive task is to clean up the material from the streets. Tammy D. commended the department staff on a job well done. Della V. asked about the pot holes now needing repairs. Robbin W. responded there are 2-3 persons who work on pot hole repairs. Fred C. asked how it is determined as to which ones will get repaired. Robbin W. answered that safety will be assessed first.
 - c. Jerome G. brought the focus to garbage trucks traveling on the alley ways which appear to be tearing up those travel paths. Robbin W. said he is not aware of how this route was chosen nor when it began but noted if the trucks went on the streets then after time it would become damaged as well. Jerome G. continued to share his alley is now finally cement and concerned about the damage to come because it took 10 years for the alley to be replaced. Robbin W. explained there is a limited budget for this type of repair and acknowledges that about 60% of alley ways need repairs. The repairs are

based upon their pavement management system scores, drainage, and the drive ability. The newer cement alleys should hold up much better to the weight of the trucks.

- d. Tammy D. asked for them to address the capital infrastructure needs for the street reconstruction. Robbin W. stated there is a current need of 45 million dollars for residential reconstructing of streets. Tim R. added they are researching alternative materials for road repairs which include items such as longevity, cost, and efficiency. Tammy D. voiced summarized that the alley and streets needs are above 70 million dollars and there is about 5 million dollars in capital improvement projects for construction. Approximately 55% of residents have alley ways but a survey completed about 2 years ago showed the public is not willing to increase taxes for alley repairs. Larry B. asserted his concern of the city spending \$1.8 million on an Enterprise Resource Planning System when there appears to be other city needs such as the alley repairs.
 - e. Tim R. concluded with sharing the department is working on upgrading and repairing over 400 miles of pipeline. This project includes adding fire hydrants and irrigation. The next area for this project is South Ridge.
5. Goal Setting for 2013 - 2014
- a. Della V. reviewed the information collected during the last meeting and reminded about the three categories of education, housing, and communication. Possible goals in the category of education were topics of computer classes, smart phone program, smart 911, technology programs, social services available, estate program, and health/travel fair. The category of communication focused on improved communication to all seniors and an organized effort to reach out to seniors about social services, programs and event. The category of housing focused on supporting senior housing.
 - b. Della V. brought to attention at the last meeting Darrell T. requested for some type of tax program for seniors to be added. Della V. asked if a CPA would need to be the contact for this type of presentation and asked if such an education program should be in the fall. Darrell T. will seek a presenter for this topic. Members agreed for it to be in the fall. Pauline D. mentioned that the Affordable Act begins in January 2014 and not sure how it will affect seniors.
 - c. Della V. asked if there were any ideas for members to improve the goal of communication. Della V. mentioned the possible use of channel 16 and getting information to HOAs and Tammy D. mentioned that Everbridge may be a tool to use when this begins. Tammy D. shared that First Rowlett United Methodist Church and First Christian Church have developed a comprehensive list of resources available in the community for many different needs and social issues. Tammy D. mentioned Dretha Burris with First United Methodist Church would be a good contact person.
 - d. Della V. shared that Beth English with the police department is going to attend the computer classes to assist attendees with the SMART 911 registration.
 - e. Darrell T. asked if members felt there should be a program focused on seniors volunteering in the school system such as providing presentations on their expertise, reading to students, etc. Della V. responded that schools can use volunteers but need to remember that all schools are required to have background checks done on all volunteers and there is an issue of seniors having transportation issues.
 - f. Jerome G. suggested a program for citizens to be able to shred their documents because often people are downsizing and need to discard personal papers. Tammy D. mentioned that Keep Rowlett Beautiful held such an event about two months ago and there appeared to be good attendance. Della V. suggested this could be something added during the time of the Health Fair.
 - g. Della V. asked for a motion to approve the new goals. Darrell T. made a motion to accept the following as goals for 2013-2014



- F2. Travel Fair
- F3. Technology Program (computer classes, Smart 911)
- F4. In Case of Emergency (ICE)
- F5. Estate Planning
- F6. Tax Planning
- F7. Improve Communications to all seniors
- F8. Support Senior Housing
- F9. Social Services program

Pam B. seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor to accept the new goals by all those members present

6. Review ongoing programs
 - Della V. requested members to inform those they know about the Update Your Will educational presentation to be held on 1/7/14. Communication can be done by word of mouth, telephone calls, and email.
7. January meeting will be held January 27, 2014.
 - Della V. announced that the January meeting date is changed to January 27th due to the Martin Luther King holiday and City Hall is closed. The meeting will still be at 10:00a.m. She brought attention that it was requested to possibly have a social for members along with their spouses to build rapport but no business will be discussed. It is decided to have a lunch at a local location after the adjournment of the January meeting.
8. Senior Concerns
 - a. Jerome G. informed that during the ice storm no one could reach Bobbie Jo Kelly so in desperation we called 911. He stated that Bobbie Jo K. is very impressed with the reaction and response time of Officer D. Daley. He went by to check on Bobbie Jo Kelly. Bobbie Jo K. ended up having no electricity and this is why she couldn't be reached. This officer returned to check on her after the power was back on. Jerome G. would like this officer recognized for his efforts in the situation. Tammy D. recommended for Jerome G. to write the story and send it to Brian F and would be greatly appreciated to get this message to the city.
 - b. Pauline D. questioned the number of seniors who live alone in Rowlett. Tammy D. is not sure of a resource to obtain this particular information except for looking at the census for the number of seniors.
9. Receive update from City Council liaison, Tammy Dana-Bashian.
 - a. Announced the Boards/Commission Volunteer banquet is re-scheduled to January 16, 2014 and is at 6:30p.m.
 - b. There is a proposed Evergreen Senior Housing Project and Churchill Residential is the company that was trying to pursue this project. Recently this company notified the city they will not pursue the opportunity at this time. The reason presented is that the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs recently stated their focus for the next year will be providing tax credits for affordable housing and not senior housing. Due to this it is uncertain when this type of project will happen because it is in the hands of private developers.
 - c. Tomorrow City Council will consider approving a resolution to accept Integral Development LLC as the City's development partner on specific City owned property within the Downtown District and direct staff to begin negotiations on a Development Agreement. Jerome G. asked why the city is so intent on spending money to develop the downtown area when surrounding areas need improvements and no budget for those improvements. Tammy D. answered there are lots of principles noted through studies that show in order to build sustainability one needs to improve and diversify development within a city. There is a limited amount of land remaining and the right decisions need to be made in order to maximize the value. She continued that there



has to be a balance and believes the downtown development will spur on a senior housing project. The current tax base will not continue to sustain the city's needs. If going to build a sustainable community the city needs to utilize DART to bring in more people to downtown and the city needs development downtown to draw these people. Michael B. voiced he supports the downtown development.

10. Director's Report given by Jermel Stevenson.
 - a. Reiterated the fact that the Board/Commissions Volunteer Annual banquet has been re-scheduled to January 16, 2014.
 - b. The next event will be the Little Sweetheart dance on February 8th from 7pm – 9pm. The event will have a DJ, light refreshments, an appearance from Miss Texas with photos and autographs. Tickets are \$30 per daddy/daughter until January 20th then the fee will be \$40.
 - c. The senior luncheon was held last week and was a success.
11. No public input or questions.
12. Public announcements
 - a. Della V. thanked the City of Rowlett and the Parks/Recreation Department for providing the senior holiday luncheon last week because it was very good and enjoyable. Darrell T. commented he supports Della V's comment.
13. No member of the board requested topics for future agenda meetings.
14. Fred C. motioned for adjournment at 11:30 a.m. and Susan B. seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor to adjourn.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Della Vickers".

Della Vickers, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jermel Stevenson".

Jermel Stevenson, Director of Parks and Recreation