



**SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD  
Monday, May 19, 2008 Minutes**

***Rowlett Community Centre  
5300 Main Street, Room D  
Rowlett, Texas***

**Members Present:** Ken Middaugh, Stan Grubaugh, Bobbie Jo Kelly, Bobby Wright, Fred Cares, Ceaser Hancock, Richard Lavender

**Absent:** Ruth James, Clarence James

**Visitors:** B J Middaugh, Larry & Gaylyn Beckham, Dean Lawrence

**Staff Present:** Heath Olinger, Recreation Division Manager; Katie Corder, Assistant City Manager; Dianne Zachary, Sr. Administrative Assistant;

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1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ken Middaugh at 10:02 a.m.
2. A quorum was present.
3. The board discussed and approved the minutes from the April 21, 2008 meeting and recommended the following changes or corrections:
  - a. Page 2 - # 5 – Last sentence of second paragraph – Change “product” to “produce”.
  - b. Page 2 - #'s 7 & 9 – Correct the spelling of Caesar Hancock’s name
  - c. Page 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph - Correct the spelling of Caesar Hancock’s name

Stan Grubaugh made a motion to accept the minutes with the above corrections, and Bobby Wright seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
4. Heath Olinger presented the staff update to the Board.
  - a. A Casino trip is scheduled for May 22. Twenty-nine seniors have registered, but a total of 50 are needed for the trip.
  - b. Senior Fathers’ Day breakfast will be served on June 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 10:30 am.
  - c. A new senior program called Savy and Sage will begin on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of June from noon to 1:00 p.m. Contact Cathy Bavelaar at 972-412-6170 for details. Stan explained there is a senior magazine called Savy & Sage that contains information for seniors.

- d. A new group meeting for card games and conversation will meet on Wednesdays from 11:00 am until 3:00 p.m. in Room E. Contact Cathy at 972-412-6170 for details.
- e. This year's budget for the senior activities is \$10,420. 642 seniors have memberships at the RCC which equates to \$16.23/senior the City provides.
- f. The Census Bureau figures for senior population in Rowlett is 2,500 which would reflect \$4.17/Rowlett Senior provided by the City.
- g. Board comments on the staff report:

- 1) Stan Grubaugh expressed concern that the second card and conversation group plans to meet in Room E at the RCC. Bobbie Jo Kelly reminded staff that she made a motion that carried unanimously at April's meeting that the Council not consider the use of any areas of the basement of the Community Centre for senior activities. Heath explained this is not strictly a "seniors' bridge group" that will be using Room E, because the class is open to all ages. He reminded the Board that the RCC can schedule classes that are not specifically for seniors in any part of the RCC.
- 2) Stan asked for clarification of the items relating to senior fees that the Council will be addressing in the work session on Tuesday evening. Katie Corder explained the Board wanted no increases in senior fees which is what the Council will consider. However, an adult non-resident fee for the use of the entire RCC will be added at \$144.00/year.
- 3) Ken Middaugh asked that consistent terms be used when referring to senior fees. He pointed out the membership cards use one term while several other documents use other terms. Clarification could be achieved by using consistent terms for all memberships for seniors.

- 5. The Board addressed the issue of needed Senior Housing in Rowlett. Referring back to the staff report given by Heath, Ken asked that a standard minimum age be used to determine "senior eligibility" throughout the City. Stan suggested the census numbers provided by the Census Bureau on the number of seniors in Rowlett is not current and only considers seniors 65-years-of-age and older.

Ken reported that many seniors need to downsize to be out of their big homes but have not seen anything from the City in the way of planning for this need with small detached homes, condominiums and/or apartments for seniors. Bobbie Jo asked if the Master Plan provides such a plan for zoning for zero lot and high occupancy.

Heath Olinger will invite Ben White, Rowlett's Economic Development Director, to attend the June meeting to discuss these matters.

Caeser Hancock suggested that he would talk with staff at Presbyterian Hospital who might be interested in building a facility such as the one they have on Forest Lane in Dallas for seniors.

Katie explained the City has been waiting for the market to come to them and this has not happened. The market will dictate the type of housing that should be built for seniors, and Ben White can be of help.

6. Bobbie Jo gave Board members a schedule for Rowlett Senior Computer classes to be held at the Library in June and also announced classes for July and August:

June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Computers and E-Mail
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	E-Mail Basics
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	E-Mail Review and Internet Basics
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Internet Browsing and Searching

On July 9 & 10, word processing and browsing with seniors in mind, such as for medications, will be addressed in these classes at the Library.

In August, classes will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30 am.

Fred Cares suggested that seniors can take classes free at Eastfield or they will send out an instructor if one is available. He will contact:

Mary Ann Fitzsimmons  
Program Director, Workforce/Continuing Education  
Eastfield College  
Email: [mafitzsimmons@dcccd.edu](mailto:mafitzsimmons@dcccd.edu)  
Phone: 972-860-7017

7. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of converting the old Historical Society Building to a Senior Center. Heath Olinger has tried to contact members of the board of the Historical Society but has been unable to do so.

Ken went to the Historical Society meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> which none of their Board attended, but five members were there.

Stan commented the size of the building is limiting and there is no room for growth, nor is the building codified. If the Historical Society Building is to become a viable solution for a senior center, it must be renovated and brought up to code. Ken explained that \$150,000 was earmarked for the Historical Society building renovation, but it was not worth repairing.

Stan asked if the Coyle House might be considered after the move to its new location at Pecan Grove Park in late summer 2008. Katie is unable to comment at this time on the potential use of that facility. She encouraged all citizens to take the "Bond Election Survey" on the City's website at [www.rowlett.com](http://www.rowlett.com) to help decide what should be included on the 2009 Bond Election. Ken tried to take the survey, but the process was unsuccessful. Katie will have it checked to be sure citizens can complete the survey.

8. Bobbie Jo Kelly suggested the Senior Advisory Board perform a self-evaluation of their accomplishments since forming in November 2007.

- Fred Cares commented that the Board has spent a lot of time getting organized and is in a learning process since this is the first Senior Board.
- Ken Middaugh mentioned the Board was instrumental in having the Senior Health Check reinstated. He also reminded the Board of the Goals that were set earlier this year and their value as stepping stones to future accomplishments.
- Bobby Wright mentioned the research he and others have done on having "Meals on Wheels" bring lunch to the seniors at the RCC. His contacts have been Tim Steward, 214-871-5065 and Mary Brown, 214-689-2639.
- Several recommendations have been sent to Council for the improvement of programs for seniors.
- Caesar commended the Board for doing a good job with all the city personnel changes that make continuity difficult.

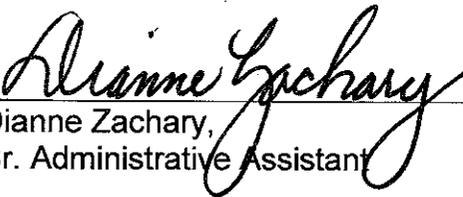
9. Announcements

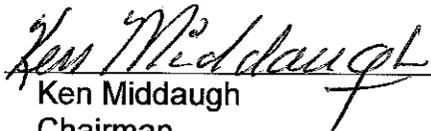
Festival of Freedom will be June 28-29, and the seniors are invited to have an information booth to distribute materials concerning Rowlett senior citizens and to register seniors for a database that will be used to keep them informed of senior activities and programs. Heath Olinger is on the Festival committee and will be sure the seniors have a booth reserved.

- a. Ken mentioned the RHS Choir will be giving a concert in honor of our Veterans.
- b. Stan reminded the Board of the reception for new Fire Chief George Harris on May 27<sup>th</sup> from 2-3:30 at the RCC.
- c. Heath mentioned the community budget hearings in June at 7:00 pm. They are also on the website calendar...they are:

6/16 – Community Centre  
6/18 – Waterview Golf Clubhouse  
6/23 – Fire Station #4  
6/24 – Cullins-Lakepointe Elementary

10. Members of the board may request topics for future agenda meetings. No member of the board or commission may discuss any of the requested subjects until such matter has been properly placed on a posted agenda.
- a. Report on the Irving Senior Advisory Board visit. (Bobby Wright)
  - b. Discuss and consider establishing a Senior Recognition Program to recognize Rowlett seniors for their contributions. (Stan Grubaugh)
  - c. Review and update Senior Advisory Board goals. ( Ken Middaugh)
  - d. Discuss Rowlett Economic Development opportunities as they relate to senior citizens
11. A motion was made by Richard Lavender and seconded by Bobbie Jo Kelly to adjourn. The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 11:50 a.m.

  
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Dianne Zachary,  
Sr. Administrative Assistant

  
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Ken Middaugh  
Chairman