



MINUTES

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL SESSION

Monday, August 11, 2008, 9:00 a.m.

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

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

Members Absent: Ruth James

Visitors: Todd Gottel, Deputy Mayor; Ben White, Director of Economic Development; Brad Weber, City Liaison to All American City Committee; Rowlett residents B J Middaugh and Greta Fichthorn

Staff Present: Heath Olinger, Recreation Division Manager; Jennifer Gomez, Ass't Recreation Division Manager; Sandy Beffa, Recreation Coordinator; Katie Corder, Ass't City Manage; Dianne Zachary, Sr. Administrative Assistant

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am by the Chairman.
2. A quorum was present.
3. Chairman Middaugh introduced the visitors Todd Gottel, Ben White and Brad Weber.
4. A senior activity center for Rowlett Seniors was discussed. Ken Middaugh explained the two top priorities for the seniors of Rowlett are affordable senior housing and a senior center.

Todd Gottel was invited to address the Board and explained that facilities and infrastructure needs have been estimated by Public Works Director, Pat Baugh, to cost \$600 million. This entails sewer, water, streets and facilities to bring us up to a good standard. He encouraged the seniors to meet with the Facilities Bond Sub-Committee, the chairperson of which is Deb Shindler. Mr. Gottel cautioned the Board that a stand-alone senior center would have less of a chance to pass on the bond election ballot than a multi-use building with shared facilities in conjunction with the Library. He related that operational costs have an impact on a free standing center, and we have to be realistic.

Ken Middaugh stressed the importance of having a stand-alone center for the express use of seniors, even if it is attached to the Library or another city facility in the downtown area or near affordable senior housing in the future. Several members of the board have visited senior centers in the Metroplex for ideas that could be used in a Rowlett Senior Center. There are approximately 3500 senior citizens in Rowlett out of a total population is approximately 55,000, and they constitute an important segment whose needs are not being met.

Katie Corder believes our purpose for today is to put a plan together, then go talk to the Bond Facilities Sub-Committee. She and Chief Walling are the co-liaisons for that committee and, she will make a connection to get the Senior Board and the sub-committee together. She urged the Board to create a list of needs for a senior center to present when they meet.

Ben White spoke to the Board to assure them he believes strongly in senior city population and is an important part of the economy. Seniors can mentor to the local executives to help them build businesses. He is already talking with developers about senior housing, in particular with Ken Mitchell who did the senior complex in McKinney. They are very well done and include a senior center, restaurants, Alzheimer's facility, three individual units all connected with sidewalks for scooters, next to the hospital and they employ 250 people in that complex. That creates a lot of jobs and increases the tax bases by about \$6 million. If our desired goal is to have great senior housing and a great senior center, we need to be flexible about the location. Ben offered to bring Ken Mitchell or another developer to one of the SAB meetings. Ben invited seniors to contact him.

He urged seniors to read the Economic Development Advisory Board packet on the website each month to be aware of what is being discussed.

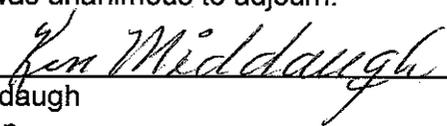
At 10:10am, the Board adjourned for a ten minute break.

Ceaser recommended prioritizing criteria for a center with perhaps three different scenarios from which to choose.

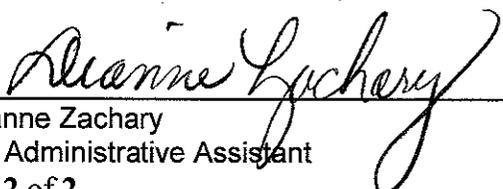
Some of the necessities for a senior facility would be:

- Stan - Designated areas for seniors only, kitchen facility and recreational equipment
- Ken - 10,000-15,000 sq. ft., pool tables, card game area, dance hall, art room, pottery or ceramic area, ADA parking
- Bobby - Art room, pool room, bingo, clinic area for health checks, yoga classes
- Bobbie Jo - computer room, exercise facility
- Jennifer Gomez - a room the size of the gymnasium with air walls that can be used to divide into several classrooms or used for large events.
- Meeting rooms, a ball room and dining room.
- Unlimited access to some areas.

5. A recommendation summary for a Senior Center will be prepared and presented to the Facility Sub-Committee when they meet with the SAB.
6. Public Announcement. Members of the Board and/or staff may make announcements of local civic events. No member of the board or commission may discuss nor take any action with regard to the announcements.
7. 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. Formulate a list of requirements for a Senior Activity Center. (Ken Middaugh)
8. Bobby Wright made a motion to adjourn at 11:04 am that was seconded by Ceaser Hancock. The vote was unanimous to adjourn.



Ken Middaugh
Chairman



Dianne Zachary
Sr. Administrative Assistant