



SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Monday, March 21, 2016
City Hall Conference Room
4000 Main Street
Rowlett, TX 75088

Present: Pamela Bell, Susan Bell, Michael Britt, Jerome Grossie, Kim Lott, Darrell Test, Della Vickers
Absent: Bobbie Jo Kelly, Charles Gaugler
Visitors: Larry and Gaylynn Beckham, Carol R, Anna Knight, Gordon Norris, Tom Crook, Amber Hamilton, L. Brownlow, Linda Mackey, Jeff Shelton, Shirley Meckley, Darlene and Rich Weaver, Debby Bobbitt
Staff: Jill Beam, Recreation Leader- Seniors, Tammy Dana-Bashian, City Council liaison; Terri Doby, Budget Officer; Brian Funderburk, City Manager; Erin Jones, Economic Development Senior Planner; Shelly Monroe, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant; Denise Perrin, Community Relations Manager; Drew Rist, Creative Service Producer; Angela Smith, Parks and Recreation Interim Director

1. The Chair, Della Vickers, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Quorum present.
3. Consider action to approve February 15, 2016 minutes.
 - A. Michael Britt motioned to accept.
 - B. Darrell Test seconded the motion.
 - C. Approved 5 - 0.
4. Communications - Drew Rist and Denise Perrin
 - A. D. Perrin noted her means of communicating the senior programs as the city newsletter, city Facebook page, city website and A-frame signs. D. Vickers expressed appreciation for efforts on publicizing the information.
 - B. D. Rist will add the Health Fair program to the digital sign board in front of City Hall. He brought the drone to show and explain how it is used. RTN channel was briefly discussed.
 - C. Questions asked and answers provided.
5. Dart Pass Program - Erin Jones

Any senior over age of 62 who is a citizen of the United States and Rowlett may request a DART pass by contacting her or will be able to go to the city website and fill out the application. The application includes contact information, date of birth and intended use for the pass. Twenty passes should be received this week that will be available. Information will be provided to Larry Beckham so he may include in his newsletter. The passes are good for 1 year. There will be a limitation of 5 passes per time. Handouts were provided.
6. Understanding the Tax exemption - Terri Doby and Brian Funderburk
 - A. Explanation of the property tax exemption if a person turns age 65 and what has changed between 2014 taxes and 2015 taxes. This exemption amount is subtracted in addition to the homestead exemption that can only be used on the homestead property. When someone turns age 65, city property taxes are calculated in two components. Recently the City Council made decision to lower the senior tax exemption and it

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became effective January 2015. Every senior today should also see a freeze amount indicated on the tax bill. The tax amount goes by the date you turned 65 unless there is some significant remodeling to the home. Regardless of future tax rate increases, the tax levy can never escalate beyond the ceiling dollar amount. If there is a decline which causes the tax levy to fall below the ceiling amount then the over 65 taxpayer will pay the lower tax amount. B. Funderburk drew some graphics to help explain how the freeze and amount paid is locked into the ceiling. The amount does not increase as long as the house is owned by the senior, even if the tax rate or their home value increases.

- B. The Great Recession was mentioned as well as information on the 3 cent tax increase. In 2015 City Council made a decision to reduce the over 65 and disabled tax exemption from \$67,000 annually to \$30,000 and \$50,000, respectively. This became effective for January 2016. City of Rowlett has the 3rd best exemption in Dallas County and 1 of 7 cities who adopted a freeze. Any person can visit the Dallas Central Appraisal District website to obtain information and seek your history.
 - C. Questions from various visitors and board members were asked about tax relief in light of tornado damage and the information provided on understanding the senior exemption. The main factor is the condition of your property on January 1, 2016 although T. Doby is researching more information on this matter. Contact information for T. Doby was provided if persons have questions regarding their specific tax bill and/or situation.
7. Update on senior transportation program.
Angela Smith summarized the partnership with STAR Transit to provide seniors with transportation to and from the Rowlett Community Centre. In February there were 29 trips and there are now 3 persons using the service regularly. Members were encouraged to use the service and to continue assisting with bringing awareness of the services.
 8. Discuss the idea of a Senior Friendly Business Award.
The sub-committee has not met to work on the criteria but will schedule a date prior to next meeting.
 9. Update on Emergency Preparedness program held March 8, 2016.
D. Vickers reported 25 participants attended and this program provided lots of good information.
 10. Health Fair plans for April 12, 2016.
 - A. D. Vickers stated 42 vendors were invited to participate and thus far 23 have confirmed. D. Vickers will send an email to each vendor for continued preparation of this program.
 - B. Volunteers will be needed to assist with the program such as sign in vendors, showing vendors where to go, attendee sign in and golf cart drivers. D. Vickers will send an email to each member and volunteer as to the assignments.
 11. Discuss programs for Fall 2016 - Della Vickers
Programs are held the second Tuesday of each month. The suggested programs are Medicare for September, Scams for October and Independent School District for November.



12. City Council joint meeting with Senior Advisory Board scheduled for June 7, 2016.
D. Vickers announced members of the board will meet with City Council on June 7, 2016 and expressed how important it is for all members to be present. Over the next two months information to be included in a presentation will be developed.
13. Update from City Council liaison, Tammy Dana-Bashian.
A request was made for reconsideration for Individual Assistance for the tornado damage and expectation is to hear a decision in approximately two more weeks. B. Funderburk shared additional major and destroyed homes were added to the original numbers from the previous request. Public assistance continues through churches and case management services. The case work and assessments help to identify family needs and facilitate appropriate provisions of resources. Contact information for case management services is Catholic Charities and St. Vincent de Paul or North Texas Conference Recovery Center. This information can be found in Rowlett on the Move newsletter and on the City of Rowlett website.
14. No senior concerns.
15. No Public Input or questions.
16. No Public announcements
17. No members of the board requested topics for future meetings.
18. Susan Bell motioned for adjournment at 11:15 a.m.
Pamela Bell seconded the motion.
Unanimous vote in favor to adjourn.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Della Vickers".

Della Vickers, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Smith".

Angela Smith, Director of Parks & Recreation