

Senior Center Advisory Committee
September 28, 2022

A regular meeting of the Senior Center Advisory Committee was held at the Senior Center, 122 Park Hills Drive, Waxahachie, Texas on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Members Present: Brad Burns
Heather Fuller
Theresa Taylor
Carrie Lewis
Kelly Saunders
Ellie Gates

Members Absent: Peggy Loftis, Chairman

Others Present: John Smith, Assistant Director, Senior Citizens Center
Jami Bonner, Assistant City Secretary
Billie Wallace, Council Representative

1. Call to Order

Ms. Ellie Gates called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation

Mr. Brad Burns gave the invocation.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Approval of minutes for Senior Center Advisory Committee meetings of May 18, 2022 and July 20, 2022

Action:

Ms. Kelly Saunders moved to approve the minutes of the Senior Center Advisory Committee meetings of May 18, 2022 and July 20, 2022. Ms. Theresa Taylor seconded, All Ayes.

5. Consider financial report on Senior Center, Inc. for period ending August 28, 2022

Senior Center Director John Smith provided a financial report noting the current balance to be \$79,356 and the STEAM garden balance to be \$32,873.

Action:

Ms. Kelly Saunders moved to accept the Senior Center, Inc. financial report for period ending August 28, 2022. Ms. Heather Fuller seconded, All Ayes.

6. Discuss and consider Buffalo Creek Baptist Church donation

Mr. Smith explained the Senior Center received a \$4,000 donation from Buffalo Creek Baptist church and the Committee previously decided to utilize the donation as a granting fund for

members in need. He recommended establishing a small sub-committee to review and approve requests and asked for volunteers. Ms. Carrie Lewis, Ms. Ellie Gates, and Ms. Kelly Saunders volunteered to oversee the distribution of the donated funds.

Mr. Smith noted he would like to host future fundraisers to continue assisting members through the granting fund. He stated funds have already been put to use purchasing a walker for a Senior Center member.

7. Discuss and consider changing operating hours

Mr. Smith explained the current operating hours are 8:00 am – 7:00 pm and the request is to revise the closing time to 6:30 pm as member participation drops significantly after the last class adjourns at 5:30 pm. Mr. Smith requested the Senior Center Advisory Committee consider changing the operating hours as only a couple people occupy the facility after 6:30 pm and only one staff member is onsite to close.

Mr. Randy Vineyard, Senior Center Member, expressed his opposition to the proposed revision to the operating hours.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to temporarily change the operating hours from 8:00 am – 6:30 pm for the fall and winter months.

Action:

Ms. Kelly Saunders moved to temporarily change the Senior Center operating hours to 8:00 am – 6:30 pm during the fall and winter months beginning October 1, 2022. Ms. Carrie Lewis seconded, All Ayes.

8. Hear and consider Master Gardener's STEAM Garden Greenhouse proposal

Master Gardener Gayle Johnston presented a proposal for the Senior Center and Ellis County Master Gardener Association (ECMGA) to partner together to add a greenhouse to the STEAM garden. The partnership would offer educational opportunities and increased participation for the Senior Center and the ECMGA would have a location for plant propagation and expand community education.

Ms. Johnston explained ECMGA is proposing to rework 25 ft x 30 ft area currently known as the “edible organic garden” and build out a greenhouse customized to fit the area. The area would be staffed by ECMGA membership/volunteers to teach community members and to propagate plants. She noted the partnership will enhance collaboration, foster mutual opportunity, and leverage city/county/state funding. Ms. Johnston explained the Senior Center would be responsible for minimal utility expenses estimated to be no more than \$1,500 per year.

Mr. Brad Burns asked if the greenhouse would become property of the Senior Center once installed. Mr. Smith replied that greenhouses are able to be moved and would remain property of the Ellis County Master Gardener Association.

Action:

Mr. Brad Burns moved to approve the Master Gardener's STEAM Garden Greenhouse proposal as presented. Ms. Kelly Saunders seconded, All Ayes.

9. Discuss and consider upcoming Senior Center activities

Mr. Smith noted several upcoming Senior Center activities including field trips to the Dallas Arboretum and NorthPark Center, a Halloween Festival on October 31st, a veteran appreciation luncheon, and Christmas Market on November 9th. He explained the Christmas Market will help raise funds to go towards Christmas gifts distributed to Meals on Wheels and area nursing homes. Mr. Smith shared Meals on Wheels will now only accept unwrapped Christmas gifts this year, but the nursing homes will still accept wrapped gifts.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jami Bonner
Assistant City Secretary