

Senior Center Advisory Committee
January 16, 2019

A regular meeting of the Senior Center Advisory Committee was held at the Senior Center, 122 Park Hills Drive, Waxahachie, Texas on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Members Present: Patti Junkin, Chairman
 Patty Smith, Vice Chairman
 Mike Lee
 Joe Jenkins
 Ray Weable
 Lee Johnson
 Peggy Loftis

Others Present: Jeanee Smiles, Director, Waxahachie Senior Citizens Center
 Amber Villarreal, Assistant City Secretary
 Mary Lou Shipley, Council Representative
 Albert Lawrence, Assistant City Manager

1. Call to Order

Chairman Patti Junkin called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation

Mr. Joe Jenkins gave the invocation.

3. Approval of minutes for Senior Citizens Center Advisory Committee meeting of September 19, 2018

Action:

Mr. Ray Weable moved to approve the minutes of the Senior Center Advisory Committee meeting of September 19, 2018. Mr. Lee Johnson seconded, All Ayes.

4. Discuss financial report for period ending December 31, 2018 and take any necessary action

Action:

Ms. Patty Smith moved to accept the financial report for period ending December 31, 2018. Ms. Peggy Loftis seconded, All Ayes.

5. Discuss financial report on the STEM Garden for period ending December 31, 2018 and take any necessary action

Waxahachie Senior Citizens Center Director Jeanee Smiles noted there is about \$500,000 needed to complete the STEM Garden.

Action:

Ms. Patty Smith moved to accept the financial report on the STEM Garden for period ending December 31, 2018. Ms. Peggy Loftis seconded, All Ayes.

6. Hear update on STEM Education Garden project and take any necessary action

Ms. Smiles reported she has joined with Wilemon Elementary to add arts and music to the STEM Garden to make it a STEAM Garden. She noted musical instruments will be added and the security camera installation is coming soon. The garden and teaching lab are ready to use.

7. Discuss petition received from Senior Center members regarding Texas Hold ‘Em and take any necessary action

Chairman Junkin presented the petition that was received from the Senior Center members requesting the Texas Hold ‘Em tables be returned to the center. She explained the City wasn’t aware the members have been playing for money.

Vice Chairman Patty Smith suggested members play on the same table top tables as the other card games. She confirmed the board and members compiled rules for the center and they have been in place for quite some time. The rules were established because other members were being discriminated against and cursing was going on during the poker games.

Member Karen Graham requested the tables be returned for the members and noted there hasn’t been any issues since money is not being used.

Mr. Lee Johnson explained he has investigated issues for more than two years regarding Texas Hold ‘Em and noted he observed the game yesterday and members were continuing to play for money. He stated the tables aren’t the problem, it’s the members who are not following the rules. He explained City Council wasn’t aware money was being gambled and they do not sanction monetary gambling for Texas Hold ‘Em.

Ms. Smiles presented a complaint she received yesterday from the Texas Hold ‘Em game.

Mr. Jenkins explained he thinks that if chips are allowed then money will be involved.

Assistant City Manager Albert Lawrence explained the City Manager’s office received the petition from the members requesting the Texas Hold ‘Em tables be returned to the center and discovered they were playing for money. The City Manager’s Office wants all card games to be treated the same and will not allow staff to monitor the players or sell chips for gambling. Staff doesn’t believe the issues is with the tables but rather with the game and the participants. Mr. Lawrence suggested allowing the members to play the game on regular tabletops and not allow the exchange of money in hopes to alleviate the issues with cursing, threats, and assaults. If the problems continue staff will have to consider removing Texas Hold ‘Em completely.

Mr. Ray Weable asked if the police have been called out to the center because of this game and Mr. Johnson stated they have been called out three times. Mr. Weable suggested setting out the rules to remind the members.

Councilmember Mary Lou Shipley suggested suspending memberships for those who choose not to follow the rules.

Action:

Mr. Lee Johnson moved to not allow the large poker tables to be returned to the center. Mr. Joe Jenkins seconded, All Ayes.

Action:

Mr. Lee Johnson moved that Texas Hold 'Em and any other card game normally associated with gambling is expressly prohibited from the Waxahachie Senior Center.

The motion died due to lack of second.

Action:

Ms. Patty Smith moved to keep the portable tables, not the Texas Hold 'Em tables, and allow chips to be used with no cash value. Ms. Peggy Loftis seconded, the vote was as follows: Ayes: Patti Junkin, Patty Smith, Peggy Loftis, and Ray Weable. Noes: Mike Lee, Lee Johnson, and Joe Jenkins.

The motion carried.

Audience members were allowed to speak and some voiced their opposition to not allowing the Texas Hold 'Em tables to be returned to the center.

Mr. Mike Lee expressed his thoughts on considering the issue at the next quarterly meeting to see if any issues arise while the tables and gambling were removed.

It was the consensus of the board that the Senior Center's purpose is to allow a social setting with different activities for seniors and not strictly for poker. The center offers multiple activities and games for members to participate in other than poker and gambling.

8. Review special events for November and December and take any necessary action

{Ms. Patti Junkin left at 1:45 p.m.}

Ms. Smiles reviewed special events for November and December noting the following events were successful:

- Volunteer Banquet in October honored over 75 volunteers.
- Veterans Luncheon in November initiated a partnership to offer more programs for veterans.
- Be a Santa to a Senior program was very successful noting 1,886 gifts were distributed to facilities in Waxahachie, Ennis, Red Oak, and the VA Hospital in Dallas. 100 gifts were also distributed to seniors at Baylor Scott and White Hospital in Waxahachie on Christmas Eve as well as 200 gifts to White Rhino Coffee House for them to distribute on Christmas Day when they provided dinner to the homeless.

9. Public Comments

None

10. Adjourn

Action:

Mr. Ray Weable moved the meeting adjourn at 1:55 p.m. Ms. Peggy Loftis seconded, All Ayes.

Respectfully submitted,
Amber Villarreal, Assistant City Secretary