

**Senior Citizens' Advisory Committee on Aging  
September 20, 2010  
Gulfport Senior Center – 8:30am**

**PRESENT:** Sue Abbe, Dotty Bellefleur, Cynthia Dean (Senior Services Coordinator), Frances Haney, Sue Frank (Senior Center Supervisor), Delia Saavedra, Margo Scannell, Mary Stull

**Absent:** Babette Coppola

**Excused:** Pam McGinnis, Gerry O'Regan

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES –**

Minutes of the June 2010 meeting were approved by Margo Scannell and seconded by Dotty Bellefleur.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Update on Gulfport Businesses/Services**

Cynthia Dean distributed an updated version of the Gulfport Business Directory that she prepared for Advisory members to review and return with revisions at the next meeting. The Directory will be distributed to GEMS clients to increase their awareness that many of their needs may be met in Gulfport. According to a recent GEMS survey, ¼ of GEMS clients thought that the transportation service was restricted to medical appointments and grocery shopping only. The Directory will be available for GEMS clients once it is approved.

Immediate suggestions regarding the Directory were as follows:

- Insert a separate page after the cover sheet saying the City of Gulfport, Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, Senior Citizens' Advisory Committee and Gulfport Senior Center do not personally endorse businesses that are listed in the Directory
- Relocate to the top of the first page of the Directory the clause saying the Directory is a work in progress and those wanting to be included should contact the Senior Center
- Businesses should contact the Senior Center to be added to the Directory
- Stipulate that all Gulfport businesses must be licensed
- Consult with City Attorney on liability concerns if Directory is posted on City website

**Services for Seniors (AGES 50-64)**

Update on Current Senior Center Programs:

- Three 12-week Computer Classes (2 beginners, 1 advanced) are now offered by a volunteer instructor. Eight participants per class. Projector donated to show instructions on large screen.
- A 12-week Customized Fitness Program is now being offered by a volunteer facilitator. Eight participants. Wii Fit was purchased to expand exercise options.
- Eckerd College expressed plan to bring floating campus to Gulfport. Senior Center staff waiting for dates.

### **Patio Update**

- Electronic Door now in place leading to patio area. New umbrellas purchased. Chairs rewebbed. Eight burner grill purchased. Last Patio Party was a huge success.

### **Bench at Save-a-Lot**

- Sue Frank will contact City Code Enforcement to see if there are any obstacles for Save-A-Lot adding Bench in front of their store.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Promoting the Senior Advisory Committee**

- Educate the public about the existence of the Senior Advisory Committee, purpose and function
- Include short articles about Advisory accomplishments rather than long laundry list
- Invite Gabber representative to attend next Advisory meeting

#### **Communities for a Lifetime**

Members are asked to view websites: [www.communitiesforalifetime.org](http://www.communitiesforalifetime.org) and <http://www.communitiesforalifetime.org/vido.php> and bring ideas to the October meeting on next area of focus for the Senior Advisory Committee.

#### **Level II Background Checks**

Senior Center staff and volunteers who have direct contact with seniors are now required to have Level II background checks that includes fingerprinting. This has already impacted the Senior Center in a negative manner and staff is hoping that Senior Centers will be exempt from this law down the road since participants are not considered vulnerable but independent older adults. The Senior Center is also looking for more volunteers for the Reception Desk and asked Advisory members if they could help staff identify new volunteers who would likely stay for an extended period of time.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next Senior Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, October 18, 2010 at 8:30am at the Gulfport Senior Center.