

Senior Citizens' Advisory Committee on Aging
April 19, 2010
Gulfport Senior Center – 8:30am

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

ABSENT: Babette Coppola, Mary Stull

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

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

UPDATE ON OLD BUSINESS:

REQUEST FOR BENCHES

Sue Frank sent a memo to Council members on behalf of the Senior Advisory Committee asking for their consideration to request benches for GEMS clients at the new Save-A-Lot and Family Dollar Stores. There has not been a response from Council as of this meeting. Susan Frank will send letters to Publix and Sweet Bay requesting the same consideration for benches.

MARKETING SENIOR SERVICES

Margo Scannell has been updating a list of Gulfport businesses that have Chamber membership. The list will be included in the May 15 Chamber newsletter and will include discount coupons for seniors. Eventually the list will be available to participants of GEMS, the Senior Center and can also be displayed at the Gulfport Fresh Market.

A type of “Angie’s List” will also be developed that will give the public an opportunity to share comments on their satisfaction or dissatisfaction on services received from Gulfport businesses. The Better Business Bureau will be contacted to see what criteria they use when getting feedback from clients. Gulfport businesses will be contacted to see if they are interested in being placed on the list and individuals will be asked for feedback regarding Gulfport businesses they have used. Margo will make contact with representatives of various business areas of Gulfport regarding the list.

The preliminary work on creating and developing the list will take about 6 months to a year.

TRANSPORTATION FAIR

It was suggested that the next Transportation Fair be held in the fall and on an annual basis as it was a learning experience for all involved.

GROWING THE ADVISORY BOARD

Sue Frank said she had sent an e-mail awhile back to Jerry O’Regan to see if he was interested in serving on the Advisory Board but there was no response. Dotty Bellefleur said she would follow up with a phone call.

FRESH MARKET & GEMS

It was suggested that the free ride for Gulfport seniors to Gulfport's Fresh Market be changed to the first Tuesday of the month rather than the last Tuesday of the month. The advertisement for this free service will be placed outside of the Senior Center page in the Gulfport Gabber (next to the produce ad) for better exposure. Flyers will also be placed in the GEMS vehicles.

NEW BUSINESS

PROMOTING OTHER TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Senior Center will continue efforts in raising awareness of other means of transportation for seniors. Services will include PSTA, DART, and MPO. These services may also be included on the Chamber list of services.

SENIOR CENTER ACCREDITATION & OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

The Senior Center Accreditation Celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19. Members of the Senior Center Leadership Team suggested that public officials representing various levels of government be invited. Invitations will be extended to local, state and federal political figures. Members of the Senior Advisory, Gulfport Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants Association will also be invited.

NEEDS/SOLUTIONS OF PRE-MEDICARE SENIORS (AGES 50-64)

Members were asked to consider ways of meeting the needs of ages 50-64 since some are without health insurance and employment. Ideas shared that this age group may find helpful were the following: Classes on Job Development; health related services; identifying our facility as Gulfport's Multipurpose Center rather than Gulfport Senior Center; requesting permanent space at the Gulfport Casino to share about Senior Center services.

NEXT MEETING

The next Senior Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 17, 2010 at 8:30am at the Gulfport Senior Center.