

Senior Citizens' Advisory Committee on Aging

February 22, 2010

Gulfport Senior Center – 8:30am

Present: Babette Coppola, Cynthia Dean (Senior Services Coordinator), Sue Frank (Senior Center Supervisor), Dotty Bellefleur, Pam McGinnis, Margo Scannell, Mary Stull

Excused: Sue Abbe, Frances Haney, Delia Saavedra

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Minutes of the December 2009 meeting were approved by Dotty Bellefleur and seconded by Mary Stull.

RESIGNATION OF MIKE ARRAS

City Council will need to appoint a replacement for Mike Arras who recently resigned from the Advisory Committee. Margo Scannell said that Jerry O'Regan expressed interest in serving on the Committee. Sue will e-mail an application to him. Mr. O'Regan has provided public service in the past.

SIDEWALK UPDATE

Sue Frank reported that the County called to say that the request made by the Advisory Committee regarding sidewalk repairs on a section of the north side of 22nd Avenue South between 49th and 58th Streets South has been addressed. The County advised that if the Advisory Committee feels more repairs are necessary to please call with another request.

TROLLEY TOUR

The Trolley Tour on the History of Gulfport that was held on January 25 and was a huge success. The Advisory Committee suggested that another trolley tour be offered in March. Gulfport residents should be served first and non-Gulfport participants could be included if there is room.

SENIOR CENTER ACCREDITATION

There are tentative plans to hold an Accreditation Celebration on Wednesday, April 7. It was suggested that the event be held in the early evening so more people could participate.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH EVENT

The Senior Center will hold an event on Wednesday, May 19 at 1pm to celebrate Older Americans Month. The Senior Center will be focusing on Telephone Reassurance clients as well as semi-homebound residents of Gulfport to acquaint them with Senior Center services and in particular the Fitness Center. Advisory Committee members will help staff identify people in the community who should receive an invite. It was suggested that an elderly participant of the Fitness Center share about how they have personally benefitted from using the Fitness Room.

TRANSPORTATION FAIR

The Senior Center will be holding an event on Wednesday, March 24 at 1:30pm to raise public awareness of transportation options available for seniors. Guest speaker Susan Samson from the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, Inc. will give a presentation on knowing when the time is right to consider alternative transportation options. Numerous transportation vendors will also be available to share about the services they offer. GEMS will provide free transportation for Gulfport seniors who would like to attend this event.

MARKETING CITY SERVICES FOR SENIORS

Many Gulfport seniors are unaware of services available to them. Cynthia Dean stated that flyers and a promotional video of GEMS are in the works. Margo Scannell stated that the Chamber of Commerce would gladly help with printing costs if this should be needed.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS THAT RESULTED FROM COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

- Offer free GEMS rides to promote GEMS and interest new clients on a monthly basis
- Have a presence at the Fresh Market on Tuesdays to promote GEMS, Telephone Reassurance, the Fitness Center, and other Senior Center services as well as selling Foundation merchandise
- Develop a Buddy System comprised of volunteers who are interested in accompanying more fragile seniors to the Fresh Market
- Get more unpaid volunteer drivers to assist GEMS with out-of-area medical appointments. (Babette Coppola agreed to be a volunteer driver and paperwork will be initiated).
- Consider having a presence at the March 13 Tour of Homes event
- Advertise the Senior Center Food Pantry as a Community Food Pantry since it is open to all ages of people residing in Gulfport

NEXT MEETING

The next Senior Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 15, 2010 at 8:30am at the Gulfport Senior Center.