

**Senior Citizens' Advisory Committee on Aging**  
**May 17, 2010**  
**Gulfport Senior Center – 8:30am**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES –**

Minutes of the April 2010 meeting were approved by Margo Scannell and seconded by Pam McGinnis.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Growing the Board**

Sue Frank reported that Gerry O'Regan submitted an application to serve on the Senior Advisory Committee and it was submitted to City Hall. It is expected that he will be appointed by Council at the May 18 Council meeting.

**Request for Benches**

Sue Frank will send a letter of request for benches for the convenience of seniors at the new Save-a-Lot and Family Dollar Store in Gulfport.

**Update on Gulfport Businesses/Services**

Cynthia Dean reported that the list of businesses is nearly completed and is different from the Chamber's list as it focuses only on Gulfport businesses. Other suggestions included the following:

1. Use logos of the Chamber of Commerce, Merchants Association and City of Gulfport to show collaboration of all three organizations
2. Attach an additional sheet for client's to provide feedback after using a listed business in order to create an "Angie's List"
3. Indicate that the list is a "project of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee on Aging"
4. Distribute the list to clients of GEMS, Gulfport Fresh Market, Senior Center, etc.

**Update on Fresh Market & GEMS**

Sue Frank reported that Gulfport seniors are beginning to take advantage of the free GEMS ride to Gulfport Fresh Market on the first Tuesday of each month. Numbers have increased since it was moved from the last Tuesday to the first Tuesday of the month.

**Update on Senior Center Accreditation Celebration**

Reminder: The Accreditation Celebration will occur on Wednesday, May 19 at 1:30pm.

**Update on Services for Pre-Medicare Seniors (AGES 50-64)**

Sue Frank shared that a presentation will be offered in the near future for seniors approaching Medicare age. The presentation will provide information on when to sign up for Medicare and other related matters. The presentation will be offered in the early evening. A trusted representative from Humana, Inc. will provide the presentation and must adhere to the Senior Center policy on presentations. It was recommended that this be

advertised in the following areas: Gulfport Gabber, Gulfport Library, Gulfport Casino, Town Shores, and Gulfport Cable station.

Pam McGinnis suggested that disabled seniors (50-64) who are not working be targeted for possible volunteer services.

Newly created brochures featuring senior services were distributed to board members to help with promotion. Services include: Fitness Center, Special Events, Telephone Reassurance (Gulfport only) and GEMS Transportation (Gulfport only). Area Churches could also be points of contact to help promote senior services. Margo Scannell suggested having an Open House at the Senior Center for representatives of area churches, organizations, etc. to see firsthand what is offered at the Senior Center for seniors 50 and over. Brochures could also be placed on the trolleys.

### **Successful Citizen Advisory Boards Training**

Dotty Bellefleur, Frances Haney and Mary Stull attended the Successful Citizen Advisory Boards Training at St. Pete Beach on May 12, 2010. Feedback included the following:

1. Many Gulfport residents are unaware of the functions of the various city appointed Boards. It would be helpful if Council would explain the purpose of the Boards (one at each Council meeting) to help educate the public as suggested by Mary Stull. The explanation could also be posted in the Gulfport Gabber as suggested by Cynthia Dean.
2. Board members felt it would be helpful if the City Clerk could give a brief explanation of the Sunshine Law and how it pertains to the Senior Advisory Committee.

### **Criteria for Senior Friendly Business**

Board members determined that a list should be created that could be presented to Gulfport businesses to help educate them on ways to make their businesses more senior friendly. Suggestions for the list should be e-mailed to Sue Frank and the completed list will be presented at the next Advisory Board Meeting.

### **Gulfport's Nursing Home/Rehab**

Administrator of Boca Ciega Nursing and Rehab Center Brian Bickett expressed interest in collaborating with the Senior Advisory Committee on ways to improve services at their nursing home. Sue Frank said that this would be an opportunity to advocate for Gulfport seniors who may at some point need nursing home services. Babette Coppola has had firsthand experience with this facility and will provide a list of what she views as both positives and negatives as a starting point for discussion at the next Senior Advisory Board Meeting.

### **Beach Blvd S. & 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Pedestrian Concern**

Area of concern: Sidewalks connecting the north to south crossing on Beach Blvd. S. & 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. (west side of Beach Blvd. has no lines painted in street designated the crossing area as reported by Dotty Bellefleur. The concern is that drivers could easily overlook this as a designated crossing area. Sue Frank said she look into this.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Senior Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, June 21, 2010 at 8:30am at the Gulfport Senior Center.