

Senior Citizens' Advisory Committee on Aging
November 21, 2011
Gulfport Senior Center – 8:30am

Present: Sue Abbe, Dotty Bellefleur, Cynthia Dean (Senior Services Coordinator), Sue Frank (Senior Center Supervisor), Audrey Hallmark, Fran Haney, Pam McGinnis, Gerry O'Regan, Delia Saavedra, Margo Scannell, Mary Stull

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November 2011 meeting were approved as read by Dotty Bellefleur and seconded by Sue Abbe.

Promoting the Senior Center

Sue Frank introduced an idea that was recently discussed at the Senior Center's Accreditation Consulting Committee of promoting the Senior Center to the wider community. The Consulting Committee suggested having a Senior Citizens Day by way of partnering with area businesses in making the Senior Center and its partners more visible in the community. The Senior Advisory Committee was asked to assist in this effort.

Senior Advisory members felt that this should be a week-long event rather than one day to allow more seniors an opportunity to participate. It was also suggested that this event be held during the month of May which is Older American's Month. Audrey Hallmark suggested that a proclamation be made by the Mayor for Senior Citizens Week. Dotty Bellefleur, Gerry O'Regan, Audrey Hallmark, Delia Saavedra, Fran Haney and Sue Abbe all expressed interest in meeting in early 2012 to discuss details of this event.

Sue Frank reported there has been growth in the Senior Center Snack Bar due to increased efforts in offering more menu items. A calendar has been created for the month of December and will be distributed in the Senior Center and throughout the community. The Snack Bar provides low cost meals for those who do not qualify for the Neighborly Care Network meals served in the dining hall or for those who just prefer Snack Bar food items.

It was announced that the Senior Center will hold two Open Houses in the spring. One Open House will be for the general public on Wednesday, February 8 from 2-4pm. The second Open House will be held on Tuesday, March 13 from 5-7pm for current business partners and potential partners who may have a special interest in supporting the Senior Center financially or with in-kind services.

Automation has been added to the Fitness Room entrance door for easier access for clients with walkers.

The GEMS new bus will be ordered in the New Year.

The issue of creating non-smoking areas at the Senior Center entrances was again brought up. Even though there may be plans in the future to make the Senior Center a non-smoking campus, it was suggested that we begin on a smaller scale and make the entrances more senior friendly sooner rather than later. It was felt that this is a health concern for seniors with respiratory problems.

The next Senior Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, December 19 at 8:30am.