



ALBERT LEA SENIOR CENTER
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 8, 2026 12:00pm
Senior Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alice Hanson, Linda Stenseth, Doran Gray, Michelle Jardine and Council Representative Rachel Christensen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sharon Gardner, Marlys Steele, and Rosemary Bloomquist

YMCA STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Senior Director of Programs Brandy Schewe and Senior Center Program Coordinator Sarah Chavarria

CITY STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Community Engagement and Enrichment Director Cathy Malakowsky, Deputy Fire Chief Bart Bervin and Administrative Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Karla Tukua

CALL TO ORDER:

Hanson called the meeting to order at 12:09pm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion made by Gray and second by Jardine to approve the agenda. All members present voted in favor of said motion. Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Jardine to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2026 meeting and the minutes of the June 3, 2026 special meeting. Stenseth seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor of said motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Update on remodeling proposal/move to Jim & Dudes – Cathy Malakowsky

Malakowsky explained to board members that the Jim & Dudes estimate came in over projection. The estimate was \$655,000 and adding in for the 10% contingency and architect fees, it was over \$700,000. Malakowsky said that Caleb with Jim & Dudes already had ideas on how to reduce the expense. Malakowsky explained some of the ways that had been discussed, one being the large group room which has a partition to separate the room. The partition is \$65,000, which includes a support beam which would need to be installed. Jim & Dudes will review the overall estimate to see what is driving the costs and what can be eliminated. They can cut \$45,000 by using a regular heating and cooling system vs. zone heating & cooling. The billiards and multi-purpose room can be switched, this will reduce the number of electrical outlets needing to be installed. Jim and Dudes will also go back to

each sub-contractor to see how they can reduce the fees. Malakowsky stated that her goal was to get the cost down to \$500,000. Malakowsky expects to get the updated cost estimate today and if it's within the cost expectations, she will present to Council on Monday. There was continued discussion regarding the plans and room spacing.

- Malakowsky also clarified the spacing of the billiards room, explaining the architect uses a program that allows for the standardized sizing for this room and will figure the correct amount of space for the room. Malakowsky also added that the Senior Center billiard tables are smaller than the standard size.
- Jardine asked about the timeline to get the new location done and if there's a delay, what would happen. Malakowsky stated she's taking a risk, but if it looks like the new location will not be completed by the first of the year, the hope is to extend the Senior Center's current lease at Skyline Mall. If needed, there would be programming that could be done at the YMCA if renewing their lease is not an option.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Application for Chamber Foundation for non-profit status, 501 C Status, for donations

Malakowsky gave the application to Board Chair Hanson to fill out for the non-profit status. The importance of this status, is so donors can take a tax deduction on their donation.

- Malakowsky explained about the management fee to be part of the chamber and the cost varies based on the number of transactions. If between 0 to 9 transactions it's \$25.00 and if over 500, it's \$750. The chamber will hold the funds that would come in to the Senior Center and Malakowsky read through what the Chamber's responsibilities would be and there was continued discussion regarding this process.

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES UPDATE:

- In June there was a group of 37 members that went to the play, Nobody's Perfect. Everyone that went had a great time.
- Grotto Trip for this Month was cancelled due to not enough participants.
- Discussion in regards to starting up an arts and crafts class for members. Hanson said she spoke with someone who is willing to organize this. It just depends on when they would want to start this program, with costs being less than \$10.00 Chavarria will be putting a newsletter together and will inform members of when the craft classes would start up again. She asked Hanson to update her on the date so she can add to the newsletter.
- Jardine asked how they got ideas for the activities, to which Chavarria said that she usually puts out surveys for senior center members to fill out to get ideas on what they'd like to do. The ideas are mostly member driven.
- To Jardine's question on how often the newsletter is published, Chavarria responded once every 3 months. Schewe added they mail the newsletters out and it will also go out digitally through the YMCA. Schewe explained all the ways they get the word out of what's going on at the Senior Center.
- Schewe asked about having a food truck in the lot for Senior Members, to which Malakowsky said they would need approval from the Skyline owner. The proposed date is in September. Schewe will coordinate with the owner of the Skyline Mall.

- Malakowsky added that Senior Center events can be added to the Community Calendar. Chavarria will work with the CVB Director to get their events added. The link to this calendar is on the CVB website as well as the City's.

UPDATES/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: - None

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Jardine brought up a discussion they had previously about suggested names for the Senior Center, without have Senior in the title. She shared the name ideas she came up with, with the help of Al. Broadway Social, Thrive at Broadway, The Good Life Center and, Live Well at Broadway. There was continued discussion about different ideas for naming the new center.
- Stenseth suggested getting Thank you cards for Cargill, Oak Park Place and AT&T for coming in and doing presentations at the Senior Center.
- There was a suggestion on asking Mayo if they could come down and show seniors how to set up a portal. Also, asking different banks if they could come down to help set up checking accounts for seniors.

ADJOURNMENT: 12:44 PM

Motion by Stenseth to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Gray. Meeting adjourned at 12:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Karla Tukua
Senior Center Board Secretary

Approved:



Alice Hanson
Senior Center Board Chair